

'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'



**St. Peter's Parish
Port Hood
Dec. 7, 2025**

Contact Information

Fr. Sunny Sebastian, Pastor
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

Finance Council Chairperson

Charley MacDonald

902-631-6533

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. 13 4:00 pm	Jack Redden	Sandy MacKinnon
Sun. Dec. 14 10:00 am	Gabriella Watts	Donna MacDonald
Weekday Masses		
Mon. Dec. 8 6:00pm	Special Intention by Fr. Eugene	
Tues. Dec. 9 6:00pm (R)	Aaron MacDonald by Gerard MacLean	
Wed. Dec. 10 6.00pm (R)	Mary Elizabeth Beaton by Joe & Mary Morris	
Thur. Dec. 11 6:00pm (R)	Lennie MacDonald by Ian Batherson	
Fri. Dec. 12 6:00pm (R)	Anita Cameron by Bernie MacDonald	

****Please note:** The last date for 2025 donations to be included in this year's tax receipts is **Sunday, December 28th**. Any donations after that date will be receipted for 2026.

Parish Pastoral Council: There will be a Pastoral Council meeting Tuesday, Dec. 9th at 7 pm in the glebe.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: On **Monday December 8th** the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated. Let us seek the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary by saying Rosary and attending the Holy Eucharist on this day at **6.00pm**. The children from the Monday religious education class will be participating

Knights of Columbus Members: Since Thursday, Dec. 4 we are selling Christmas Trees at the Co-op. We will have 2 shifts each day, 10 to 1 and 1 to 4, except only 1 to 4 on Sunday. Please call me to book your time(s) 787-3284 or 615-5697. Joe Morris

Catholic Women's League: The Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, Dec 13th, from 8:00 to 11:30 am. We hope everyone will come out to see Santa and enjoy a delicious full breakfast and grab some baked goods. Adults \$12.00 / Children \$7.00. Santa will be joining the crowd and passing out treat bags. You can also have your picture taken with him if you like. If anyone who wishes to donate baked goods to our Christmas bake table, it would be greatly appreciated. **On Tuesday, December 16, the CWL** will be having their **Annual Christmas Dinner** and gift exchange at the Admiral Lounge beginning at 6:00pm. Turkey dinner, trimmings, dessert, tea & coffee. If any CWL members are interested in attending please **contact Ann at 902-623-2625 before Friday, December 12. Thank you:** I want to personally thank all the ladies who came out to our annual kitchen clean up days on Wednesday and Thursday, an amazing job. Thank you! If any parishioners have any items belonging to the kitchen, like pots, pans etc., could you kindly return them. *Thanks, Ann MacDonald*

Religious Education: We are having a **Christmas Carol on Monday December 15.** Contact Sheila Maclsaac if you want to join us. **Bible Study:** We have started a Bible Study for youth group aged 12 and up, on Mondays from 6 to 7.15pm. Anyone interested, may contact Sheila Maclsaac or Noah Dunn.

The Gift Shop at Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou is currently closed. However, we have decided to open for a **one-day-only Christmas-Shopping Sale** today (Sunday, December 7) from 1 to 4 pm. All items, except candles, will be 50% OFF for this one day only. Cash Only. The Shrine is open year-round. We thank you sincerely for all your support this year. Many projects have been completed. Have a Merry Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in the New Year. *Board & Management of the Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine. For inquiries call 902-945-2221*

Thank You: On behalf of the Hospital Auxiliary, I want to express my sincere thanks for all your generous donations and also to all the canvassers who helped make it possible! Total realized was \$3240.00. Monetary Donations \$2325.00, Parcel Post \$915.00. *Alice Landry*

Advent Notices:

- ❖ **Decorating the church: after Holy Mass on Sunday, December 14.** (Donations for Christmas flowers will be appreciated (put in envelope marked "Flowers" with your name on the envelope)
- ❖ **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Sunday December 14 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

Inverness County Singers and Young County Singers present: "Tell the Story" under the direction of Laurel Browne and accompanied by Lawrence Cameron: **Friday Dec. 12, 7:30pm**-St. Margaret's of Scotland Church, **Broad Cove; Saturday Dec. 13, 7:30pm**-Waterfront Centre, **Whycocomagh; Tuesday. Dec. 16, 7:30pm**-St Mary's Church, **Mabou.** Free-will offering will go to local charities after payment of expenses.

From the Pastor's Desk:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Mathew 3: 2) There is a legend about a beautiful swan that alighted one day on the banks of a pool in which a crane was walking about seeking snails. For a few moments the crane viewed the swan in stupid wonder and then inquired: "*Where do you come from?*" "*I come from Heaven!*" replied the swan. "*And where is heaven?*" asked the crane. "*Heaven!*" said the swan, "*Heaven! Have you never heard of Heaven?*" And the beautiful bird went on to describe the grandeur of the Eternal City. The bird told of streets of gold, and the gates and walls made of precious stones; of the river of life, pure as crystal, upon whose banks is the tree whose leaves shall be for the healing of the nations. In eloquent terms, the swan sought to describe the hosts who live in the other world, but without arousing the slightest interest on the part of the crane. Finally, the crane asked: "*Are there any snails there?*" "*Snails!*" repeated the swan, "*No! Of course, there are not!*" "*Then,*" said the crane, as it continued its search along the slimy banks of the pool, "*you can have your Heaven. I want snails!*" This story has a deep truth underlying it-how people turn away from the Message of the Kingdom of God for the momentary pleasures or gains of the material world.

On this second Sunday of Advent, the readings especially the Gospel passage (Mathew 3:1-12) invite us to accept the Good News of the Kingdom of God, by repenting and turning away from our sinful ways of life. On the one hand, salvation is God's doing and we are saved by His grace. On the other hand, we must cooperate with God's grace to be saved. That is why John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage summons us to play our essential part by leading lives of repentance, conversion, and renewal, thus preparing the way for the Lord's Second Coming. John the Baptist who is dressed in camel's hair, feeding on locusts and wild honey, embodies both the austerity and hope of the prophetic tradition. People from Jerusalem, Judea, and the region around the Jordan flock to him, confessing their sins and being baptized; he challenges the religious leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees, warning them not to rely solely on their heritage or status. "***Bear fruit worthy of repentance,***" he urges, reminding us all, that true faith is not inherited but lived out in word and deed. At the heart of John's message lies the call to conversion. Advent is not merely a season of passive waiting but one of active preparation. The wilderness, often a symbol of testing and transformation, becomes a place where we are invited to examine our lives honestly. What are the attitudes or habits that keep us from truly embracing God's coming? Where do we need to turn away from complacency and turn towards justice, mercy, and humility?

John also points to the One Who is coming by saying, "***He who is coming after me is more powerful than I; I am not worthy to carry his sandals.***" The focus of Advent is not on our own efforts alone but on the One who brings the Spirit and fire-the Messiah, Jesus. Our repentance prepares us to receive Him more deeply, allowing His presence to transform us and, through us, the world. The Gospel passage challenges us not to be satisfied with external changes or mere appearances. True repentance calls for a change of heart and direction. We are called to prepare for Christ's coming by allowing Him to be reborn daily in our lives and this is the time to make this preparation by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and the sharing of our blessings with others. We shall answer the call for a change of life by obeying God's commandments faithfully, by opening our hearts to reconciliation and to right relationships with our neighbours, sharing our love with others as selfless and humble service. Let us clear away the obstacles that prevent God's love from taking root. Let this week of Advent be a time of honest reflection, courageous repentance, and renewed hope. As we listen to the voice crying out in the wilderness, let us prepare a way for the Lord in our hearts and in our world.

The Judique Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a **Brunch on Sunday, December 14th** at the **Judique Community Center from 10:30 to 12:30;** Adults \$12.00, Children \$10.00.

Judique's Annual (St. Andrew's Parish) Christmas Bazaar will be held on Sunday, **December 7th from 11:00-1:00.** Hot Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. Adults \$20.00, Children \$10.00. There will be crafts, bake goods & much more.

"Remember your church in your Will"