



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

386 Rogers Street, Peterborough, ON K9H 1W7

705-742-5466

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

**MASSES FOR DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> – JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

Tuesday, December 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	+ Joe Moloney, requested by the Immaculate Quilting Group
Wednesday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	+ Barbara Coughlin, requested by the Estate
Thursday, December 30 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	+ Deceased members of the Creighton & Widdis families, requested by Marie Morrissey
Friday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	4:30 p.m.	+ Teresa Buettner, requested by Peter, Lucy & Kate Dawson
Saturday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 a.m.	+ Ed & Bernice Nolan, requested by the family
	11:30 a.m.	- <i>For the people of Immaculate Conception Parish</i>
	4:30 p.m.	- Paul Cayley, on the occasion of his 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday, requested by the Moher family
Sunday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 a.m.	+ Dr. Don Curtis, requested by Elizabeth DeNoble
	11:30 a.m.	+ Jan & Anna Szokalski, requested by the family

+ Repose of the soul

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Aleesha, Neave Alderson, Audrey, Tim Ayotte, Fr. Bart Burke, Gwendolyn Craigen, Joan Cross, Donna Ellis, Teresa Garvey, Sawyer Growden, Julianna & Mary Hauer, Bill Heasely, Janice Kelly, Bradley L., Cathy Lochner, Marian, Keith Mathieson, Peter McCarthy, Margaret Shine, Erin Sullivan, Linda VanTol, Rose Marie Vitarelli, Sally Weglarz and those who have no one to pray for them. **MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU CLOSE TO HIS HEART.**

### ***Christmas Message from Fr. Stephen***

*"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10). The angel's message to the shepherds has two parts: one of do not be afraid, and second, a message of great joy. The shepherds were startled to see the amazing sight of the angel; they were minding their own business, then suddenly came into contact with a celestial being! I don't know about you, but that would freak me out! Yet, they were consoled and heartened by the message of joy, the birth of a saviour, Jesus Christ. Their hope was fulfilled when they later came to see the child in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.*

We often can sympathize with the shepherds, especially over the last year and a half. We have faced fear, uncertainty, shutdown and restrictions, isolation, illness, and the unknown. Yet, we have also experienced some good news: reconciliation, reconnection, re-openings, and light at the end of the tunnel. The angel's message was one of light at the end of the tunnel. They faced, the coming of the Messiah who is the light of the world.

As we are beginning this Christmas season of 2021, we still grapple with the darkness, but we should still rejoice that the light who is Christ has come and will enlighten us and our families, our hopes and dreams, and the future. May this light shine upon you and your families and friends and keep you always in God's love.

*Merry Christmas!*





## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021

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.

Yours in Christ,

+Daniel Miehm  
Bishop of Peterborough