

Statement Regarding Corona Virus

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The news reports regarding the spread of the COVID-19 virus continue noting that the World Health Organization has described COVID-19 as a pandemic. The Diocese continues to monitor the situation and is updating the March 6th Statement as follows:

Handwashing – One of the most effective means to prevent the spread of viruses is frequent and thorough handwashing. If hand sanitizers are available for purchase, they will be at the entrances of Churches, Halls and Parish Offices. Parish Priests and Pastoral Ministers should be especially attentive to regular handwashing, particularly between Masses or before and after visiting the sick.

Cleaning - Cleaning of high traffic public spaces in Churches, parish offices and parish halls will follow regular cleaning and disinfecting procedures and schedules.

Sign of Peace – “In the dioceses of Canada, the sign of peace is given by a handshake or a bow.” At this time, Pastors shall advise their Parishioners to exchange the Sign of Peace by a bow and a greeting of “Peace of Christ” or another appropriate greeting. The Sign of Peace is not to be omitted from the celebration of the Eucharist.

Ushering and Greeting – Ushers and greeters shall refrain from shaking hands. A simple bow, smile, and/or greeting of “welcome” will be used in place of the handshake.

Reception of Holy Communion – The option to receive Holy Communion in the hand, or on the tongue, is up to the Communicant. During a viral outbreak people may wish to receive Holy Communion in the hand, but they are not to be denied if they choose to receive on the tongue.

Communion from the Chalice – Christ is fully present in each species. At this time, Communion from the Chalice will be suspended.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion - Extraordinary Ministers of Communion who feel uncomfortable distributing Communion will be excused from this ministry.

Holy Water Fonts at the Doors of Parishes and Baptismal Fonts - Baptismal and Holy Water fonts are to be emptied and thoroughly sanitized.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to those who are ill, especially those who suffer from a contagious illness. Those with flu-like symptoms should remain at home in order not to spread the virus to others.

Let us pray for all those who are impacted by illness, for their families and caregivers.

Yours in Christ,

†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm

Bishop of Peterborough

OUR PARISH BULLETIN



Our Lady of Mercy Church
Honey Harbour



St. John the Baptist Church
Port Severn

PARISH ADDRESS:

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

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Weekend Masses

Saturday 5 P.M. (May 1 to Oct 31 only) - Port Severn

Sunday 9 A.M. (all year) - Port Severn

Sunday 11 A.M. (all year) - Honey Harbour

Weekday Masses

(See inside bulletin)

Confession: 20 minutes before weekend Masses

Wedding and Baptism: Call the office

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 15, 2020

Gospel Today: John 4:5-42

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman as the Messiah. After the conversation, the woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.



Weekday Masses

Thurs March 19, 9am Mass for Peace in the world

Fri March 20, 9am Mass for souls in purgatory

Weekend Masses

(4TH Sunday of Lent)

Sunday March 22, 9am @ PS

11am @ HH for the people of the parish



\$539-March 1 Sunday Offerings

Thank you for your generous support.

Pray for Sick Members of our Parish

Community: Mark Vessair, Maryrose Vessair,

Clifford Legault, Gloria & Louis Cousineau,

Theresa Phillips, Ernie Corbier, Derek Wiese

(Call the office if you would like someone placed on the prayer list).

Food for Thought-

"Grace is available for each of us every day - our spiritual daily bread - but we've got to remember to ask for it with a grateful heart and not worry about whether there will be enough for tomorrow." - Sarah Ban Breathnach

St. Mary's CWL Spring ticket sale- 2.00 each or 3 for 5.00. On sale at

the back of the Church. 1st prize- original water colour painting by Ann Stacey

2nd prize- 150.00 3rd prize- Instapot. Draw will be Sunday, May 10 /20

Updated Statement on Corona Virus by Bishop Miehm – Kindly find the full text of the said statement at the back page of this bulletin.



"The one who drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again."

Holy Week Masses & Liturgies

April 5 Palm Sunday Masses:

9am @ Port Severn

11am @ Honey Harbour

April 9 Holy Thursday Mass of the

Last Supper 7pm @ Port Severn

a) Washing of the Feet

b) Vigil of the Blessed Sacrament

April 10 Holy Friday Passion of

Christ Liturgy 2:30pm @ Honey

Harbour

A) Station of the Cross

b) Liturgy of the Word

c) Veneration of the Cross

d) Holy Communion

April 11 Saturday Easter Vigil

Mass 7pm @ Port Severn

a) Blessing of New Fire

b) Blessing of the New Holy Water

April 12 Easter Sunday Masses

9am @ Port Severn

11am @ Honey Harbour

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC # 40) "Since our knowledge of God is limited, our language about him is equally so. We can name God only by taking creatures as our starting point, and in accordance with our limited human ways of knowing and thinking."

St. Photina (The Samaritan Woman in the Well, feast day March 20) Most of us know this woman only as a Samaritan woman. The truth is she's got a Christian name when she was baptized by the apostles after her encounter with Jesus at the well. Her name is Photina, meaning, "the enlightened one." And she is very much recognizable during apostolic time and onward, in fact, many churches later have her as their patron being St. Photina, Holy Martyr and Equal to the Apostles. Photina was the Samaritan woman with whom Jesus spoke at the well as was recounted in the Gospel of St. John. Deeply moved by the experience, she took to preaching the Gospel, received imprisonment, and was finally martyred. She converted her five sisters and her two sons. They too all became tireless evangelists and martyrs for Christ. Tradition states that Photina was put to death in Rome after converting the daughter of Emperor Nero and one hundred of her servants. She died in Rome with her two sons, along with several other Christians. The people of Smyrna in Asia Minor have great love and devotion to this Saint, so much so that they constructed her magnificent Metropolis Church in only 40 days. St. Photina has worked and continues to work endless miracles throughout the world by the Grace of Christ. Prayer to St. Photina: "O holy one St. Photina, martyr and equal to the apostles, by the well of Jacob, you found the Water of eternal and blessed life; and having partaken thereof, you went forth proclaiming Christ, the Anointed One. Help us to follow your example, and through our lives bring glory to the Lord and believers to the Church. " Amen.

Pope Francis - The Pope offered a prayer to the Virgin Mary to mark the Diocese of Rome's day of prayer and fasting for the Coronavirus emergency: "O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin."

World Health Organization Corona Virus Update- As of March 13, 2020: 139,485 cases of the COVID-19 disease have been confirmed globally, 5,120 deaths, 136 countries affected. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on Wednesday as the coronavirus has rapidly spread. "We are in uncharted territory. This is a reality check for every government on the planet: Wake up. Get ready." - *W.H.O.* "Disasters and Virus pandemic periodically remind humanity that we all have only one planet: We either stand together or fall together".- *Catholic news site Crux.*

Prayer Against the Pandemic: "God of Mercy, be with the tens of thousands of people who have contracted the coronavirus around the world. Comfort those whose loved ones have died. Bring peace to those living with uncertainty after perhaps being exposed to the virus. Give patience to those who are quarantined and unable to move freely in their communities. Watch over and protect other people from catching this deadly virus. Strengthen those who are risking their own lives to care for sick patients. May we all be filled with compassion for those who are suffering.