

Dear Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Peterborough,

As the season of Advent progresses, it is a time of longing and expectation like no other. We continue to pray for health, wellbeing, and a return to normal life, but we know that the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us for a while still. Since the re-opening of our churches in June we have worked diligently as clergy and parishioners, in partnership with public health officials, to implement our Worship Safe guidelines and ensure the health and welfare of our people. I wish to thank you for your patience and your diligent efforts in this regard. They have allowed our parishes to promote the spiritual lives of the faithful while also attending to their physical health. As Catholics, we follow the prudent restrictions that are outlined in these protocols as a matter of good citizenship and as an exercise of our faith. Moreover, they help us to fulfill the obligations of charity and justice toward our neighbour. While a certain amount of pandemic fatigue is understandable, it is important for all of us to redouble our efforts to follow the *Worship Safe* protocols. The Assembly of Ontario Bishops Worship Safe Committee has recently released some enhanced protocols to ensure the wellbeing of the people who come to our churches. This is important as we head into the winter months and as we are seeing a great surge in the number of cases in our province. We must be diligent about wearing masks at church and continue to practice safe physical distancing – at least 2 meters if not in the same household. This allows us to have confidence in each other and assures the civil authorities that we are being responsible in what we are doing to follow public health guidelines here in our Diocese. With the recent, dramatic increase in the number of cases in our province, I wish to reaffirm our stated policy on the reception of Communion. Holy Communion must be received on the hand rather than the tongue during this time. While reception on the tongue remains normative in our Church, it is good to recall that the practice of receiving on the hand is an ancient and venerable one. As long ago as the 4th century, St. Cyril of Alexandria wrote, “In approaching therefore, come not with your wrists extended or your fingers spread; but make your left hand a throne for the right, as for that which is to receive a King.” I am aware that this is a sensitive matter for some. Canon law reminds us that the exercise of our rights in the Church must take account of the common good and our duty toward others (C. 223 §1). Therefore, I ask that those whose practice is to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, set aside this right for the sake of others. This practice of charity and fraternity will be an expression of who we are as the Church. It is also important that physical distancing be maintained during the procession for Holy Communion and that masks be worn – they are to be removed at the moment of reception using the straps, without touching the front of the mask. I thank you for your attention to and cooperation with these protocols which have been implemented for the wellbeing of all who come to our churches. With you, I pray for an end to this pandemic with the hopes that we might return to a more typical celebration of the Mass sometime in 2021. May God bless you abundantly in this joyful Advent and Christmas time, and may you and your family members be safe and well. Yours in Christ, +Most. Rev. Daniel Miehm-Bishop of Peterborough

OUR PARISH BULLETIN



Our Lady of Mercy Church
Honey Harbour



St. John the Baptist Church
Port Severn

Address:

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
P.O. Box 126
2596 Honey Harbour Rd.
Honey Harbour, On P0E1E0

Fr. Martin Dalida – Parish Priest

Tel. 705 756 2311

Email: office@ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca

Website: <https://www.ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca/>

Weekend Masses

Sunday 9 A.M. - Port Severn

Sunday 11 A.M. - Honey Harbour

Weekday Masses

(See inside bulletin)

Confession: 20 minutes before weekend Masses

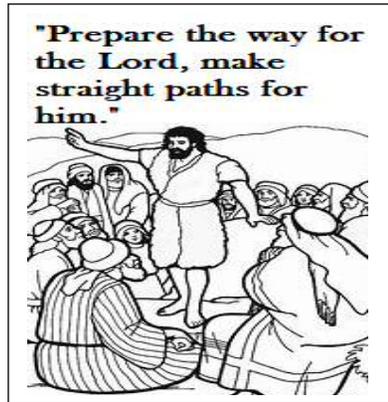
Wedding and Baptism: Call the office

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020

Gospel Today: John 1:6-8,19-28

John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.



Collections - Sunday December 6

\$648 - Regular Sunday Offerings

\$1,860 (total to date) - New Furnace

Furnace Replacement – The new Propane Furnace replacement in St. John Church Port Severn is scheduled to be delivered and installed this coming Friday 18th. The company DLZ Heating and Cooling Inc. has pegged the total price @ \$5,989.00. As of today the offerings for this project is \$1,860. We continue to appeal for your generous help to cover the expenses of the said furnace replacement.

Weekday Masses (at Honey Harbour Chapel)

Wed Dec 16 – NO MASS

Thurs Dec 17, 11am Mass – Immediate availability of Covid-19 Vaccine

Friday Dec 18, 11am MASS – +Deceased Melchor family members

Weekend Masses (4TH Sunday of Advent)

Sunday Dec 20, 9am- Port Severn – +Jeffery & Bertha Cadeau by Don & Eileen Cadeau

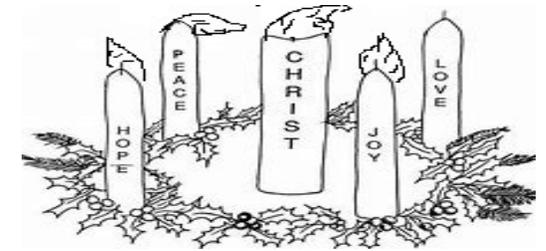
Sunday Dec 20, 11am - Honey Harbour- For people of the parish

Christmas Eve/Day Mass Schedule

December 24 Thursday 7pm - St. John the Baptist @ Port Severn

December 25 Friday 10am – Our Lady of Mercy Church @ Honey Harbour

Letter - Please read the Letter of Bishop Miehm (Bishop of Peterborough) at the back page of the bulletin.



Advent Season - The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian. First we celebrate Christ-become-human. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. Knowing that man could not live in isolation, he formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. When Christ comes again, his presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community. This is the "greater significance" of Advent. In these few short weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time - from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

Third Candle (Joy) - To mark the third week of Advent, we light the third advent candle pink in color, representing Joy. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The light of the world sweeps away the darkness in our world and in our hearts. We seek him and, in joy, find him.

Pope Francis – "A Christian is one who is invited... to join in the feast, to the joy of being saved, to the joy of being redeemed, to the joy of sharing life with Christ. This is a joy! You are called to a party!"
"A Christian is never bored or sad. Rather, the one who loves Christ is full of joy and radiates joy."