

**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. Flowers will be received now and until morning of Dec 24. Thank you once again for helping decorate our Sanctuary that reflects the beauty of the glory of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ on Christmas.



**CHRIST THE CENTER OF TIME** - To say "Christ is the center of time" means that all history finds its meaning in Him. Time is no longer just a series of days and years—it is God's saving plan unfolding. The PAST is redeemed in Christ:



He heals what is broken and forgives what has failed. The PRESENT is sanctified by Christ: He walks with us now, giving grace for today. The FUTURE is fulfilled in Christ: He is our hope, the Alpha and the Omega. That is why we measure time as B.C. and A.D.—Before Christ and Anno Domini (Year of the Lord). Every moment matters because Christ has entered time, lived among us, died, and rose again. When Christ is at the center of our time, our days gain purpose, our struggles gain meaning, our lives move toward eternity. Christ is not only born in history—He is born into our lives, making every moment holy.

**BISHOP MIEHM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** - Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Diocese of Peterborough, Every Christmas invites us to embrace joy, thanksgiving and hope. Pope Francis opened the Jubilee Year of Hope on Christmas eve last year. Pope Leo will conclude on the feast of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This Jubilee has been an occasion for all Christians to embrace the great virtue of hope – a hope founded on God who has revealed his love for us in Jesus Christ. As we approach the end of this year, I look forward to welcoming you to the closing Mass of the Jubilee, being celebrated on the Feast of the Holy Family, Dec. 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. It will be an occasion for prayer, rejoicing and thanksgiving to God, as we look back on this Jubilee Year. The Jubilee Year of Hope will end, but the great gift of hope continues in the Church, and it inspires us to share that message with all we meet. That hope burns brightly at Christmas time when our Lord came to us as a little child, and as a light shining in the darkness of our world. May the rich treasure of hope, founded on all that God has done for us, be with you and yours this Christmas season and well beyond, as we continue together our journey as Pilgrims of Hope. Yours in Christ, *Bishop Daniel Miehm*

**ST. MARY'S CWL** - Merry Christmas Father Martin, CWL members & Parishioners. Have a wonderful festive season and a Blessed Christmas. The CWL made a profit of \$800.00 at the Grafton Christmas Market. These funds will be used for CWL, church, and community projects as are all donations. Thank you to members and parishioners who have made Christmas, membership and in memorial donations to the CWL. It is so appreciated. "We cannot do what we do without your support." CWL Diocese President Wendy Tedford visited the CWL Canteen at St. Mary School and enjoyed the Grafton Christmas Market on Dec.06/25. She did some Christmas shopping, enjoyed her visit and sends Christmas Greetings to all members. The next CWL meeting is Jan. 05, 2026 @ 9:30 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

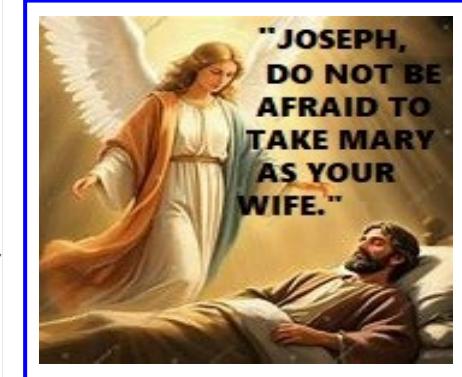
Tel: 905-349-2504

Parish Email: [office@assumptiongrafton.ca](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 Mecoza* - 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*-289 829 0697

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 Intentions today: Dec 20, for +Pamela Kelly & Dec 21, special b-day thanksgiving of Frances Mensen

Dec 22, Mon - NO MASS

Dec 23, Tues 9am

Dec 24, CHRISTMAS EVE: Wed 4pm & 8pm(+John Taylor by Mom, Jamie & family)

Dec 25, CHRISTMAS DAY: Thurs 10am

Dec 26, Friday (NO MASS)

Dec 27, Sat 9am- +Jennifer Cote by Ian Manley

Dec 27, Sat 4pm (Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph) For Olaf & Deirdre Arzheimer

Dec 28, 10am (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph) Intention of Melissa Lilje

## Dec 27-28 WEEKEND MASSES

4pm

Dave Hughes

Paula Blick

Darrell & Nick Manley

10 am

Michael Stephenson

Bernadette Murray

Ian Manley & Ed Nemec

## Collections Weekend of Dec 13-14, 2025

Sunday Offering - \$1, 710

Restoration - \$100



## ADVENT ACTIVITIES, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**CHRIST IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON** - As we celebrate Christmas with lights, gifts, and joyful gatherings, we are mindful of the true meaning of this holy season: Christ is the reason for the season. Christmas is not just about what we receive, but about Who we receive—Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift to the world. In the humble manger of Bethlehem, God chose to come close to us. Jesus was born to bring light into our darkness, peace into our hearts, and hope into our lives. He reminds us that God's love is simple, humble, and available to all—especially to the poor, the lonely, and the forgotten. When we keep Christ at the center of Christmas, our celebrations become more meaningful. Our homes become places of love, our hearts become more forgiving, and our lives become reflections of His mercy. Every act of kindness, every moment of sharing, and every prayer offered is a way of welcoming Christ anew. May this Christmas renew our faith and draw us closer to the Child born for us. Let us carry His love beyond the season and into our daily lives. Christ is the reason for the season—today and always.



## CHRISTMAS & THANK YOU MESSAGE

- As we celebrate the joyful mystery of Christmas, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God who loved us so much that He gave us His Son. In the humble birth of Jesus, we see God's nearness, His mercy, and His abiding love for each one of us. I thank you, dear parishioners, for your faith, generosity, and commitment to our parish community throughout the year. Your prayers, service, and kindness are living signs of Christ's presence among us. Together, we continue to be a parish that welcomes, heals, and serves, especially the poor, the lonely, and those in need. May this Christmas bring peace to your homes, comfort to your hearts, and renewed strength to your faith. May the newborn Savior bless your families with unity, your children with joy, and our parish with continued love and mission. Thank you to our volunteers, ministers, leaders, families, and benefactors who give so generously of their time and talents. Thank you to those who serve behind the scenes and to those who continue to pray faithfully for our parish. Each of you is a blessing, and together we form one family in Christ. A blessed and joyful Christmas to you all. With prayers and blessings, Fr. Martin



**SIMBANG GABI ("NIGHT MASS")** is a popular custom among our Filipino Catholics. It consists of nine Masses celebrated in the days leading up to Christmas, and it is being observed in several parishes in our diocese: Courtice at 7pm, Cobourg at 7pm and Peterborough cathedral at 6:30pm. The largest gathering will be at our Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, from December 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, each evening at 6:30 p.m.

**GIFT IDEA** - Looking for last minute gift ideas for Christmas? Check out Mary's Cupboard located in the back of the church (opposite the Church Library) for rosaries, books or statues. Operated by your Catholic Women's League Council, ask Pat Murphy (4 p.m. Mass) or Kathy Ancker (10 a.m. Mass) to assist you.