

World Day of Peace, January 1

The World Day of Peace of the Roman Catholic Church is a day dedicated to peace, held on 1 January, on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It was introduced in 1967 by Paul VI, inspired by the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of John XXIII and with reference to his own encyclical *Populorum Progressio*. The day was first observed on 1 January 1968. The theme for Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message is: "Non-Violence: a Style of Politics for Peace." In his Message for the World Day of Peace, Pope Francis urges us to practice active nonviolence and work to prevent conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships, and facilitating healing and restoration.

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

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

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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

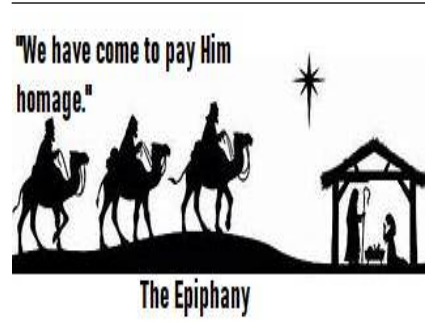
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3, 2021

Gospel Today: Matthew 2:1-12 –

The Magi come from the East and journey to Bethlehem. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Magi represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship.

Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.



Collections - December 25 and 27 Combined

\$1,585 - Regular Sunday Offerings

\$1,420 Christmas Offerings

\$6,725 (total to date) - Donations for New Furnace

Furnace Replacement – As of today the total offerings for new Heating in Port Severn is \$6,725. Our grateful appreciation to those who chipped in for this cause and thank you for your continued generous support.

Lockdown – Community Mass celebrations are again suspended until further notice. However, during this time of lockdown, I'll continue saying weekday & weekend Masses in *private*. If you have special intention to be included in the Mass, just indicate to whom, what kind of intention, preferred date, and send it to me in email and it will be looked after.

Masses (Private)

January 3, Sunday - For +Jessica Louks by Pat & Dan Thibault

January 7, Thursday

January 8, Friday- For +Souls in Purgatory by Leite Family

The Feast of the Epiphany - Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. The adoration of the Magi marks the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour. The feast of Epiphany reminds us the unique importance of Jesus in God's plan. He is the Son of God come among us for the salvation of the world. It is a feast of light: Jesus is the light of the world and brings light to all who believe in him.

Significance of the 3 Gifts

Gold is an all-time treasured substance and has high reverence not only in the mortal world, but also in the heavenly abode. This indicated majesty and royalty. Giving gold to Jesus was to make him the supreme King, who would reign forever.

Frankincense is a resin that has a beautiful smell. It was used to make oils and perfumes. The priest offered the frankincense at the altar, where it was burned to get the holy aroma. It represented the holy prayers, which aimed to reach God in heaven.

Myrrh was used to combat the unpleasant smell that was emitted from corpses. It is among the many ingredients used to make the holy oil that was used to purify men so that they could be used by God, himself. It is important to know that myrrh symbolizes how Christ, for mankind's benefit, endured hardship and faced death in the most terrifying manner. It is pertinent to know here that myrrh has a bitter taste and a very sweet smell. Christ endured all our bitter sins and sacrificed his life, but in the end, he prevails in the form of the lingering aroma.

Pope Francis – "Holy Mother of God, to you we consecrate this New Year. You, who know how to cherish things in your heart, care for us, bless our time, and teach us to find time for God and for others." "We thank God for the good things that have taken place during the pandemic, for the many people who, without making noise, have tried to make the weight of this trial more bearable."

Thanking Year 2020 Despite Pandemic - In the year 2020, despite the pandemic, which has infected around 84, 645, 951 and killed 1, 839,550 people around the world, we join hands in offering thanks to a benevolent God for the many gifts he has lavished upon us. The virtue associated with the act of thanksgiving is gratitude. It has been said that gratitude is the memory of the heart. But it is also the homage that the heart expresses in the act of giving thanks. We cannot thank ourselves for anything. Happiness twice blesses the person who can give thanks for the wonders that God has created. We give thanks in a special way year 2020 for all that we have received and do so with humble gratitude.