

**POPE FRANCIS AWARD** - President Joe Biden on Saturday honored Pope Francis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction, the highest civilian award given by the president, saying the pontiff was “a light of faith, hope, and love that shines brightly across the world.”



The citation for the pope says "his mission of serving the poor has never ceased. A loving pastor, he joyfully answers children’s questions about God. A challenging teacher, he commands us to fight for peace and protect the planet. A welcoming leader, he reaches out to different faiths.”

**SEVERE CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION** - The Open Doors organization has published the World Watch List, highlighting that North Korea is the toughest country for Christians to reside in. Last year, the highest number of Christian murders occurred in Nigeria. The report covers 50 countries where persecution is most severe. According to Open Doors, more than 380 million Christians in 78 countries experience persecution and discrimination. In the 50 countries on the list, persecution reaches a "very high or extreme level," affecting approximately 310 million Christians. The top ten countries with the worst situations include North Korea, Somalia, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Eritrea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. The report also notes over 14,000 attacks on churches and places of worship worldwide.

**POPE FRANCIS ON CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION** - On the occasion of the feast of St. Stephen (the first Christian martyr ), Pope Francis renewed his call for peace and brought attention to the persecution that Christians are facing around the world. “Today , 2,000 years later, unfortunately we see that the persecution continues: There is persecution of Christians. There are still those, and there are many of them, who suffer and die to bear witness to Jesus, just as there are those who are penalized at various levels for the fact of acting in a way consistent with the Gospel, and those who strive every day to be faithful, without ado, to their good duties, while the world jeers and preaches otherwise.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL, GRAFTON** - Thank You for Making Christmas Brighter! A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year’s Christmas Hamper Program such an incredible success! With your generous support, we were able to serve 45 families, including 81 adults and 67 children, for a total of 148 individuals. From the volunteers who packed and delivered hampers, to those who donated food, gifts, or funds—every contribution made a difference. You’ve brought joy, hope, and love to so many this holiday season. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful New Year! St. Vincent De Paul.

**ST MARY’S CWL** - The next CWL meeting is Feb.03/25 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. 2) The CWL Word of the Week is PEACE. The CWL helps members grow in their relationship with God and with each other, a true peace. 3) Members who paid their membership fees by cheque will be cashed the first week of February. Sorry for the delay. Extra time had to be allowed for mailed membership to come in because of the postal strike. 4) Enjoy winter. Stay healthy and safe!

**Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

103 Lyle Street South. P. O. Box 239, Grafton. Ontario K0K 2G0

**Tel: 905-349-2504**

Parish Email: [office@assumptiongrafton.ca](mailto:office@assumptiongrafton.ca) Parish Website: [stmarygrafton.ca](http://stmarygrafton.ca)

Diocesan Website: [www.peterboroughdiocese.org](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org)

**Bookkeeper - Gabrielito Garcia**

**Fr. Martin Dalida - Parish Priest**

**2ND SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME**

January 18-19, 2025

**"DO WHATEVER  
HE TELLS  
YOU"**



WEDDING  
AT  
CANA



CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM

**WEEKEND  
MASSES**

**SATURDAY  
4PM**

**SUNDAY  
10AM**

**Parish Committees & Organisations**

Parish Pastoral Council, *Michael Mullin*  
(Chairperson)- 416 300 8680

Finance, *Alfons Casteels* - 905 269 2352

Lectors, *Joanna Mecozzi* - 905 375 9502

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion,  
*Judith Goulin*-905 372 7684

Catholic Women’s League, *Pat Murphy*  
(President)-905 349 2847

Bingo Volunteers, *Jackie Innis*-905 349 2880

St Vincent de Paul, *Wes Krentz*-905 377 3263

Cemetery Board, Francis Calnan 905 269 0795

K of C and Ushers, *Darrell Manley*-905 744 0865

Counters, *Wes Krentz*-905 396 2578

Development and Peace/Library, *Suzanne*  
*Liptay*-905 372 3031

St Mary’s Choir, *Alfons Casteels*-905 269 2352

Parish Handyman, *Ed Nemec*-905 349 2923

Religious Articles, *Alta Vance*-905 344 7443

St. Mary’s Elementary School, Grafton, Angelo  
*Costa (Principal)*-905 349 2061

St Mary’s Secondary School, Cobourg, Jason  
*Roberts (Principal)*-Tel. 905 372 4339

**SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY**

Baptisms, Marriages, & Anointing of the Sick may be arranged by calling the Office.

Confessions: Saturday at 8:30 am & 3:30 pm, or anytime on request.

First Friday of the month - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament @ 9am.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

Jan 20, Mon (NO MASS)  
Jan 21, 9am Tues (St. Agnes, virgin)  
Jan 22, Wed 9am  
Jan 23, Thurs 9am  
Jan 24, Friday 9am (St. Francis de Sales, bishop & doctor of the Church)  
Jan 25, Sat 9pm - For the souls in purgatory by Ian Manley  
Jan 25, Sat, 4pm (3d Sunday Ordinary) - For the people of the parish  
Jan 26, Sun 10am (3rd Sunday Ordinary) For personal intention of Ian Manley

**Jan 25-26 WEEKEND MASSES**

	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>10 am</b>
<b>LECTORS:</b>	<b>Michael Mullin</b>	<b>Joanna Meccozi</b>
<b>EMHC :</b>	<b>Pat Rutherford</b>	<b>John Logel</b>
<b>USHERS:</b>	<b>Darrell &amp; Nick Manley</b>	<b>Theo Mensen &amp; Ian Manley</b>



**LAST WEEKEND ( Jan 12, 2025)**  
Sunday Offertory - \$1, 880  
Bank Account Balance - \$25, 724. 21  
Gaming Account Balance - \$11, 869.13

 **PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY**  
Katherine Cole, Marilyn Cerveney, Eailen Fitzgerald,  
Dalton McDonald & Jeanie Grol

**THE JUBILEE PRAYER**

“Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen”.

**FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK**

**ORDINARY TIME** - During Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of Christ. The significance of Sundays of Ordinary Time is that they provide an opportunity to know Christ more intimately in the everyday realities of life. It is a time during which we can grow closer to the Lord and deepen our spiritual lives. Green is the standard color for Ordinary Time. Green symbolizes the hope and life of each new day. Ordinary Time is, for Catholics, the opportunity to allow the Lord to stir up our faith, to allow our spirits to rise and to grow in our spiritual life. The color green brings this meaning to the fore, since it is a color that evokes life and growth.



**NEW ENVELOPE 2025**- Please write your name in your new envelope 2025 at least for 2 Sundays as a way of confirming that such envelope with its corresponding number belongs to you.

**PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JAN 18-25** - For this year, 2025, the prayers and reflections for Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Creed formulated during this Council; a faith that remains alive and fruitful in our days. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians. This universal week of prayer encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires.

**THE PERPETUITY OF THE CHURCH** - Christ said to Peter: "Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it" (Mat 16:18). By the "gates of Hell", He meant all the power of the devil - all kinds of attacks, physical violence as well as false teaching. Christ promises here that the Church would be assailed always, but never overcome. This promise of Our Lord has been proved for more than 2000 years by the facts of history. Not one of the persecutors of the Church has prevailed over it. On the contrary, many of them have come to a fearful end. There will always be Popes, bishops, and laity, to compose the Church; the truths taught by Our Lord will always be found in His Church. The Apostles themselves understood Christ to mean that His Church should endure. They appointed successors in their place, instructed these successors to ordain in turn other bishops and priests, to live after them and carry on the Church. All these acts were to assure the perpetuity of the Church. *(to be continued)*

