

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DECORATIONS** - As we prepare our church for the joy and beauty of Christmas, we are once again inviting parishioners who wish to donate poinsettia or other kinds of flowers toward sanctuary decorations. With beautiful flowers, you will be helping make our church a place that reflects the glory of Christ's birth, a place of beauty and welcome as we celebrate the coming of our Saviour. Flowers will be received now and until morning of Dec 24. Call Fr. Martin @705 491 0825 when you're ready to bring to the church.



**CHRISTMAS WAS OUTLAWED OR BANNED IN HISTORY** (When & Where) In 1647–1660 Christmas was officially banned by the English Parliament during the Puritan-controlled period. In New England/Massachusetts, a law in 1659 made celebrating Christmas illegal, with fines for anyone caught marking the day. (WHY Was Christmas Outlawed) Puritans objected to Christmas for religious, moral, and social reasons. They believed it was not biblical; the Bible does not specify the date of Christ's birth. They associated Christmas with Catholicism as Christmas = a "popish" (Catholic) superstition. They saw Christmas as immoral and unruly. (The End of the Ban) The ban ended when the monarchy was restored in 1660, and traditional celebrations quickly returned. Once Puritans lost political power, Christmas returned and eventually became the peaceful family feast we know today. Massachusetts repealed its ban in 1681, but Many New Englanders still refused to celebrate Christmas into the 1700s. Christmas only became a federal holiday in the U.S. in 1870.



**WHY IS CHRISTMAS SO DEAR TO CHRISTIANS** - Christmas is dear to Christians because it celebrates the Incarnation: the eternal Son of God taking on our humanity, entering our history, and drawing near to us in love. Everything in our faith — the Cross, the Resurrection, our hope for heaven — begins in that manger. It's like heaven bent low and touched the earth; God became a child, and in that Child the world found its Redeemer.

**ST. MARY'S CWL** - A special thank you to Michael & Tina Mullin and the Church Council for the delicious soup, sandwiches, fruit, veggies and trimmings at the Christmas Potluck. The food donations from the parishioners completed the meal and were all so yummy. The music added a delightful festive tone to the event along with the beautiful songs by the singers. Thank you, everyone who contributed and made the potluck a success. Thank you CWL members who assisted. The 3 CWL raffle items were won by : 1) The Hunter - Mary Catherine O'Neill 2) The Fawn - Rick Stratford & 3) The Loon - Helen Perko-Hrycyna. Thank you to all who supported the Raffle which raised \$257.25 for the CWL. The CWL Project "Helping Hands" has come to an end and was a great success. Thank you for all the donations. The recipients will be so thankful to receive the items. The CWL Canteen at the Grafton Christmas Market at St. Mary School on Dec.06 was a hit with its famous "Cup o' Chili". Thank you for all your donations to the CWL Donation Jar. Remember, the CWL cannot do what it does, without your support! The next CWL meeting will be Jan. 05/26 at the rectory @ 9:30 am. Remember, if you are not feeling well, stay home and get feeling better before you venture out.

**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**



**Parish Committees & Organizations**

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*

KC 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, *Kathy Ancker- 905-344-0048*  
St. Mary's Elementary School, Grafton, Nancy Jones (*Principal*)-905 349 2061  
St Mary's Secondary School, Cobourg, *Jill Barker- 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

Mass Intention today: Dec 14, for special Intention of Sarah Charles by Melissa Lilje

Dec 15, Mon - NO MASS

Dec 16, Tues 9am

Dec 17, Wed 9am

Dec 18, Thurs 9am & School Mass @11am

Dec 19, Fri 9am

Dec 20, Sat 9am-No Mass, instead Penitential Service/Confession with 2 invited priests

Dec 20, Sat 4pm (4th Advent Sunday) +Pamela Kelly by Vince Kelly

Dec 21, Sun 10am (4th Advent Sunday) Birthday Thanksgiving Intention for Frances Mensen by the Mensen family

## Dec 20-21 WEEKEND MASSES

4pm

10 am

LECTORS:

Greg Blick

Margaret Harry

EMHC:

Paula Blick

John Logel

USHERS:

Darrell & Nick Manley

Rob Ugolini & Ed Nemec



## Collections Weekend of Dec 6-7, 2025

Sunday Offering - \$2,896

Cemetery Donation - \$100

Restoration - \$305

Heating - \$500

Donation - \$400

## ADVENT ACTIVITIES, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE- CONFESSION with 2 invited priests  
(Saturday Dec 20, 9am)

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DAY (Sunday Dec 21, 11am )

CHRISTMAS EVE (Wednesday, Dec 24, 4pm )

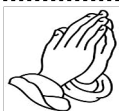
CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT (Wednesday Dec 24, 8pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY (Thursday Dec 25, 10am)

CLOSING OF JUBILEE YEAR (Sunday Dec 28, 10:30am @ Peterborough Cathedral)

NEW YEAR EVE (Wednesday 4PM, Dec 31, 4pm)

NEW YEAR DAY (Thursday Jan 1, 2026, 10am)



## PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Greg Blick, Tass Corbier, Terry Korotki, Dalton McDonald

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### PARISH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - On behalf of the Parish

Council, who spearheaded this parish event, closely backed-up by the CWL and Filipino friends, I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas Brunch. Your presence, your joy, and the many dishes and desserts you shared along with the singing of Christmas carols made it a beautiful celebration of our parish family. Thank you as well to all who helped set up, serve, and clean up behind the scenes. Your quiet service is a real witness to Christian charity. As we continue to celebrate this Christmas season, please know how grateful we are for each of you. May the Lord bless you and your families with His peace and joy. A quick reminder as well: we will be decorating the church on December 21st after the 10 a.m. Mass. All hands are welcome. *Fr. Martin*



GAUDETE SUNDAY - Today, Gaudete Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, and its entire meaning is captured in its name: "Gaudete" = "Rejoice!" Advent is a penitential season - one of preparation, repentance, and longing. Then, in the middle of it, the Church suddenly tells us: Rejoice. This shift reminds us that our waiting is not empty — Christ is near. The color rose dominating in the sanctuary and priest's rose vestments signal a softening of the penitential tone. It's not Christmas yet — but we get a "taste" of the joy that's coming. The joy of Gaudete Sunday isn't emotional hype. It's based on God keeping His promises. Our joy is grounded in the fact that Christ enters our darkness — not only 2,000 years ago, but every time we let Him. Gaudete Sunday calls us to become those people — to radiate the joy that Christ brings, especially in a weary world.



PENITENTIAL SERVICE ON SATURDAY DEC 20TH @ 9AM - Confession clears away the clutter, the noise, the sin, and the spiritual heaviness that builds up during the year. It restores our friendship with God, opens us to grace, and makes room for the Christ Child the way the manger made room for Him in Bethlehem. Nothing prepares us more perfectly for the birth of our Lord Jesus than returning to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to have a clean soul. Thanking Fr. Bill Moloney & Fr. Chuka for helping hear our confession.



WINTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - With winter settling in, we're looking for a few volunteers who can help keep the church grounds safe and clear after snowfalls — especially the walkways, entrances, and key paths around St. Mary's. Shovels are available inside the doors both in the church and rectory. And if snowblower is needed during worse times, it is available at the porch of the rectory. Feel free to use it. Thank you for your care and for stepping forward to help make our parish safe for everyone during winter.

