

Statement Regarding the Provincial Lockdown

To the clergy, staff and faithful of the Diocese of Peterborough, Yesterday, Premier Ford announced that those areas of the province not currently in lockdown will be moving to this status as of 12:01 a.m. on the morning of December 26, 2020. While we are relieved to be able to gather for the celebration of Christmas, it is unfortunate to have to deal with further limitations on our churches, especially after carefully adhering to safety precautions for many months. On Christmas Eve and Day, our parishes will welcome the faithful at 30% capacity for Masses, following the strict protocols of Worship Safe. Beginning on December 26, there will be a limit of no more than 10 people inside our churches at any given time. Regrettably, this will mean a temporary suspension of the public celebration of the Mass: the accompanying document spells out the nature of the limitations that will be in force. Most of our Diocese will be impacted by the 28-day lockdown applicable to Southern Ontario, while our parishes in the North Bay – Parry Sound Regional Health District will be subject to the 14-day lockdown. It may be difficult to regard those timelines as firm, since it seems that much will depend on the trend line of COVID-19 cases in our province. I thank all clergy, staff, and faithful for their cooperation and understanding as we face this extraordinary public health crisis. I also wish to express gratitude to those who have been working diligently throughout this pandemic to keep our parishioners safe when they attend our churches, and to those who have provided inspiring pastoral care and outreach in our communities. As we prepare for the celebration of our Lord's birth, we pray for all those who are sick, those who have died and the front-line workers caring for those most in need. Let us hold one another in prayer during these difficult days, confident in God's love made visible for us at the Lord's Nativity. Yours in Christ,
†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm

Bishop Miehm Christmas Message 2020

We have heard for many weeks now that Christmas this year will be a little different because of the pandemic. That is true, as we will be less mobile, cautious about gathering, and doing more socializing online. Things will certainly be different as our parishes celebrate the Lord's Nativity - capacity restrictions and safety precautions will mean lower key liturgies. Still, we would do well to focus on the things that will not change this Christmas, and for people of faith they are the eternal truths that always resound in our hearts: that God's Word became flesh to dwell among us; that Bethlehem speaks of God's unbounded love for his people; that our faith brings us tidings of comfort and joy; and that trust in God, illustrated in the humble faith of Mary and Joseph, will never lead us astray. In this unusual Christmas of 2020, I pray that you may still experience the traditional and customary joys that mark this season of faith. May God bless you richly this Christmas and may you know peace and good health in the New Year.
Yours in Christ, + *Most Reverend Daniel 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

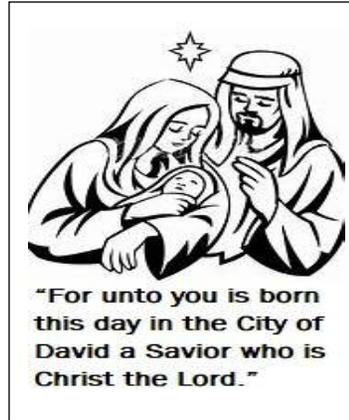
Wedding and Baptism: Call the office

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 24-25, 2020

Gospel Today: Luke 2: 1-14

The angels sing that Jesus' coming brings peace. Yet there is little in the details of this Gospel that gives evidence of peace. Jesus is born as a traveler away from home, born in a stable in a crowded city under the occupation of foreigners. The appearance of the angel to the shepherds frightens them. When the angels proclaim Jesus' birth as the bringer of "peace on earth," the evangelist Luke clearly wants us to take the long view. The shepherds are invited to claim a faith that will enable them to see this infant as a sign God's promise of a messiah. It is through such faith that one finds the peace of which the angels sing.



Collections - Sunday December 20

\$985 - Regular Sunday Offerings

\$5,455 (total to date) - Donations for New Furnace

Furnace Replacement – As of today the total offerings collected is \$5, 455. Thank you for your continued kind assistance in meeting the pressing needs of our parish, like this new furnace replacement.

Announcement - Due to recent declared Lockdown, we will cancel Community Sunday Mass celebrations starting December 27th until lockdown is lifted which we are not sure when. However, during these times, I will continue to say both weekday & Sunday Masses privately. Therefore all of your requested Mass intentions will be carried on at your preferred date. It is during this time of another lockdown that our parish Website will be of great help for you to get connected to our parish as our parish Bulletin, which carries necessary parish information, diocesan & provincial announcements is posted regularly. Also, I highly suggest to you to give me your email address so that I can send to you some urgent matters right away in your email. Send your email address, your message, your requests, your concerns to: office@ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca, and our parish website is <https://www.ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca>. Keep safe and be healthy always. Fr. Martin

Pope Francis – "Christmas teaches us that God did not look down upon us and pass by but He fully assumed our nature and our human condition, except sin. This event gives meaning to human existence and to the whole of history and can remove the pessimism generated by the pandemic. The birth of Jesus has become a universal feast and has a charm about it even among people of other faiths. For Christians, it is a "decisive event, an eternal fire that God has kindled in the world, and must not be confused with ephemeral things". As we rediscover and become aware that the humble and poor Child, hidden and helpless, is God Himself, made man for us, we cannot allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by defeats, failures and the sense of disquieting bewilderment. Christmas is the feast of Love incarnate where Jesus Christ is the light of mankind shining in the darkness, giving meaning to human existence and to the whole of history. Today we are so much in need of tenderness and human caresses in the face of so much misery. If the pandemic has forced us to be more distant, Jesus, in the crib, shows us the way of tenderness to be close to each other, to be human."

Christmas Message - My dear parishioners, Once again, we come to this very special time of the year in which we celebrate and appreciate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. During this season, we celebrate Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. I pray that all four of these would fill our life in every way this Christmas and beyond. This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate "Emmanuel" (God with us). Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. The year 2020 will soon be in our past. This year has been months of difficulty on so many levels, for so many people. From the global Pandemic at the beginning of the year continuing through even now, no doubt, we need God more than ever. With that in mind, we recall St. Paul's exhortation: (1Thes. 5:16) "Rejoice at all times; pray without ceasing; give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus", (Rom.15:13): "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him." Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas as once again, we as a church family celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour, the very source of true Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love! In this season, we do our best to reach out and be a blessing to our families, as well as others who mean a lot to us. Praying for blessings of Peace and Happiness to you on CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR 2021. Thank You to our Church Decorators, Covid-19 Volunteers, Readers, to all of you who take active participation in the observance of Advent and Christmas Liturgies, and to all of you and to those who prefer not to attend Sunday worship services because of pandemic, but continue to send offerings with cheerful hearts supporting our parish financially, accept my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. **Fr. Martin**

Bishop Michm - Read his Statement and Christmas Message at the back page.

Home Aesthetics Inc – We acknowledge with thanks the Home Aesthetics Inc. in Scarborough for their generous donations to our parish of the necessary items needed to control spread of Covid-19, namely: Disposable 3ply Mask 6,000 pcs., Hand Sanitizer 250mL 240 pcs., Scented Disinfecting Wipes 800 pcs.