

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

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

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY & JOSEPH

December 27, 2021

Gospel Today: Luke 2:22-40

Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.. Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross.

"This Child is destined for the falling & rising of many in Israel."



Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph

Collections - December 25 and 27

\$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. Again, thank you for your continued kind assistance in meeting the pressing needs of our parish, like this new furnace replacement.

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 2021

January 1, 2021 Friday (New Year)

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

January 7, Thursday

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

January 10, Sunday

<https://youtu.be/-5RDrdRgaFY> - Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, December 27, 2020 to be celebrated by +His Excellency Most Reverend Bishop Miehms. This YouTube link will be live starting on Saturday, December 26, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Pope Francis – “We too can change evil into good each day. Loving actions change history: even the ones that are small, hidden, everyday. For God guides history through the humble courage of those who pray, love and forgive.”

The Holy Family – “On this Sunday, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more. The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life. Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly “just man.” Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love. But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way. This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue. Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day, and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family”. *Catholic Daily Reflections*