

From Bishop Daniel Miehms-Bishop of Peterborough 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.

COVID-19 COVID-19 Virus Health Precautions

PARISH MEETINGS

Parish meetings are permitted observing all the pandemic health precautions. However, virtual meetings are highly recommended at this time.

PARISH HALLS

Parish meetings in halls or other indoor spaces are permitted. Attendance may not exceed 50% of meeting space capacity. Participants must present a Vaccine Certificate, be masked, and physically distanced – 2 metres (6 ft.) between those not from the same household. Contact tracing remains a best practice.

Note - An exemption from the Vaccine Certificate requirement is in place for programs like Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous or food distribution to the poor. Vaccination remains a prudent health precaution for the recipients and volunteers at these programs.

SERVING FOOD AND/OR BEVERAGES

Serving food and/or beverages is discouraged at this time. If it happens, please observe the following protocols: prepared individual items are preferred as opposed to buffets or self-serve stations masks may be removed while eating but should be worn at all other times servers should wear a face mask and a face shield is also advisable

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Congregational singing is discouraged at this time. Hymnals do not need to be removed from the pews.

CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS

Choirs and liturgical musicians are permitted if at least 6 feet or 2 meters of distance between choir members is maintained. It is recommended that a single cantor and a single musician provide the music ministry at this time.

CHURCH VENTILATION

If possible given weather conditions, please open windows and turn on fan circulation in the church.

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

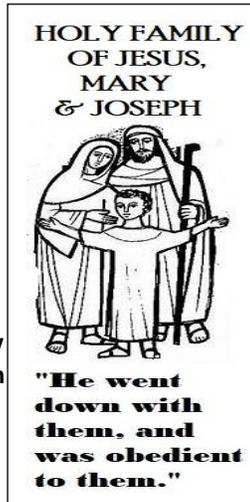
Weekday Masses
(See inside bulletin)

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

December 26, 2021

Gospel Today: Luke 2:41-52-Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family, participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies that he was never lost; he was at home, in his Father's house. However, it is the last line which tells us something of extraordinary implication for those of us who live out the vocation of Christian marriage and family. Jesus left that temple and went home to Nazareth, where he submitted Himself to the authority of Mary and Joseph and established the Holy Family and the holy way of life they lived as a model for the Christian family, a path to holiness, and the first cell of His Church.



Collections Last Sunday, December 19

 \$3,610 - Regular Sunday Offerings

Weekday Masses (Honey Harbour Chapel)

Friday Dec 31, 11am Mass - +For the soul of Bud Smith

New Year Masses Schedule

Saturday January 1, 2022 9am @ Port Severn

Saturday January 1, 2022 11am @ Honey Harbour

Weekend Masses (Feast of Epiphany)

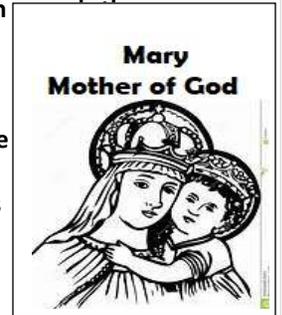
Sunday January 2, 9am @ Port Severn - People of the parish

Sunday January 2, 11am @ Honey Harbour

Dear Parishioners, I sincerely hope that the remembrance of Christ's birth brings you much peace and hope. I extend my heartfelt thank you for your presence, participation and prayers with our parish family of Our Lady of Mercy & St. John the Baptist in the observance of Advent season, Christmas and New Year through our holy liturgical celebrations. I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas and New Year! May the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph be present in your lives each day of the New Year. Very special Thank You to the "Decoration Group", who set up the beautiful Nativity Scene in the altar. *Fr. Martin*

Feast of Holy Family - Jesus spent 30 of his 33 earthly years in Nazareth with his parents Mary & Joseph. Some spiritual writers have called these the 'hidden years', because there is so little written about them in the Gospel narratives. He was born into a human family. Thus, the unapproachable God Himself became an approachable, contactable, knowable man. What a mysterious and yet wondrous fact! From antiquity the Christian family has rightly been called a domestic church. It is the place where we begin the journey toward holiness and become more fully human.

Mary, Mother of God (feast day January 1) – "The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her motherhood of Jesus Christ, the Lord, Son of God. The Church Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, as so important that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's *fiat*: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word." One of the earliest titles given by Christians to the Blessed Virgin was Theotokos – "God-bearer." We celebrate her as the Mother of God because, in bearing Christ, she bore the fullness of the Godhead within her. As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her. 'O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!'"



Pope Francis – "Dear brothers and sisters, I would like to invite every man and woman to the stable of Bethlehem to adore the Son of God made man. Everyone is called to seek God, and with and through God's grace, everyone is able to find Him. Through humility we can come to God and recognise the true meaning of life, the reason why life is truly worth living."

Envelopes year 2022- Envelopes for year 2022 are available at the church entrance. Some of you have your envelope number changed. Because many of our parishioners don't come to the Sunday Mass anymore and don't use "Donation Envelope", we reduce our subscription of envelope bundles to just 50 and are numbered from 1 to 50. If previously your envelope number was beyond number 50, now it is changed to within number 50. To some of you who don't find your envelope and you need one, kindly call or email our office and things will be looked after.

Synod of Bishop Questionnaire – Please complete the questionnaire and return it today Sunday, December 26.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY