



St. Peter’s Parish  
Port Hood  
Dec. 15, 2024

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

Ron Schmidt  
(902) 787-3484

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. Dec. 21, 4:00 pm	Melanie MacDonald	Donna MacDonald
Sun. Dec. 22, 10:00 am	John Gillies	Sand MacKinnon
Weekday Masses		
Mon. Dec. 16 6:00pm	Special Intention by Fr. Eugene Morris	
Tues. Dec. 17 6:00pm	Souls in Purgatory by Joanne MacDonald & family	
Wed. Dec. 18 6:00pm	Special family intention by Alice/Louis Landry	
Thur. Dec. 19 6:00pm	Protection of Life & Culture of Death by Joe/Carmen van Zutphen	
Fri. Dec. 22 6:00pm	(R) Wayne Murphy by Dougie Gillies	

From the Pastor’s Desk

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice.** (Phil. 4: 4) We are into the third Sunday of Advent which is called the **Gaudete Sunday** or the **Sunday of Joy**. While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: his first, his present, and his final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord-Christian joy-as well as the mission of John the Baptist and his connection with Advent.

The theologian St. Thomas Aquinas described the difference between joy and happiness in this way. Happiness is the final end of a person, eternal contemplation of God, which is an act of the intellect. Joy, however, is itself not a virtue, but is an effect of the virtue of charity ("love"), which is full if its object is eternal and the greatest, i.e. God. Joy admits no sorrow, for it is not an act of the sensitive faculties; but supernatural joy, which is spoken of on Gaudete Sunday and in the Gospels, is an act of the intellectual appetite known as the will. To experience this Joy what we have to do is to realize the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, by our renewal of life, and by doing of God’s Will faithfully. Lighting of the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest wearing rose-colored vestments express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because we are celebrating the day of Christ’s birth; we recognize Jesus’ daily presence in our midst, and we wait for Christ’s return in glory.

The Gospel for this Sunday presents John the Baptist explaining the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God’s Way by the doing of His Will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of justice so that others may have reason to rejoice. According to John, joy comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need. John’s call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. Repentance means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when we recognize that Christ has already entered our lives at Baptism, and that His Presence is to be reflected in our living in the ways Jesus teaches. The Gospel passage reminds us that to be faithful members of the Catholic Church, it is not enough that we know the teachings of the Church, attend the Holy Mass on Sunday, read the Holy Bible etc. but what is important is to live out our Faith by caring for others and sharing our blessings with others and a total transformation in our behaviour or in the way we live our daily life.

**Blessing of the Chapel:** The renovated chapel will be blessed and opened for public worship on **Sunday 22, December 2024 after the 10.00am Holy Mass** by Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick.

**Building Fund:** Request whole-hearted support from the parishioners to raise money for the **Building Fund** with your generous donations, especially to pay off the cost of the brick work done at the back wall of the church building and also for the future maintenance works. Tax receipts will be issued to all donations. **Envelops are available at the back of the church.**

**The 2025 Envelopes** are at the back of the church. If anyone that doesn't currently use envelopes and would like to, there are blank boxes also. Please put your name and address on the first few you use. Please discard old envelopes as our number may change in 2025.

**Thank you:** The Parish Finance Council and the Pastoral Council on behalf of the parish would like to thank everyone who showed up for the concert on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and for the donations. Special **thanks** to all the performers at the concert, including **Delores Boudreau** who coordinated the program, to CWL members and to all those who contributed their time and talents towards the event!!!

**Theatre Play and Carols:** The Parish Religious Education Program is presenting **Theatre Play and Carols** on **Monday 23, December 2024 at 7.00pm** in St. Peter’s parish hall by the Family Program Children and the special guest musicians. The Theme: **“What can I Give Him-The Other Wise Man?”** Free admission-donation box at the door. All are welcome!!!

**Advent Notices:**

- ❖ **Decorating the church: after Holy Mass on Sunday, December 15.** (Donations for Christmas flowers will be appreciated (put in envelope marked “Flowers” with your name on the envelope)
- ❖ **Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sunday, December 15 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** : 8.00pm
- ❖ **Christmas Day Mass** : 10:00am
- ❖ **New Year Eve. Mass** : 4.00pm
- ❖ **New Year’s Day Mass** : 10.00am

**Christmas Social for CWL:** On **Tuesday, December 17**, the CWL will be having their annual Christmas social for members: Turkey dinner with all the trimmings at the **Admiral Lounge beginning at 6:00 pm**, as well we will be doing our Christmas gift exchange. If you are interested in attending. please contact **Ann** by Tuesday Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$ 20.00 plus your beverages.

**KOC:** Please support the annual **Christmas tree and Wreath** sale in the parking lot of the Port Hood Co-Op which began on Thursday 5, 2024. Proceeds from this fundraiser go to support many projects in our community. Regular **KOC monthly meeting** will be held on **Sunday, December 15th, 2024, at 7:30 pm** in the Church Hall with **Rosary at 7:00pm**.

**Plaques:** The Plaque Fundraiser, once again taken up a few years ago in memory of our loved ones, has been very successful. There are only 2 more spots left for anyone who may be considering doing so. Thank you to all those who have so far contributed to this privileged cause. Contact Mary Buchanan.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
IN THE CHURCH  
(9.00AM TO 3.00PM)**

**“Remember your church in your Will**