

COVID-19 UPDATE - The province of Ontario is expected to announce that as of March 1, 2022, many of the health precautions related to the COVID-19 virus are being lifted. There is still the need to proceed cautiously, especially since this pandemic has not concluded. Today, I am issuing these directives for the Diocese of Peterborough which take effect on Tuesday, March 1, 2022:

Churches and missions may open at full capacity. Face masks must be worn by all those attending Mass. Ushers may help parishioners with seating to maintain comfortable distancing. Parish halls may open and all activities including the serving and consumption of food may resume. Confessionals may be utilized, for either face-to-face or behind the screen confessions. Contact tracing lists are not required. The procession of the gifts at the Offertory may resume. Communion in the hand is highly encouraged at this time. The line up to receive Holy Communion may return to the regular practice. Hand sanitizers must be available for parishioner use and comfort. The Sign of Peace will continue to be offered through a gesture such as a nod or a bow. The holy water fonts may be filled once again and available for those who wish to use them. Congregational singing is permissible and members of the congregation must continue to wear the face mask even while singing. Choirs may resume and the choir members may remove their face masks when singing and put them back on after the song is finished. Choir members and Cantors should maintain physical distance between members of different households. A minimal contact offertory collection is encouraged by having the ushers extend their baskets or by placing the collection baskets at the doors. Hymnals, prayer cards, etc. may be placed in the pews. Votive candles may be available for prayer intentions.

It may take time before all of the faithful feel comfortable about returning to Mass in person. It is anticipated that many will wish to continue participating in Mass through the live streaming that is being offered. Eventually, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation will be lifted but for the moment, it remains in place. The pandemic has been a long, stressful time for many and it is expected that the faithful will have different responses to the reduction of Covid-19 health precautions. This is a time to extend kindness, mercy, and care to one another. I wish to extend my gratitude for your ministry and work during this pandemic. This has been a challenging and worrying time, but I am encouraged by the witness and outreach exhibited by you in accompanying and caring for the Catholic community. 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**

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

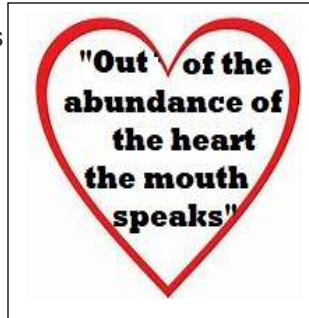
(See inside bulletin)

**Confession: 20 minutes before weekend Masses
Wedding and Baptism: Call the office**

EIGHT SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

February 27, 2022

GOSPEL TODAY: Luke 6:39–45 – “All of the parables in the gospel are about how to be a good disciple. Only when we have purified ourselves can we produce the good works that the teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart. When people see our good deeds they will know that this is because we have a good heart.”



COLLECTIONS Last Sunday, February 20, 2022



\$880 - Regular Sunday Offerings

WEEKDAY MASSES (Honey Harbour Chapel)

ASH WEDNESDAY March 2, 10:30am @ Port Severn - +Cheryl Voisin by Joan Dupuis & family

Thurs March 3, – 11am – For Peace in the world

Fri March 4, 11am – For +Souls in purgatory

WEEKEND MASSES (1st Sunday of Lent)

Sunday March 6, 9am @ Port Severn – People of the parish

Sunday March 6, 11am @ Honey Harbour

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS - March 2, 2022, 10:30am @ Port Severn

“As we still maintain safety protocols, ashes should be sprinkled on the head of the penitent, not imposed on the forehead. Just like when you receive Communion, you stop six feet away from the priest. After the priest has spoken the formula, “Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return”, you respond “Amen” before moving to receive the ashes from the priest. Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a 40-day marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ’s time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. The ashes of this holiday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. “Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy. With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ’s ultimate victory over sin and death.”

Pope Francis – “I have great pain in my heart over the worsening situation in Ukraine. I ask world leaders to make a serious examination of conscience before God”. The pope called for people to fast for peace on March 2, Ash Wednesday, praying that “the Queen of Peace will preserve the world from the madness of war.”

ONTARIO IS MOVING FROM COVID-19 – “The Premier announced the next phase of the reopening process would begin on Thursday, February 17th, which included removing capacity limits at the majority of businesses, except for sporting events, concert venues, nightclubs and theatres. There was also an increase in gathering limits to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. The government is also planning on removing the proof of vaccination requirement in early March. “We can’t stay in this position forever. Everyone’s done with this. Like, we are done with it. Let’s start moving on cautiously. The world’s done with it. So let’s just move forward. Thank God, on March 1st were moving out of this, and I just can’t wait,” Premier Ford stated.

POLISH BISHOPS URGE COUNTRYMEN TO WELCOME UKRAINE

REFUGEES – “Amid ever-growing tensions over Ukraine, the head of the Catholic Polish Church appeals to Catholics and all people of goodwill in Poland to continue praying for peace and to prepare to welcome Ukrainian refugees. Meanwhile, European bishops welcome the EU’s approval of an emergency macro-financial assistance operation of €1.2 billion in the form of loans to foster stability in Ukraine.”

MARTYRS FOR CHRISTIAN FAITH – “In history, hundreds of early Christians have faced persecution for their faith. Some historians even believed that the Roman Catholic Church was born out of the martyrdom of its members. A Christian martyr is someone willing to face death rather than deny Jesus Christ or his Gospel. Beheading, stoning, crucifixion, throwing to lion’s dens, and burning at stake were some of the horrific ways they were punished for their beliefs.”

St. Stephen, Stoned To Death- “St. Stephen died in 36 AD in Jerusalem, and was the first to suffer that gruesome fate making him the first Catholic martyr. Members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen challenged St. Stephen’s teaching through debates, but none of them could withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke. St. Stephen was taken to the Sanhedrin, the supreme rabbinic court in Jerusalem. Instead of defending his innocence, he gave a speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God has given upon his chosen people which was recorded in Acts Chapter 7 of the Bible. The crowds watching the trial were furious after being rebuked. They dragged him out to the city and started stoning him to death. Today, the Catholic Church hailed him as the patron saint of stoneworkers and Western Christians celebrate “St. Stephen’s Day” every December 26.”