

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES 2022

Most Reverend Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough

“Christmas is a special time which touches our hearts in real and deep ways. It conjures up images of family, hearth, and home, and we know that it is natural to want to be “home for the holidays.” People will travel great distances to be with the ones they love, eager to share together the joy of this season. It is ironic therefore to think that, at that first Christmas, Mary and Joseph were far from home, away from family, having to rely on the kindness of strangers while bunking down in a stable. Despite all these challenges, they welcomed the baby Jesus with joy, knowing that he was God’s gift not only to them, but to the entire world. That stable may have been messy and noisy, but it was a place filled with love, faith, and thanksgiving. And it was a moment that would forever speak of God’s love, compassion and faithfulness toward each of his beloved children. Wherever we find ourselves this Christmas – at home or far from it – we are called to make a place for the Lord Jesus, whose humble birth we celebrate. He is truly Emmanuel, God with us, who comes to us in our joys and sorrows, our triumphs and trials, our celebrations and our sadness. Let the Lord find a home in your hearts this Christmas: be assured of God’s constant love for you and let that grace inspire you to gladden the hearts of others. May you enjoy a Merry Christmas Day and Season.”

Pope Francis

“What does that Child, born for us of the Virgin Mary, have to tell us? What is the universal message of Christmas? It is that God is a good Father and we are all brothers and sisters. This truth is the basis of the Christian vision of humanity. Without the fraternity that Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, our efforts for a more just world fall short, and even our best plans and projects risk being soulless and empty. For this reason, my wish for a happy Christmas is a wish for fraternity. Fraternity among individuals of every nation and culture. Fraternity among people with different ideas, yet capable of respecting and listening to one another. Fraternity among persons of different religions. Jesus came to reveal the face of God to all those who seek him. The face of God has been revealed in a human face. It did not appear in an angel, but in one man, born in a specific time and place. By his incarnation, the Son of God tells us that salvation comes through love, acceptance, respect for this poor humanity of ours, which we all share in a great variety of races, languages, and cultures. Yet all of us are brothers and sisters in humanity!”

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

**Port Severn: Saturday 5 P.M. (From Victoria to Thanksgiving Only)
Sunday 9 A.M. (All Year Round)**

Honey Harbour: Sunday 11 A.M.

Weekday Masses

(See inside bulletin)

Confession: 20 minutes before weekend Masses

Wedding and Baptism: Call the office

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR SUNDAY)

January 1, 2023

GOSPEL TODAY Luke 2:16-21- "This reading helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother: how she keeps the reports of the shepherds in her heart, how obedient she was to God, how along with Joseph she faithfully observed their Jewish tradition. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church".



"The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the Child lying in the manger."

COLLECTIONS Last Sunday



\$1,595 – Christmas Offerings

WEEKDAY MASSES (Honey Harbour Chapel)

Wed Jan 4, 11am – For sick members of the parish

Thurs Jan 5, 10am – For Peace in the world

Friday Jan 6, 10:30am – Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Mass

WEEKEND MASSES (Epiphany of the Lord)

Sunday Jan 8, 2023, 9am @ Port Severn

Sunday Jan 8, 2023, 11am @ Honey Harbour- For the people of the parish

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The beginning of a new calendar year brings us a special joy and hope. It is a reminder that time is a gift of God, given to us from His eternity, for us to use to prepare for eternity. The passing of each year and each day is meant to be an exchange with God: He gives us time, and we give our days and years back to Him in service and love. The New Year is an opportunity to resolve, above all, to serve God faithfully: to believe more firmly, to hope more ardently, to love more generously. That is what makes a new year "happy," and that is what leads us to the happiness that never ends. We place ourselves in the care of Mother Mary, our heavenly mother, that she may help us this year to grow into the full stature of Jesus her Son, our Lord and Saviour."

RIDES TO CHURCH FOR MASS- If you need a ride or know of anyone who needs a ride to Church in Port Severn on Sunday mornings for 9:00 Mass, feel free to contact the following:

1. Gerry- 14167498442 (Six Mile Lake & Honey Harbour area)
2. Mark - 7057187443 (Waubaushene & Coldwater area)
3. Wally -705 5382579 (Port Severn & Honey Harbour area). If you would like to become a volunteer driver for any of these areas please leave your name & number with any of the above parishioners. Thank you.

Happy
New
Year!
2023

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD & ALL CHRISTIANS

"We cannot separate the Son from the Mother, because "being born of Mary" belongs to Jesus' personal identity.

As Mother, Mary was the first human person to rejoice over a birth that marked a new era in the religious history of humanity. The inseparability of Christ and Mary comes from the Father's sovereign will to have a human mother for his incarnate Son, so that he would be born in a truly human way. At the same time, he wanted a virginal mother as a sign of the child's divine sonship. To make this motherhood a reality, God through the angel, asked Mary for her consent. From the moment of Mary's consent, the mystery of the Incarnation becomes a reality. The Son of God enters our world and begins to live as a man, while remaining fully God. From that moment Mary becomes the Mother of God. By her divine motherhood Mary fully opened her heart to Christ, and in him to all humanity. We are invited to love Mary as Christ loved her, to welcome her into our lives as our Mother."

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XV¹ PASSED AWAY this morning (December 31, 2022) at his residence at the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican. Let us pray for the repose of his soul and give thanks to God for his faithful service as a priest, theologian, bishop, and the Vicar of Christ. Pope Benedict XVI's funeral will be held on Thursday and further information about plans in the Diocese will be made available early in the upcoming week. **WORLD DAY OF PEACE** (Jan 1st) is an annual celebration by the Catholic Church, dedicated to universal peace, held on 1 January, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Pope Paul VI established it in 1967. Pope Francis wish & hope for peace in year 2023: "It is my hope that in the coming New Year we can journey together, valuing the lessons that history has to teach us. I offer my best wishes to Heads of State and Government, to Heads of International Organizations, and to the leaders of the different religions. To all men and women of good will I express my prayerful trust that, as artisans of peace, they may work, day by day, to make this a good year! May Mary Immaculate, Mother of Jesus and Queen of Peace, intercede for us and for the whole world."

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY (FOR EDUCATORS)- "We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all."

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES – Find & read Pope Francis & Bishop Miehm's Christmas messages at the back page of this Bulletin.

Mary
Mother of
God

