

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024 OF BISHOP MOST REV. DANIEL MIEHM - “Dear friends in Christ, This Christmas, like all those before, is a celebration of joy and hope, as it proclaims the wondrous love of God for us. The theme of hope is even more pronounced this Christmas, as Pope Francis will inaugurate the Jubilee year on Christmas Eve at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. We are invited, with the universal Church, to embark on this celebration, and to embrace the great virtue of hope – one that will be lived out in our desire for peace, our respect for life and our loving care for those who suffer in any way. The Solemn Opening of the Jubilee in our diocese will take place at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains on the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 29 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, an event that I am looking forward to celebrating. I invite and encourage you to join me for this Mass, as we initiate the Jubilee of Hope in our diocese. May this great Christmas season, when we celebrate God’s love revealed in “a child born for us,” instill in our hearts an ever-deeper hope and inspire us to bring hope to others. May the joy of Christ’s birth, the foundation of our hope, be with you and yours this Christmas.”

St. VINCENT DE PAUL - As we move through Advent towards this Christmas and New Year, we would like to sincerely thank you for your unfailing financial support throughout this year. It is you who enable us to assist our less fortunate families and singles numbering over 200 this year. We do this primarily with food and grocery, gift cards, but also with rent, hydro subsidy etc. This year we see increased numbers requesting our assistance and each month we fall behind in incoming donations verses outgoing. This Christmas especially and into the new year we need your charity. If you've never or seldom donated to us, please consider. There are St Vincent envelopes at the back of the church and our next collection is Sun. Dec.8, every second Sunday of the month. However you can donate anytime throughout any month. May God Bless you with a very Merry Christmas and New Year. Grafton St Vincent De Paul.

JUBILEE YEAR PLENARY INDULGENCE - I hereby decree that in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough four churches throughout the diocese may be visited by the faithful to fulfill requirements for the indulgence: St. Michael the Archangel, 379 Division Street, Cobourg; Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 40 Russell St. East, Lindsay; St. Patrick's, 89 Rain Lake Rd., Kearney and, principal among them, the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, 411 Reid Street, Peterborough. Plenary indulgence ordinarily depends on the following obligations being observed: a) attend Mass and receive Holy Communion at one of the churches noted above during the Jubilee Year; b) make a sacramental confession [within several days of the above-mentioned visit]; and c) pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff. *By Bishop Mieh*

ST MARY’S CWL - 1. Happy New Year 2025 to Father Martin, members and all parishioners. May this be a joyous year for all. 2. This is a special year for the Catholic Church as it is a Jubilee Year. This occurs every 25 years. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope," and it will be a year of HOPE for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. 3. The next CWL meeting is Jan. 06/25 @ 9:00 am at the rectory.

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 Parish Website: stmarygrafton.ca

Diocesan Website: www.peterboroughdiocese.org

Bookkeeper - Gabrielito Garcia

Fr. Martin Dalida - Parish Priest

**Holy Family
Sunday
Dec 28-29, 2024**

JESUS, MARY and
JOSEPH



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
Altar Decorations, *Cheryl Krentz*-905 269 1950
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

Dec 30, Mon - No Mass

Dec 31, Tues, 4pm (New Year Eve Mass) +Olaf Arzheimer by Deirdre Arzheimer

Jan 1, Wed 10am (New Year Day Mass) Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Jan 2, Thurs 9am - No Mass

Jan 3, Fri 9am (Benediction & Mass)

Jan 4, Sat 9am-

Jan 4, Sat 4pm (Epiphany Sunday) For the people of the parish

Jan 5, Sun 10am(Epiphany Sunday) +Colleen Lawson by her 3 sisters Brenda, Barbara & Beverley

**NEW YEAR
2025
GOD'S BLESSINGS
TO YOU ALL !!!**

Jan 4-5 WEEKEND MASSES

4 pm

10 am

LECTORS: Jackie Innis

John Logel

EMHC: Deirdre Arhzeimer

Dennis Goulin

USHERS: Darrell & Nick Manley

Rob Ugulini & Theo Mensen

**NEW YEAR
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LAST WEEKEND (Dec 21-22 & 25, 2024)

Sunday Offertory - \$3,807

Christmas Offering - \$2,970



PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**Marilyn Cervený, Eailen Fitzgerald,
Dalton McDonald & Jeanie Grol**

FR. MARTIN MESSAGE— May I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Your generosity, dedication, and spirit of service have truly helped prepare St. Mary's for the celebration of Christmas & New Year. To those who donated flowers, volunteered their time and talents, whether by decorating our church so beautifully, contributing financially, or offering hands-on help, thank you. Your efforts reflect the love and devotion that make our parish community so special. I am especially grateful to everyone who assists in making our liturgies reverent and holy—our choir, altar servers, readers, extraordinary ministers, ushers and all who contribute behind the scenes. This generosity is a sign of God's presence among us, a true gift of the season. May the peace and joy of Christ's birth and the intercession of Mary, mother of God, fill your hearts and homes throughout the new year 2025.

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2025
GOD'S
BLESSINGS
TO ALL !!!**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH — The Gospel today starts with a beautiful image of this family fulfilling a religious duty presenting the child up to the Lord in the temple. We see that this family is also a human family not different from us. It's a family that starts with the story of a teenage mother, conceiving a child before she was married. It's the story of an anxious father, confronting scandal, planning to abandon his wife secretly. It's the story of a family forced to become refugees, living as immigrants. It's the story of a missing child, and days of anxious searching by his parents. Then came an event of Jesus' violent death – his mother watched with helplessness and unimaginable sorrow under the cross. When we speak of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we speak of a family that struggled and suffered, like so many of the families nowadays. They shared our burdens. But this family knew profound hope. They trusted completely in God. They endured through the grace of God. They have one common goal, to help fulfill the will of God through their family. May all Christian families find inspiration from the holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD - (January 1) - On the very first day of every new year, January 1st, the Church appropriately honors the Blessed Virgin Mary with a Marian feast day and a Holy Day of Obligation. And the title by which she is honored on this day is also the first Marian dogma defined by the Church: Mary, the Mother of God. Today we celebrate the Motherhood of Mary as the vessel through whom the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, took on a human nature. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "Mary is truly 'Mother of God' since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself." As we begin the new year, attending Mass on January 1 allows us to entrust 2025 to Mary's intercession, seeking her guidance and maternal care. Join the universal Church in celebrating this profound mystery of faith and peace.



**MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD**

NEW PARISH WEBSITE (www.stmarygrafton.ca) -We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new St. Mary's Parish website: stmarygrafton.ca. This new site is a more user-friendly and cost-effective tool for staying connected and informed about parish life. On the website screen you'll find and you can just click: Weekly bulletins, Mass Times, Events, Photos of parish activities & much more! As we prepare for our 150th Anniversary celebration, the website will serve as our main communications hub. Be sure to visit often, save it as a favorite, and share it with fellow parishioners. Thank you to Paige Mullin for her hard work in building this new resource for our parish. Let's make the most of it as we continue to grow together in faith and community.

NEW PARISH EMAIL: We have changed our parish email to office@assumptiongrafton.ca as the official email for our parish of St. Mary's. Don't use bvm.grafton@bellnet.ca anymore.