

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have heard for many weeks now that Christmas this year will be a little different because of the pandemic. That is true, as we will be less mobile, cautious about gathering, and doing more socializing online. Things will certainly be different as our parishes celebrate the Lord's Nativity - capacity restrictions and safety precautions will mean lower key liturgies.

Still, we would do well to focus on the things that will not change this Christmas, and for people of faith they are the eternal truths that always resound in our hearts: that God's Word became flesh to dwell among us; that Bethlehem speaks of God's unbounded love for his people; that our faith brings us tidings of comfort and joy; and that trust in God, illustrated in the humble faith of Mary and Joseph, will never lead us astray.

In this unusual Christmas of 2020, I pray that you may still experience the traditional and customary joys that mark this season of faith. May God bless you richly this Christmas and may you know peace and good health in the New Year.

Yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend 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**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020

Gospel Today: Luke 1:26-38

This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.



Collections - Sunday December 13

\$2,580 - Regular Sunday Offerings

\$4,465 (total to date) – For New Furnace

Furnace Replacement – The new Propane Tank & Furnace in St. John Church Port Severn had already been partially installed. The budget for this project is \$5,989.00. As of today the total offerings collected is \$4,465. As we continue to appeal for more help, we extend our grateful appreciation to those who already chipped in for this cause. Again, thank you for your continued kind assistance in meeting the pressing needs of our parish, like this new furnace replacement.

Weekday & Christmas Eve/Day Mass Schedule

Wed Dec 23 11am Mass - +Ted, Lucy, Pete, Ed, Don Nicholson by Frances Scott

Thurs Dec 24, 7pm Christmas Eve Mass @ Port Severn

Friday Dec 25, 10am Mass @ Honey Harbour – +Deceased members of Vessair & Phillips Families by Mark & Maryrose

Weekend Masses (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

Sunday Dec 27, 9am- Port Severn – +James Wood by Pat & Dan Thibault

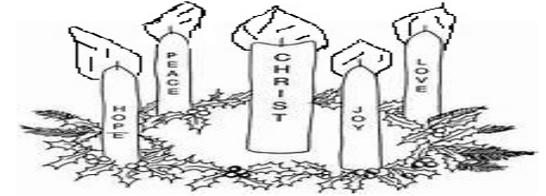
Sunday Dec 27, 11am - Honey Harbour- For people of the parish

New Year Mass Schedule

Friday January 1, 9am Mass @ Port Severn

Friday January 1, 11am Mass @ Honey Harbour

Most Rev. Daniel
Miehm's Christmas
Message at the back
page of the bulletin.



Fourth Candle (Love) - To mark the fourth week of Advent, we light the fourth advent candle representing Love. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we reach the culmination of Love. The Messiah comes in love and righteousness. The angels filled the sky with the greatest news of love. They visited the lowest of the lows in Jewish society, the shepherds, with the most amazing birth announcement. This love is no respecter of persons but is for all who receive. As we light the four candles, we ponder, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him (John 3:16-17)."

Pope Francis – "Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return."

Christmas Message - My dear parishioners, Once again, we come to this very special time of the year in which we celebrate and appreciate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. During this season, we celebrate Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. I pray that all four of these would fill our life in every way this Christmas and beyond. This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate "Emmanuel" (God with us). Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. The year 2020 will soon be in our past. This year has been months of difficulty on so many levels, for so many people. From the global Pandemic at the beginning of the year continuing through even now, no doubt, we need God more than ever. With that in mind, we recall St. Paul's exhortation: (1Thes. 5:16) "Rejoice at all times; pray without ceasing; give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus", (Rom.15:13): "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him." Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas as once again, we as a church family celebrate the birth of

"For unto you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."



Jesus Christ, the Saviour, the very source of true Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love! In this season, we do our best to reach out and be a blessing to our families, as well as others who mean a lot to us. May you have all a BLESSED and MERRY CHRISTMAS. *Fr. Martin*