

## *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:

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### 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

## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2021

**Gospel Today:** *Luke 2:16-21* – “This is the day dedicated as a solemnity to Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The gospel invites us to join the shepherds as they visit the new-born child in Bethlehem, and to share in their wonder and joy. A scene worthy of endless silent contemplation! we marvel that the infant Son of the Most High God, through whom all things came into being, should be found in a stable, lying in a trough used for feeding animals. Mary had laid him there after wrapping him up in bands of swaddling cloth. Astonishing! Nobody could have made it up, but God wanted it so. Shepherds were the poorest of the poor, yet God favours them and they are the first to carry the Good News of the birth of the Saviour. ‘I want a Church which is poor and for the poor’” (Pope Francis).



**“The shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.”**

### 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. 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 (Private)

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

January 7, Thursday

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

**When Did Mary's Title "Mother Of God" Originate?** “Way back in 431, there was a bitter controversy among theologians over the role of Mary in the Catholic Church. They debated the question: Who is Mary in God’s plan? In the end, the bishops declared that Mary is really the mother of Jesus and Jesus is really God. So it must be said that Mary is the Mother of God. Vatican II’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church includes Mary’s role in a chapter on the Church, referring to Mary as the “Mother of God” 12 times. Because she cooperated in our redemption by bringing forth God’s Son to redeem the world, she was also proclaimed the “Mother of the Church”. Since Mary conceived Jesus, true man and true God, she is truly the mother of the Incarnate Jesus, and therefore, the Mother of God, and the mother of all who believe in her Son.”

**Happy New Year!** The beginning of a new calendar year brings us a special joy and hope. It is a reminder that time is a gift of God, given to us from His eternity, for us to use to prepare for eternity. The passing of each year and each day is meant to be an exchange with God: He gives us time, and we give our days and years back to Him in service and love, bringing as much good as possible into the world and into the lives of others. The New Year is an opportunity to resolve, above all, to serve God faithfully: to believe more firmly, to hope more ardently, to love more generously. That is what makes a new year “happy,” and that is what leads us to the happiness that never ends.”

**Pope’s Prayer Intention for January 2021** – “May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.”

**New Year Blessings** - “The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace”. Let all these blessings follow us in this New Year and all the days of our lives. The Church in her wisdom chose to celebrate our Holy Mother Mary today, because she is the Mother of God and of all humanity. Mary is a model of faithfulness, and therefore the Mother of the New Year. It is a pleasure to begin the year with Mary. As followers of Jesus we want to be close to him. Who was closer to him than his mother? Mary conceived him and carried him in her body until he was born from her. She helped him grow up. She is eager to help him grow in us. We place ourselves in the care of Mary, that she may help us this year to grow into the full stature of Jesus.”

**Nigerian Bishop Kidnapped** - “The bishops of Nigeria have urged prayer for the safety and release of a Nigerian Catholic bishop who was abducted Sunday in Owerri, Nigeria’s Imo State. Bishop Chikwe is the auxiliary bishop of Nigeria’s Archdiocese of Owerri. ‘Trusting in the maternal assistance of Blessed Virgin Mary, we pray for his safety and quick release,’ the CSN secretary general said.