

From Bishop Daniel Miehm (Bishop of Peterborough)

BLESSINGS OF THE NEW YEAR. Many thanks to all those who helped us to celebrate Christmas in the parishes of our Diocese, despite the ongoing pandemic. The season concludes with this Sunday's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

NEW PROVINCIAL RESTRICTIONS brought in on Monday have not directly affected our churches. We remain open at 50% capacity with appropriate social distancing and other safety measures. With the transmissibility of the omicron variant I remind people about the importance of wearing face masks. As we deal with outbreaks in some of our parishes (including clergy who must observe the self-isolation guidelines), it has been necessary to cancel Masses in some places. Thus far, this has not been a widespread issue, but we may be dealing with it in various places over the next few weeks of this wave. Your understanding and cooperation are appreciated as we do our part to battle the pandemic. Be advised also that our parish offices and Diocesan Pastoral Center are mostly closed as we follow the provincial health directive for employees to work from home when possible.

OUR ONLINE THOUGHT EXCHANGE SURVEY for the Worldwide Synod and our own Diocesan Planning process was re-opened over Christmas. I was delighted to learn recently that we have had more than 100 new participants who contributed over 300 thoughts and 2000 ratings since it relaunched. The survey will remain open until Friday, January 14, 2022, so there is still time for people to participate. The Thought Exchange platform gives people a chance not only to respond but to see how others have answered the survey. It even allows a participant to rate the other responses, so it becomes a real exchange of thoughts and ideas.

TODAY, THE CHURCH IN CANADA CELEBRATES ST. ANDRE BESSETTE, better known to millions as Brother Andre of Montreal. A doorkeeper at a school run by the Holy Cross community, his strong devotion to St. Joseph has inspired generations of Catholics. He was canonized by St. Pope John Paul II in 2010. The beautiful St. Joseph's Oratory began with his inspiration and initiative and continues to be a place of prayer and miracles!

STORIES OF A GENERATION – WITH POPE FRANCIS premiered on Netflix on Christmas Day. This four-episode series is based on the Pope's 2018 book, *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*. The series showcases people over the age of 70 from across the globe (including the Pope himself) sharing their insights and stories with young filmmakers. Each of the four episodes takes up a central theme: "Love," "Dream," "Struggle" and "Work." Although a few well-known people like Martin Scorsese and Jane Goodall are featured, most of the participants are not household names. This project reflects Pope Francis' often stated desire that young and old should speak with one another. If you subscribe to Netflix, it is well worth watching!

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)

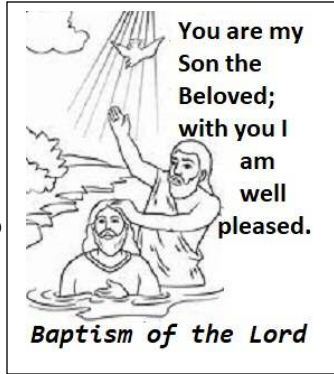
Confession: 20 minutes before weekend Masses

Wedding and Baptism: Call the office

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 9, 2022

Gospel Today: Luke 3:15-16,21-22– “Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another “epiphany”. In New Testament, every time someone started following Jesus, they were baptized. For those who have decided to follow Jesus, baptism is the next step. Each time we dip our hand into the Holy Water font in a church to bless ourselves, we need to remember, that act is a renewal of our Baptism. Just like Jesus at the Jordan, every baptized believer is formed and called by God, empowered with the presence of the Spirit and elevated as a beloved child of God on whom God’s favor rests.”



Collections Last Sunday, January 2, 2021



\$1,375 - Regular Sunday Offerings, New Year's - \$273,
Envelope Expenses - \$80

Weekday Masses (Honey Harbour Chapel)

Wed Jan 12, 11am Mass - For peace in the world

Thurs Jan 13, 11am- For end of pandemic

Fri Jan 14, 11am- For health recovery of our sick parish members

Weekend Masses (2nd Sunday Ordinary Time)

Sunday January 16, 9am @ Port Severn - For +Jeff & Bertha Cadeau
by Don & Eileen Cadeau

Sunday January 9, 11am @ Honey Harbour – For the people of the parish

Tax Receipts 2021 - Your Tax receipt for year 2021 is available at the church entrance. If you find any discrepancies, don't hesitate to phone or email the parish office. As a clarification, stipends for Mass Intentions including offerings for All Souls' Day are parish income but are not included in the tax receipt. You may wonder why you don't see your All Souls' offerings in your Tax Receipt.

Christmas Season Ends Today - The Baptism of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Christmas season. The baptism of Jesus marked the end of his quiet years in Nazareth and the start of his public ministry.

Pope Francis – “In asking to be baptized, Jesus exemplifies the Christian calling to follow along the path of humility and meekness. The feast of the Lord's baptism reminds us of our own baptism. Celebrate the date of your baptism every year in your heart. Do it. It is also a duty of justice to the Lord who has been so good to us.”

Beatification of Pope John Paul 1- September 4, 2022 date set for beatification of Pope John Paul I. In October, Pope Francis signed a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of John Paul I (Albino Luciani), clearing the way for his beatification. Although his was one of the shortest papacies in history, Pope John Paul I, fondly remembered as the “smiling Pope,” left a lasting impression on the Church. “He was a bishop very beloved by the people and by priests. And he was a very, very simple pope”, Cardinal Beniamino Stella said, the chief proponent of John Paul I's canonization. John Paul I was elected in August 1978 to succeed Paul VI, but he died a month later of what the postulators believe to be a heart attack at the age of 65. He was succeeded by John Paul II, the third man to hold the title of pope in 1978, whose papacy stretched until 2005, one of the longest in recent history.

Covid Update - In response to the increasing number of cases of the Omicron variant, the province of Ontario is implementing new health precautions and restrictions. The measures will be in effect from Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 12:01 a.m. for at least 21 days until January 26, 2022. The trends in public health and health system indicators will be considerations for the government's decision to extend or lift the new measures. In the Diocese of Peterborough, Most Reverend Bishop Miehm has provided these guidelines for the implementation of the health precautions: Households attending the church must maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or 2 meters between each other. Attendance at the church is limited to fifty percent of the church's posted capacity. The clergy and the faithful must wear a face mask in the church. Congregational singing is strongly discouraged at this time. The processional and recessional will take place respectively from the sacristy to the sanctuary and from the sanctuary to the sacristy to avoid gatherings at the church doors. Parish Halls are closed for the time being. The exception to this closure is AA meetings, food banks, and other designated entities. The Diocesan and parish staff are working remotely as much as possible.

Trustee Vacancy - The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board invites interested and qualified applicants to serve as a Catholic Trustee due to vacancy on the Board of Trustees. The term for this vacancy is effective January 1, 2022 to November 14, 2022. The Trustee selected will represent Ward 2 (Orillia, Ramara, Severn and Oro-Medonte). Contact for further information: Kelly Hitchman-Powers, Coordinator of Trustees Services khitchmanpowers@smcddb.on.ca or 705-722-3559 X 265.