



**St. Peter's Parish  
Port Hood  
Dec. 17, 2023**

**Contact Information**  
Fr. Sunny Sebastian, Pastor  
1-902-787-3317

**Parish Office**  
(902) 787-3317  
**Parish Office Hours**  
Wednesday to Friday from  
10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

**Website**  
[www.saintpetersporthood.com](http://www.saintpetersporthood.com)

**Email**  
[stpetersporthood@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersporthood@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Council Chairperson**  
Leon Livingstone  
(902) 787-3041

**CWL President**  
Anne E. MacDonald  
(902) 787-2213

**KOC Grand Knight**  
Jack Redden  
(902) 787-2042

**Baptisms**  
By appointment, please call.  
Parish Office

**Marriages**  
Please call Parish Office at least  
six months in advance.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Tuesday to Friday from 5:15pm  
to 5:45pm & Saturday from  
2.30pm to 3.30pm

**To book Parish Hall call:**  
Ann MacDonald 902-787-2213  
Ellen Murphy 902-631-0613

**Bulletin**  
[parishbulletin@hotmail.com](mailto:parishbulletin@hotmail.com)  
Send notices no later than 12  
noon on Wednesdays.

*Please note that bulletin notices  
may be edited for  
brevity or clarity.  
Thank you,  
Tudi MacEachern*

## Parish News

### Mass Schedule

4:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am on Sunday

Date	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
Sat. Dec. 23 4:00pm	Jack Redden	Darlene Watts	Kate Calder
Sun. Dec. 24 10:00 am	John Gillies	Marcella Watts	Laina Shanks, John MacDonald & Samuel Watts
Sun. Dec. 24 4:00 pm	Coline MacEachern	Sandy Gillis	Kate Calder
Sun. Dec. 24 9:00 pm	Emily Chisholm	Catherine Trenholm	John MacDonald
Mon. Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 am	Angela Avery	Donna MacDonald	John MacDonald & Samuel Watts
<b>Weekday Masses</b>			
Mon. Dec. 18 6:00pm Special Intention by Fr. Eugene Morris			
Tues. Dec. 19 6:00pm Souls in Purgatory by Joanne MacDonald			
Wed. Dec. 20 6:00pm (R) Wayne Murphy by Sadie Murphy			
Thur. Dec. 21 6:00pm Protection of the unborn by Anita Dwyer			
Fri. Dec. 22 6:00pm (R) John MacDougall by Mary Louise Burns			

### **Message from the Pastor**

**"He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light."** (John.1;7-8)  
**'Converts, Dropouts and Returnee'** is a book written by a religious sociologist Dr. Dean Hoge. Very briefly, he narrates his experiences with individuals who either left the Catholic Church or had been reconverted, and what led them to make that important decision. And he found that "the happiest Catholics were the dropout Catholics"—persons who had left the Catholic Church for a time but returned. Even more, he found that the best recruiters of dropout Catholics are the dropouts themselves. More specifically, Dr. Dean Hoge found that two-thirds of the thousands of Catholics who return to the Faith each year do so because a neighbor, a friend or a relative invited them to return. This is where each and every one of us can play a vital role in the return of many. And we could begin just by inviting them to attend the Holy Eucharist this Christmas.

On this third Sunday of Advent called "Gaudete Sunday" the Gospel of St. John introduces John the Baptist sent by God as the voice in the desert to prepare people for the long-awaited Messiah...to testify to the light...the Light of the World...Jesus Christ. The coming of Jesus, the Light, into the world is cause for rejoicing as light removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoicing because, like John the Baptist, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. We are to reflect Jesus' Light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us. We are called to bear witness to Christ by word and deed, in good times and bad, and when it suits us and when it doesn't. We need to be messengers who point out Christ to others, just as John did. His role as a joyful witness prepared the way for Jesus. John also provides an example for us because our vocation as Christians is to bear "witness" to Christ by our transparent Christian lives. So, let the Holy Spirit speak through us in preparing the way for the Lord and strengthen us to radiate Christ's unconditional love and forgiveness everywhere. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the coming of God into our lives, let us remind ourselves that we have been called to be the means of bringing Jesus into lives of other people.

## **Advent Notices:**

❖ **Sacrament of Reconciliation: December 17 at 2pm. (Several priests will be available)**

## **Mass Schedule for Christmas & New Year**

### ❖ **Christmas Eve**

- **Cantata** : 3.30pm
- **Christmas Family Mass** : 4.00pm
- **Christmas Evening Mass** : **9.00pm**

❖ **Christmas Day Mass** :10:00am

❖ **New Year's Day Mass** :10.00am

**(Please Note:** There is a special **Christmas evening Mass at 9.00pm** on Sunday, December 24, 2023 (Christmas Eve).

**Thank you:** Thanks to all those who volunteered to decorate the Church on Sunday, December 10. (Donations for Christmas flowers will be appreciated; put in envelope marked "Flowers" with your name on the envelope)

**Vacation:** Fr. Sunny will be away for vacation from **December 28<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Fr. Feby Pulikan Raphel from the Diocese of Irinjalakuda, Kerala, India, will fill in for Fr. Sunny. **Welcome to Fr. Feby.** He can be reached at the parish email ([stpetersporthood@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersporthood@gmail.com)), over phone **902-787-3317**.

**KOC:** Regular monthly meeting will be held **Sunday, December 17th, 2023, at 7:30 pm** in the Church Hall with Rosary at 7:00 pm.

**KOC:** The Knights of Columbus, St. Peter's Parish wish to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for your support to our many fundraising activities this past year. Our Council extends to you and your family a very Merry and Peaceful Christmas and the best in 2024.

**Chalice Sponsorships:** Are you still looking for a Christmas gift for someone? Why not consider sponsoring a child through Chalice Canada. The cost is \$504 a year which can be paid in one lump sum or in twelve monthly installments. There are two children made available to the parish who have yet to find sponsors. If you are interested in sponsorship please phone Betty Jane Cameron (902-945-2603) or John Gillies (902-787-3441) for more information.

**Plaques:** In the past we offered families the opportunity to place the names of loved ones on a plaque in the back of the church. We plan to continue this practice. We will print and mount plaques on a bi-yearly basis. If you would like to have the name of someone engraved on such a plaque, you may pass that name on to Mary Buchanan at [marybuchanan1@gmail.com](mailto:marybuchanan1@gmail.com). The cost is \$200. Please make cheque payable to St. Peter's Parish Building Fund.

**Scam Emails:** Beware of scam emails that circulate under the name of Bishops, priests or parishes asking for money and gift cards. Ignore such emails.

**The Judique Knights of Columbus** are having a **Brunch on Sunday, December 17th** at the **Judique Community Center** from 10:30 to 12:30. **Adults: \$12.00, Children \$6.00**

## **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN THE CHAPEL**

**EVERYDAY**

**From**

**9.00AM TO 3.00PM**

**"Remember your church in your Will."**