

THE IMPORTANCE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST’S CALL - His mission was not simply to call people to repentance - it was to prepare Israel to recognize and receive the Messiah. His call to believe in Jesus had profound theological, spiritual, and historical consequences that shaped the entire unfolding of salvation history. When John the Baptist appears in the Gospels, he announces a message that echoes the prophecy of Isaiah: “A voice cries out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.” This is not just poetry. It carries deep spiritual meaning for every believer — including us today. In ancient times, before a king traveled, workers would go ahead to: clear stones, fill in holes, straighten crooked paths. John uses the same image for our souls. To “prepare the way of the Lord” means to cleanse our hearts, straighten our lives, and awaken our souls so that Jesus Christ can enter, reign, and transform us.



COUNCIL OF NICEA’S IMPACT ON THE CHURCH - The first Ecumenical Council in the history of the Church took place in 325. After some two hundred fifty years of persecution, the decision of the Emperor Constantine to legalize Christianity allowed Christians to worship in freedom throughout the Roman Empire. But the freedom for the Church was not without controversy. An Alexandrian priest, Arius, provoked a firestorm when he challenged the true divinity of Jesus Christ. For Arius, Jesus was not fully God, but merely a creature—albeit a creature exalted to a position next to God the Father and above all others. The doctrinal controversy soon swept throughout Christianity, threatening to divide the Church. In response, Constantine called together a universal synod, inviting all the bishops throughout the world. They gathered in the city of Nicaea, to determine definitively the faith of the Church. After heated discussions, the bishops numbering 318—composed a Creed, a written statement of the Christian faith. The formula, “We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father” definitively rejected the teachings of Arius. The Council of Nicaea is recognized as authoritative by all Christian Churches and communities, and the Creed proclaimed by the Council, is recited by Christians around the world.

ST. MARY’S CWL - The next CWL meeting is Jan. 05/25 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. This Saturday, Dec.06, noon - 5:00 pm the Grafton Christmas Market takes over St. Mary School gym. The CWL is operating the Canteen selling its famous home made CHILI, t-biscuits, and cookies. Please plan to attend. Have lunch and do your Christmas shopping. There are many vendors ready to sell their wares. This is a fund raiser for both the SCHOOL & the CWL. WE will also be selling TICKETS for the Christmas Raffle. On Sunday, after MASS the Church Council is serving BRUNCH; soup, sandwiches, fruit, veggies, desserts and snacks in the school gym. Please plan to attend. Have lunch and a visit with your fellow parishioners. The winning tickets will also be drawn for the CWL Raffle. This is the last weekend for the CWL "Helping Others" Project. Thank you for your generous Donations. St. Vincent de Paul will distribute the items. The recipients who receive them will be so grateful and thankful.

Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Diocesan Website: www.peterboroughdiocese.org

Bookkeeper - Gabrielito Garcia

Fr. Martin Dalida - Parish Priest



DECEMBER 7, 2025



CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM

WEEKEND
MASSES

SATURDAY
4PM

SUNDAY
10AM



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 7, for the people of the parish

Dec 8, Mon 9am (Feast of IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM)

Dec 9, Tues - NO MASS

Dec 10, Wed 9am

Dec 11, Thurs 9am

Dec 12, Fri 9am (Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas)

Dec 13, Sat 9am (St. Lucy, virgin & martyr)

Dec 13, Sat 4pm (3rd Advent Gaudete Sunday) For the People of the parish

Dec 14, Sun 10am (3rd Advent Gaudete Sunday) For special Intention of Sarah Charles by Melissa Lilje

Dec 13-14 WEEKEND MASSES

	4pm	10 am
LECTORS:	Michael Mullin	Kathy Acker
EMHC:	Pat Rutherford	Judith Goulin
USHERS:	Darrell & Nick Manley	Joe O’Kane & Ian Manley



Collections Weekend of Nov 29-30, 2025

Sunday Offering - \$1, 470
Cemetery Donation - \$200
Gaming: \$6, 613
Parish Fund Balance: \$38, 468 (as of Dec 3, 2025)

ADVENT ACTIVITIES, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

PARISH CHRISTMAS BRUNCH (Dec 7, Sunday right after 10am Mass)
ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE- CONFESSION with 2 invited priests (Dec 20, Saturday 9am)
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DAY (Dec 21, Sunday 11am)
CHRISTMAS EVE (Dec 24, Wednesday 4pm)
CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT (Dec 24, Wednesday 8pm)
CHRISTMAS DAY (Dec 25, Thursday 10am)
NEW YEAR EVE (Dec 31, Wednesday 4PM)
NEW YEAR DAY (Jan 1, 2026, Thursday 10am)



PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Tass Corbier, Terry Korotki, Dalton McDonald



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

PARISH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - We are expecting everyone to be at the school gym after the 10am Mass today to join in our annual parish family Christmas brunch to celebrate the joy of Christmas and the blessings of 150 yrs parish anniversary. Come, and enjoy the fellowship!



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER (For Christians in areas of conflict) "Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope."

FIRST RECONCILIATION - We offer our sincere congratulations to the children of St. Mary's School as they prepare for their First Reconciliation on December 12, 2025. May the grace of this sacrament fill them with peace and guide them ever closer to Christ. We ask our parish community to pray for them and their families during this blessed time.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (December 8) The Immaculate Conception, according to the teaching of the Catholic Church, was the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, St Anne. Mary was conceived naturally but God kept her soul *immaculate*, i.e. free from original sin. The official confirmation of the dogma was defined in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, although the belief that Mary was sinless and conceived free from sin is very old. Catholics give importance to this feast because it celebrates the unique grace bestowed upon Mary, the mother of Jesus. This grace was necessary for her to be a sinless mother of God. This feast is a time for us to honor Mary's holiness and encourage all to strive for a life of holiness and obedience to God's plan.



ADVENT WREATH MEANING - The Advent wreath is one of the most symbolic traditions for the season of Advent. With candles lit on each of the four weeks of Advent, the wreath is a reminder of the hope and joy coming. **CANDLES:** They symbolize hope, peace, joy and love, reflecting the spiritual journey of preparation for the coming of Christ during the Advent season. The color purple reflecting a time of waiting and anticipation. The color rose signifies joy, celebrating the nearing of Christ's birth. The white candle in the center of the wreath represents the light of Christ. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the gradual arrival of light into the world representing Christ as the light of the world who dispels darkness and sin. **CIRCULAR SHAPE:** The circular shape of the wreath represents the eternal nature of God—His never-ending love, mercy, and faithfulness. It also symbolizes the unending cycle of seasons and the continuous nature of time. EVERGREEN BRANCHES: which do not lose their leaves in winter, represent the everlasting life found in Christ. They are a symbol of hope and renewal, pointing to the promise of eternal life through Jesus.

