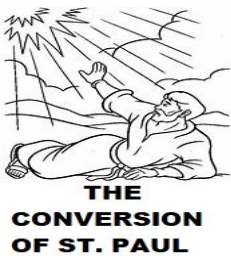


**THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL** (feast day Jan 25) - ) “The conversion of Paul to Christianity is one of the greatest conversions and the turning point in the history of the early Church. Paul addressed the people in these words: “On that journey as I drew near to Damascus, a great light suddenly shone around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I replied, ‘Who are you, my Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazorean whom you are persecuting.’ I asked, ‘What I am to do, Lord?’ The Lord answered me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything appointed for you to do.’ The grace of God changed Saint Paul from a persecutor of Christians to a messenger of the Gospel. After his conversion, Paul spent the rest of his life journeying on his missions, establishing local churches and writing to them. Paul’s letters are the earliest records of the life and history of the early Church; they are in invaluable record of the expansion of Christianity. After his experience on the road to Damascus, Paul recognized the folly of his ways, and had a dramatic change of heart. We are all called to conversion. Conversion is not something that is only meant for those who have led dramatically sinful lives; conversion is a re-orientation of our wills toward God’s and strive to do what He is calling us to do. St. Paul was the greatest of the early Christian missionaries. Thanks to his conversion.



**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 MARY’S CWL** - 1.The next CWL meeting is Feb.03/25 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. 2.The CWL WORD of the Week is POWER. POWER is the ability to influence the course of events. CWL resolutions have changed lives. WE have the POWER of RESOLUTIONS. 3.The 2025 CWL Convention will be held in Lindsay on May 02 & 03, 2025. 4.Before you head out in winter weather check the weather forecast and then dress appropriately. Wear boots with good treads on the bottom which may prevent you from slipping and falling. If the weather is severe STAY home.

**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@assumptiongraffton.ca](mailto:office@assumptiongraffton.ca) Parish Website: [stmarygraffton.ca](http://stmarygraffton.ca)

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

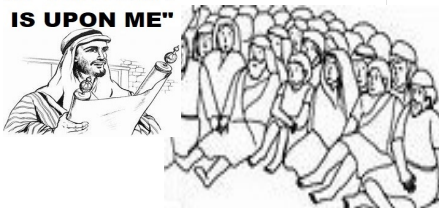
**Bookkeeper - Gabrielito Garcia**

**Fr. Martin Dalida - Parish Priest**

**3rd SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME**

**January 25-26, 2025**

"THE SPIRIT  
OF THE LORD  
IS UPON ME"



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 27, Mon (NO MASS)  
Jan 28 9am Tues (St. Thomas Aquinas, priest & Doctor of the church)  
Jan 29, Wed 9am  
Jan 30, Thurs 9am  
Jan 31, Friday 9am (St. John Bosco, priest)  
Feb 1, Sat 9pm  
Feb 1, Sat, 4pm (The Presentation of the Lord) - For the people of the parish  
Feb 2, Sun 10am (The Presentation of the Lord) - +Marilyn Cervený by Nemec Family

**Feb 1-2 WEEKEND MASSES**


	4 pm	10 am
<b>LECTORS:</b>	Jackie Innis	Bernadette Murray
<b>EMHC :</b>	Deirdre Arzheimer	Judith Goulin
<b>USHERS:</b>	Darrell & Nick Manley	Rob Ugolini & Joe O’Kane

**LAST WEEKEND ( Jan 18-19, 2025)**



Sunday Offertory - \$820  
Bank Account Balance - \$26, 920  
Gaming Account Balance - \$11, 869

**PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY**

 **Katherine Cole, 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**

**TAX RECEIPTS 2024 AND FINANCIAL UPDATES** - 2024 tax receipts are now available at the back of the church. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has continually supported the financial well-being of our parish. As noted in this week's bulletin, we are pleased to share that our parish is currently in a relatively healthy financial position. This is largely due to two key factors: a dedicated commitment to reducing overhead expenses wherever possible and the ongoing, generous support of you, our parishioners. Your contributions make a meaningful impact, helping us fulfill our mission and care for our parish community. Please remember, our work is ongoing, and your continued support ensures we can sustain and grow the good works of St. Mary’s Parish for years to come. Thank you!

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD & BLESSING OF CANDLES** - Next weekend, the church commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the temple, a day celebrating Christ as the light of all nations. Part of this feast commemoration is the blessing of candles. You may bring candles with you to be blessed at the start of the Mass.

**BLESSING OF THROATS** - The annual blessing of throats is traditionally given @ the feast of St. Blaise on the 3rd of February, supposed to be on Monday. But in order that a good number of us can avail of that kind of blessing, we will do it at the coming week-end Masses of 4pm & 10am.

**SIDEWALK SHOVELLING UPDATE** - We were unable to secure a local contractor to handle the sidewalk shoveling this winter. Thankfully, for the past few snowfalls, our dedicated ushers and some concerned parishioners have ensured the walkways were cleared before parishioners arrived for Mass. With plenty of winter still ahead, we will keep shovels available at the front entrance. If you’re able to lend a hand when needed, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please remember to prioritize your safety while assisting. Thank you for your continued support!

**PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JAN 18-25 & NICENE CREED** - “The Week of Christian Unity focuses on the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed. Because of this Major Anniversary Of The Nicene Creed, I have asked that priests of the diocese to prioritize its use during this Jubilee Year. Professing our faith with the Nicene Creed more often will help us to appreciate its richness and more developed theology of the Trinity” (*Bishop Daniel Miehm*). Following Bishop Miehm’s call, we will be using Nicene Creed during Sunday worships until the end of the Jubilee Year next year.

**THE INDEFECTIBILITY OF THE CHURCH** - Christ intended the Church to remain as He founded it, to preserve the whole of what He taught, and the shining marks which He gave it in the beginning. If the Church lost any of the qualities that God gave it, it could not be said to be indefectible, because it would not be the same institution. Indefectibility implies unchangeability. Our Lord promised to abide by the Church, to assist it, and to send the Holy Spirit to remain in it. God does not change: "Behold I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world". (Mat 28:20). Because of its indefectibility the truths revealed by God will always be taught in the Catholic Church. (*to be continued*)

