

From Charles Gardner (Medical Officer of Health Simcoe-Muskoka)

Re: Increasing COVID-19 Transmission in Simcoe Muskoka and Community Efforts to Prevent Spread

“On November 23, 2021, I issued two letters of instruction for businesses and organizations and recreational fitness and sports to address a rise in COVID-19 cases in Simcoe and Muskoka. These letters contained further actions to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They were targeted to places and settings where our data showed that transmission was happening, such as indoor public spaces and workplaces. While it is too early to know if these additional actions have had an overall effect in reducing COVID-19 in Simcoe and Muskoka, I am thankful to businesses, organizations and the public in adhering to these instructions since they were released. In the meantime, unfortunately, our cases have continued to rise to a current weekly incidence rate of more than 80 cases per 100,000 persons as of December 2, 2021 which represents a doubling over the past four weeks.

Simply stated, help from our community is needed to avoid further restrictions in Simcoe and Muskoka. The collective efforts of the Simcoe and Muskoka community are required to protect each other from COVID-19, and to maintain and support our scarce health and public health resources. This is particularly important during the holiday season and in the winter months, which is often a time of indoor gatherings and activities. These community and individual efforts include: Get vaccinated for whatever dose you are eligible, Businesses that host people for holiday celebrations and activities should minimize capacity within indoor settings, Members of the public and employees in work settings are required to wear a mask or face covering that covers their mouth, nose and chin, Individuals attending or hosting a social gathering or event who are NOT fully vaccinated are advised to gather only with those within their household, Individuals who ARE fully vaccinated are advised to keep gatherings to a small number of people outside of their household, ideally with those who are also vaccinated. As we continue to monitor the increasing transmission of COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka and do all we can to control and reduce its spread, including actively monitoring and preparing for the arrival of the new and possibly more transmissible Omicron variant of concern, I am also considering the potential to require the capacity limits that were lifted by the province in October to be reinstated. However, following the recommendations and requirements provided above will help to reduce the spread of the virus moving forward and hopefully will help to avoid the need to take this undesirable step. I recognize the hardships and fatigue you have all faced during this lengthy pandemic, and I sincerely appreciate the ongoing efforts of the residents, businesses, and organizations in Simcoe and Muskoka in protecting our communities. Together, as in the past, we can stabilize and then reverse our increasing community transmission of COVID-19 and help usher in a safer holiday season ahead for our communities.”

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)

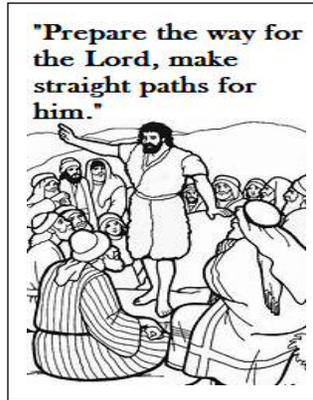
Confession: 20 minutes before weekend Masses

Wedding and Baptism: Call the office

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021

Gospel Today: *Luke 3:1-6*— “In today's Gospel we find lists of political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history. It also shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.”



Collections Last Sunday, November 28



\$425 - Regular Sunday Offerings

Weekday Masses (Honey Harbour Chapel)

Thursday Dec 9, 10am Mass – For Sick & Elderly parishioners

Friday Dec 10, 11am Mass - For (FrMD)Thanksgiving

Weekend Masses (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Sunday December 12, 9am @ Port Severn - People of the parish

Sunday December 12, 11am @ Honey Harbour

Christmas Masses Schedule

Friday Dec 24 (Christmas Eve) 7:30pm @ St. John the Baptist, Port Severn

Saturday Dec 25 (Christmas Day) 9am @ St. John the Baptist, Port Severn

Saturday Dec 25 (Christmas Day) 11am @ Lady of Mercy, Honey Harbour

5-Week Video Clips - The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)

released a video recording, reflecting on the Gospel Reading for each Sunday. This year's reflections are inspired by the journey of truth, healing & reconciliation, and the Indigenous Delegation traveling to Rome to meet with Pope Francis from December 17 to 20, 2021. Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina gives the reflections. The videos can be accessed through the links below.

<https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>

Advent “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.”

Week 2: Preparation (or waiting or prophecy)

40:3-5: “A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.””

Synod of Bishop Questionnaire – Thank you to all parishioners who completed the recent survey. Submissions were sent directly to Peterborough Diocese. As a continuation of the worldwide and local conversation in the church about community, engaged participation and the mission of Evangelization, please complete the questionnaire that is available at the church entrance and return it on or before Sunday, December 26. Results will be collated by our Parish Pastoral Council and a summary will be submitted to the diocese in early January.

Pope's Prayer Intention for the Month of December(Catechists)

“Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

St. Francis Xavier (Feast Day, December 3) –“He had planned to devote himself to the intellectual life, but at a strategic moment he surrendered to God, who had long and patiently pursued him. That surrender changed the course of his life—and the course of history as well. Even Ignatius of Loyola, the leader of Jesuit community, had planned to deploy Francis as a scholar. But India beckoned, and Ignatius reluctantly sent Francis to preach the gospel there. Much of his life was spent tending to missions in areas such as India, Japan and China.” Thus, the man who had planned on a leisurely intellectual life became a missionary apostle, perhaps second only to St. Paul. In his passion for spreading the gospel, in his simple obedience, in his humble disregard for himself, the saint was a near perfect imitation of Christ.”

Food & Agriculture Organization Report: “An estimated 3 billion people, almost 40 per cent of the world's population, cannot afford a healthy diet. Another 1 billion people could join their ranks if further unpredictable events reduce incomes by one-third, the United Nations agency that fights hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity said in a new report launched in Rome. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization's The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) report for 2021 stresses the need to make agri-food systems more resilient to shocks and stresses, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, extreme weather conditions and armed conflicts.”

