

NEW PARISH EMAIL: We have changed our parish email from bvm.grafton@bellnet.ca to office@assumptiongrafton.ca. Please send your message to the attention of the secretary using the new Parish Email.

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR MASSES & ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Dec 24, (4pm Christmas Eve), (8Pm Christmas Midnight)

Wednesday Dec 25, 10am - Christmas Day

Tuesday Dec 31, 4pm - New Year's Eve

Wed January 1, 10am- New Year's Day

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.

ST MARY'S CWL - 1) St. Mary's CWL Council wish member Frances Mensen a blessed 95th birthday. Frances, our prayers are with you for a healthy and joyous 2025. Frances' birthday is Dec.21. The Council will have a birthday Mass said for her on Dec.27 at 9:00 am. All parishioners are invited to attend the Mass to honor Frances.

2) We wish Father Martin, members and parishioners, a blessed Christmas filled with Joy and happiness with Christ at the center of your celebration. 3) The next CWL meeting is on Jan. 06/25 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. 4) The CWL sends out a special thank you to the Church Council and others who decorated the church for Christmas. It looks splendid and Christmas ready. Thank you for a job well done.

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 Miehm*

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY
ADVENT**

Dec 21-22, 2024



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 23, Mon - No Mass
Dec 24, Tues, 4pm (Christmas Eve)
8pm (Midnight Mass) - +John Taylor by Mom, Jamie & family
Dec 25, Wed 10am (Christmas Day) - +Zackary Sawyer by family
Dec 26, Thurs 9am - No Mass
Dec 27, Fri 9am (St. John Evangelist) Bday Int. Frances Mensen by CWL Grafton
Dec 28, Sat 9am (Feast of Holy Innocents)
Dec 28, Sat 4pm (Holy Family Sunday) For the people of the parish
Dec 29, Sun 10am(Holy Family) +Eleanor&Gerald O'Dwyer by Mike&Liz O'Dwyer

DEC 28 - 29 WEEKEND MASSES		
	4 pm	10 am
LECTORS	Michael Mullin	Joanna Mecozzi
EMHC	Paula Blick	Dennis Goulin
USHERS	Darrell & Nick Manley	Ed Nemec & Joe O’Kane



LAST WEEKEND (Dec 14-15, 2024)
Sunday Offertory - \$1, 525



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

FR. MARTIN CHRISTMAS MESSAGE- As we celebrate the joy of Christmas, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Your generosity, dedication, and spirit of service have truly helped prepare St. Mary’s for this holy season. 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, 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 fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Merry Christmas!!!



FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

ADVENT (Fourth Advent Sunday)-The 4th Sunday of Advent is a significant day in the Christian calendar, marking the final stretch of anticipation and preparation for the joyous celebration of Christmas. It is a time of profound spiritual significance, serving as a poignant reminder of the enduring message of hope, peace, joy, and love that the birth of Jesus Christ brings to the world.



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.



THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (The Great Paradox) The spirit of Christmas is alive with paradox. God, who is Most High, Omnipotent, Powerful, and Distant comes to earth born as human. The joy at the birth of the Baby is more delightful, the innocence makes us rejoice, the smallness of the Child delights us because he defeats the greatness of the World. God, who is Emmanuel (God-with-us), wraps himself in who and what we are — our experiences, our struggles, our joys, our anxieties, our accomplishments. A very odd kind of God in this way taking shape as a vulnerable infant, in need, in weakness. The greatest paradox in the entire Bible is found in the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus endured a human, earthly birth so that everyone who follows Him can undergo a spiritual, heavenly birth. Jesus became a member of a human family so that those who love Him can become members of His heavenly family.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024 OF THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH,
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.”