

From Bishop Daniel Miehm-Bishop of Peteborough Diocese

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

“In one of my favourite Christmas Carols, it is said of the little town of Bethlehem, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” Hopes and fears are common to all of us in our human experience, and for people of faith, these realities are all mingled. When faith is strong, hope will be on the rise. When faith is weakened, fear may take over. The last twenty-one months have acquainted us with both fear and hope. It has often seemed that, just as hopes are raised, they are dashed again. The fight against the pandemic has been long and we may be growing dispirited. So let the Good News of Christ’s birth infuse our hearts this Christmas more than ever. God, who knows our hopes and our fears, our dreams and our despondency, has chosen to come among us as the Word made Flesh, Emmanuel. The birth of Jesus Christ brought all the hopes and fears of humanity together in God’s plan for our salvation. As it was in Bethlehem two millennia ago, let it be so today. This Christmas may God overcome our fears with His hope and help us to celebrate this season of joy”.

ON PANDEMIC

“Our nation and world continue to struggle with the pandemic. The new Omicron variant of Covid-19 is causing a lot of concern and anxiety with rising case numbers everywhere. At a press conference today, the provincial government announced new measures, but places of worship will remain at current capacity levels. Earlier this week, I published a statement about adherence to health measures in our churches and have instructed all pastors to read it at the Masses this Sunday. Although people are tired of restrictions and precautions, it seems that the virus is not yet tired of us. It is important that we not let down our guard but continue to do all in our power to keep ourselves and our fellow parishioners safe.”

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**

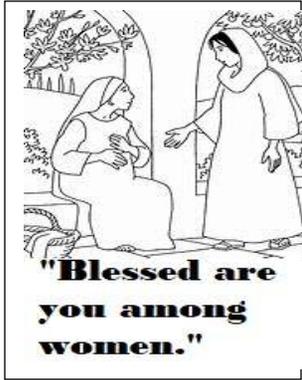
**Weekday Masses
(See inside bulletin)**

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

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2021

Gospel Today: Luke 1:39-45- "On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as a long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation."



Collections Last Sunday, December 12

 \$3,985 - Regular Sunday Offerings

Weekday Masses (Honey Harbour Chapel)

Wednesday Dec 22, 11am Mass – For Peace in the world

Thursday Dec 23, 11am Mass - For Sick & Elderly parishioners

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 -
+For deceased Vessair Family members by Mark & Maryrose Vessair

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

Sunday December 26, 9am @ Port Severn - People of the parish

Sunday December 26, 11am @ Honey Harbour- +For Maria Kaczmarczyk by Barb Dunkel & Kaczmarczyk family

New Year Masses Schedule

Saturday January 1, 2022 9am @ Port Severn

Saturday January 1, 2022 11am @ Honey Harbour

Pope Francis – "God never tires of waiting for us. When we turn away, He comes to look for us; when we fall, He picks us up; when we return to Him after losing our way, He waits for us with open arms. His love always gives us the courage to start anew."

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 4: Peace - The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men". The fourth candle reminds that Jesus comes to bring Peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no peace in this world."

Happy 85th birthday Pope Francis - "Pope Francis turns 85 on Friday. Just last Monday, 13 December, he celebrated the 52nd anniversary of his priestly ordination. People across the world, and certainly not only Catholics, are celebrating with the Pope on the occasion of his birthday, with messages of good wishes pouring in from all different quarters. The recently-launched Synod on synodality sums up many of the cares and concerns of the Holy Father, because it is "the most hopeful notion you could have about the Church." Pope Francis is admired for his "equilibrium, balance and serenity", which enables him to handle both big and small issues with equanimity. With the Pope, big problem does not rattle him and a small problem does not get neglected. That kind of balance – a dynamic balance - is very edifying."

Synod of Bishop Questionnaire – Please complete the questionnaire that is available at the church entrance and return it on or before next Sunday, December 26.

Greetings of Merry Christmas - Dear parishioners, during this difficult time, Luke 2:10 tells us to take courage and rejoice saying, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." Jesus' birth reminds us that in him, there is hope no matter how bleak our situation may seem. It is essential to remember that Jesus, and he alone, is the reason for the season and realize the true meaning of our celebration. I wish you and your families a peace-filled Christmas and holy New Year. *Fr. Martin*

Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." The Church celebrates the "marvelous works of God" through public worship or liturgy, commemorating the great events in salvation history. The Nativity of Our Lord celebrates the point in history when the Son of God became Man for our Salvation—an act of loving obedience to the Father, and saving love for us, that will culminate on the Cross.



Christ the Saviour is born for us.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!!!!!