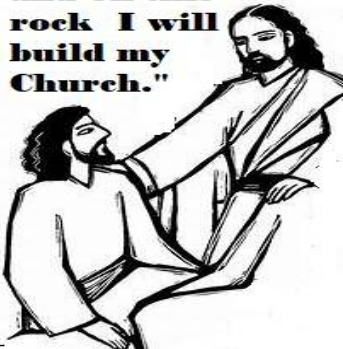




Our Lady of Mercy
Pray for Us

**"You are Peter,
and on this
rock I will
build my
Church."**



St. John the Baptist
Pray for Us

Collections Last Weekend, August 16

\$1,422 - Regular Sunday Offerings

Weekday Masses

Wed August 26, 11am Mass

Thurs August 27, 11am Mass- *For peace in the world*

Friday August 28, 11am Mass- *For safety of Covid Frontliners*

Weekend Masses

**Sunday August 30, 9am- *Port Severn- +Gerard & Laura Moreau
by Ann Cascanette***

**Sunday August 30, 11am- *Honey Harbour- for people of the
parish***

The Sunday Gospel Matthew 16:13-21

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term *church* in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Important Links

<https://youtu.be/nxc3JobORvA> - Mass of Bishop Miehm – 21st Sunday Ordinary Time

<https://www.ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca> - Our parish website

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/848623575RR0008-our-lady-of-mercy-church/> - Online Donation to Our Lady of Mercy Honey Harbour
www.peterboroughdiocese.org – Diocese of Peterborough

Special Collection for Lebanon - The Diocese is doing a special collection for the Lebanon crisis on the weekend of August 30, 2020. The donations are tax receiptable and will be matched by the government when the Diocese submits them on a consolidated basis. Put your donation in the envelope marked “Donation to Lebanon” with your name.

Bishop Daniel Miehm - We watched in horror on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, as the port of Beirut in Lebanon exploded into flames leaving a trail of death, injury, and devastation. In the days since then, concerted efforts have taken place to shape a response and outreach which will ease the suffering of the people in Lebanon and restore its vital services. The CCODP/Caritas Canada has launched an appeal for the crisis in Lebanon following the recent explosion in Beirut. Through their membership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, donations to CCODP/Caritas Canada are eligible to be matched by the Canadian government. Let us keep the people of Beirut in our prayers and may the generosity of our support assist them as they begin to take steps toward recovery.

Face Mask Mandatory – In Simcoe-Muskoka, the Health Unit has ordered that a face covering must be worn in places of worship as of Monday, July 13, 2020. The thinking behind the Health Unit's Order is that the Simcoe-Muskoka area receives many visitors from the GTA either as summer residents or cottagers. Therefore, in view of this population influx into the area, the Simcoe-Muskoka Health Unit issued an Order making the use of face coverings mandatory in all public places, including places of worship. The Simcoe-Muskoka Health Unit is the only Health Unit in the Diocese of Peterborough that has made the use of face coverings mandatory. For places of worship, the provisions that were implemented in Stage 2 are unchanged i.e. 30% capacity. Parish halls will remain CLOSED for rentals, events, etc. for indoor gatherings at this time.

St. Augustine (feast day Aug 28) St. Augustine spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother Monica and the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian then, because he thought he could never live a pure life. One day, however, he heard about two men who had suddenly been converted on reading the life of St. Antony, and he felt terrible ashamed of himself. "What are we doing?" he cried to his friend Alipius. "Unlearned people are taking Heaven by force, while we, with all our knowledge, are so cowardly that we keep rolling around in the mud of our sins!" Full of bitter sorrow, Augustine flung himself out into the garden and cried out to God, "How long more, O Lord? Why does not this hour put an end to my sins?" Just then he heard a child singing, "Take up and read!" Thinking that God intended him to hear those words, he picked up the book of the Letters of St. Paul, and read the first passage his gaze fell on. It was just what Augustine needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it! From then on, Augustine began a new life. He was baptized, became a priest, a bishop, a famous Catholic writer, Founder of religious priests, and one of the greatest saints that ever lived. He became very devout and charitable, too. On the wall of his room he had the following sentence written in large letters: "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." St. Augustine overcame strong heresies, practiced great poverty and supported the poor, preached very often and prayed with great fervor right up until his death. "Too late have I loved You!" he once cried to God, but with his holy life he certainly made up for the sins he committed before his conversion. His feast day is August 28th.

Pope Francis – “It is not the wealthy who bear fruit in life, but those who build and maintain many friendships through various ‘riches’, namely, through the various gifts God has given them.” “Wealth can force us to build walls. Jesus, instead, invites His disciples to transform goods and riches into relationships, because people are worth more than things, they are more valuable than any riches we possess.”

Important Reminders During Pandemic

Pray always. Stay at home as much as possible. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly. Observe physical distance. Wear a face mask or face shield when physical distancing is not possible. Connect with others virtually. Say “thank you” to frontline staff and community workers.

Prayer During Pandemic: “O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.”