



**St. Peter's Parish
Port Hood
Sept. 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

Email

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
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
Sat. Sept. 23 4:00pm	Ellen Murphy	Don McIlone
Sun. Sept. 24 10:00 am	Angela Avery	Ann MacDougall
Weekday Masses		
Mon. Sept. 18	6:00pm Special Intention by Fr. Eugene Morris	
Tues. Sept. 19	6:00pm (R) Jessie Chisholm by MacKenzie family/Tom Aucoin	
Wed. Sept. 20	6:00pm Souls in Purgatory by Barbara MacLellan	
Thur. Sept. 21	6:00pm (R) Danny MacDonald by Tina MacNeil	
Fri. Sept. 22	6:00pm (R) Danny MacDonald by Peggy/Jackie MacDonell	

Message from the Pastor

“Yes, for the love of Jesus I forgive him... and I want him to be with me in Paradise.” These were the words of St. Maria Goretti on her deathbed. It was this forgiveness that Maria offered to Alessandro, who murdered her, when she appeared to him in his 11th year of a 30-year prison sentence. While asleep, Alessandro saw a young girl dressed in white, gathering lilies in a garden. She approached him, smiling, and offered him the lilies one by one. As he accepted them, each lily turned into a still, white flame. A repentant man when he awoke, Alessandro sought to make amends and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. In an open letter he wrote years later, he credits Maria, saying, “Little Maria was really my light, my protectress; with her help, I behaved well during the 27 years of prison and tried to live honestly when I was again accepted among the members of society.” Upon his release from prison after 28 years, he went straight to Maria’s mother Assunta on a Christmas Eve to beg her forgiveness. She forgave him, saying, **“If my daughter can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness?”** Not only did she forgive Alessandro, but she called him her son. She requested that they attend Midnight Mass together. There, they humbly received the Eucharist, kneeling side by side. Twenty-one years later, Assunta and Alessandro knelt again, this time in Rome, among a quarter of a million people with tears in their eyes as Maria was canonized a Saint. Today we live in an atmosphere of hatred, rage, brutality, retaliation etc. Emotion runs high that it takes over reason leading to violence. People become indifferent to the qualities like forgiveness and mercy. It is in this context that the words of Jesus about the need of forgiveness become relevant. To be forgiven of our sins we have to forgive those who have hurt us. At all times and in all places, we are to embody God’s forgiving Grace. Forgiveness involves more than absolution of guilt. It involves reconciliation-the mending of our past, now-fractured, relationships and the healing of our mutual brokenness. It involves intentional work to heal and be reconciled with another. God awakens in us the wholeness that invites us to share in His holiness. Healing, reconciliation, and forgiveness, acting together, sketch a way of life embodying an ever-deepening friendship with God and with one another. **Let us forgive, forget, and be reconciled.** In the light of eternity and the shortness of our span of life, harboring old grudges is pointless. Neighbors who remained hostile and unforgiving till their death are buried a short distance from one another in the same cemetery. Our ability and willingness to forgive are the measure of the depth of our Christianity. The forgiveness that we offer others is the indispensable condition which makes it possible for us to receive God’s forgiveness and to pray meaningfully: **“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”**

Altar Servers: Children having received the First Holy Communion are invited to be Altar Servers. Parents and grandparents are requested to encourage children. We also look for individuals who are willing to be **part of the different ministries in the Church**. Those interested, please call Linda Beaton @ **902-787-3040**.

House Blessing: Those who would like to have their houses blessed and consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus may write down their names and other details on the **sign-up sheet** on the table at the back of the church.

Chalice: Saturday and Sunday, **September 16 and 17, is a CHALICE** sponsorship weekend. Chalice is an international Roman Catholic organization begun by Fr. Pat Cosgrove of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth and has its head quarters in Halifax. Betty Jane Cameron of West Mabou will speak at both the Saturday and Sunday Mass to give information regarding this organization and its "**Adopt a Child**" program. Chalice has sent profiles to our parish of nine children from different countries of the world in the hope that they will find sponsoring families in our parish. Give adoption some consideration.

KOC: Regular monthly meeting will be held **Sunday, September 17th, 2023, at 7:30 pm** in the Church Hall with Rosary at 7:00 pm. **Installation of KOC officers** will be held following Sunday Mass, **September 17th, 2023**. All members are encouraged to attend. **Knights of Columbus** is a Catholic men's organization based on the values of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Our many activities and fundraisers are in support of the needs of the Port Hood community and St. Peter's Church. Men of all ages are welcomed to join our council. For more information, please contact any Knight.

KOC: Port Hood KOC council is hosting a "**March For Life**" on **Sunday, October 1st, 2023, @2:00 p.m. to be held at the Day Park, Boardwalk Beach, Port Hood**. All are welcomed to attend so please come and join us in prayer for life.

Solemn Celebration of Rosary: As **October** is specially dedicated as the Month of Rosary, the **Solemn celebration of the Rosary with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will be held from **October 2 to 11; On Weekends, 20 minutes before the Mass and on Weekdays, after the 6.00pm Mass**.

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 maryfbuchanan1@gmail.com. The cost is \$200. Please make cheque payable to St. Peter's Parish Building Fund.

Parish Mission: Parish Mission is taking place in **Stella Maris Parish Inverness & St. Margaret's Parish Broad Cove** from September 16-20, 2023. Fr. Albert MacPherson will be preaching at the weekend Masses on **September 16 & 17**. The official opening of the Mission will be with Holy Hour at 6.00 pm on Sunday, the 17th in Stella Maris. On Monday, the 18th at 6.00pm Mass & penance service in St. Margaret's; on Tuesday, the 19th at 6.00pm Mass & healing service in Stella Maris and on Wednesday, the 20th at 6.00 pm closing of the Mission in St. Margaret's. Religious articles will be available for sale.

Thank You: The family of the late Roddie Dunford would like to thank everyone for the support and kindness shown to us at such a difficult time. Your kind words and to hear how you thought so much of Roddie was so heartwarming. Thank you for your prayers, cards, messages and phone calls. To Father Sunny and Father Morris, thank you for a beautiful Mass for Roddie. We so appreciated the opportunity to get together as a family in prayer for him. *Sincerely, the Dunford family*

'Friends of Children' looks for your support to help children in the schools in Mabou and Port Hood, whose families find it hard to meet the needs. We have already received requests for clothing, school supplies and cafeteria cards. Every year it is more difficult for some parents to manage these expenses. In the last year we worked with a social worker assigned to the High School. This makes it easier for us to reach the children who need help the most. For any help you can give, we are most grateful. All the money received goes to the children. E-transfers can be made at jackanne@ns.sympatico.ca. Thank you once again for your support. (Anne MacDonald-Friends of Children)

Companions on A Journey into Advent: 39th Cape Breton Ecumenical Conference for women is held on November 3, 4, & 5, 2023 at Inverary Inn, Baddeck. This conference organised by Christian women and friends invites women to a weekend of personal enrichment and support to celebrate God's presence in our midst and deepen our faith. For more information, call Betty Anne Christoff @902-849-2611.

"Remember your church in your Will."