

'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'



**St. Peter's Parish
Port Hood
Dec. 14, 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. 20 4:00 pm	Leon Livingstone	Donnie McIlhone
Sun. Dec. 21 10:00 am	John Gillies	Ann MacDougall
Weekday Masses		
Mon. Dec. 15 6:00pm	Special Intention by Fr. Eugene	
Tues. Dec. 16 6:00pm (R)	Mae Ann Beaton by Sandy & Francene Gillis	
Wed. Dec. 17 6.00pm (R)	John Gillis by Donald A/Catherine MacEachern	
Thur. Dec. 18 6:00pm	Deceased members of CWL by CWL	
Fri. Dec. 19 6:00pm	Protection of unborn & culture of life by Joe/Carmen van Zutphen	

****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 received for 2026.

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

KOC Meeting: Regular monthly council meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 7:30 pm** in the Parish Hall. **Rosary at 7:00 p.m.**

Catholic Women's League: We will be having our **Annual Christmas Dinner** and gift exchange at the Admiral Lounge on **Tuesday, December 16**, 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**.

New members to CWL: We are actively seeking **new members** to join our group and to fill our vacant positions; if this is something that interests you, you are invited to come to one of our meetings and see how our CWL is actively involved within our Parish and community and what the CWL stand for. With the decline in membership over the recent years and members who have been on positions for numerous years, and with an aging minority, this is the time for younger women to join and grow in faith and to come, see and experience what we are about and what the CWL's mission is and how you may contribute your time to such a rewarding and fulfilling role within our Parish. Please consider and reach out to us. *Ann MacDonald, CWL President.*

Religious Education: We are having a **Christmas Carol on Monday, December 15**. Contact Sheila MacIsaac 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 MacIsaac or Noah Dunn.

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

From the Pastor's Desk

"Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Mathew 11: 3) Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) the American novelist and short story writer, when he died in 1864, had left on his desk the outline of a play he never got a chance to finish. The play centered around a person who never appeared on stage. Everyone talked about him. Everyone dreamed about him. Everyone waited for his arrival. But he never came. All kinds of minor characters described him. They told everybody what he would do. But the main character never appeared. The Old Testament people also were expecting the main character (The Messiah) to come. Everyone talked about Him; everyone awaited His arrival. But he never came in the Old Testament period. The question from John the Baptist to Jesus, which we find in Mathew 11:2-11, echoes this expectation of the people who were waiting for the Messiah. The passage tells us that when the real Messiah came, even the last prophet and the Messiah's herald, John the Baptist, had trouble believing that He was the expected Messiah. By answering the question, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his doubts about the Messiah and by simply accepting Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah.

The third Sunday of Advent, often called **Gaudete Sunday**, is traditionally marked by a spirit of joy as we draw nearer to the celebration of Christmas. The word "Gaudete" itself means "rejoice," a call echoed both in the liturgy and in our hearts. The reply Jesus gave to John points us to the theme of joy brought by the Messiah as a deep and abiding assurance, even in the midst of uncertainty and doubt. In this passage, John the Baptist, the great prophet who announced the coming of the Messiah, now imprisoned and facing an uncertain future, sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: **"Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"** Jesus responds not with reproach, but with evidence of hope fulfilled: **"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them."** Here, joy is not dependent on external circumstances. Christ points to the deeper reality of God's Kingdom breaking through, especially for those who are marginalized. This joy is rooted in seeing God's work unfold, even when personal circumstances are difficult. Advent joy, then, is not mere happiness, but a profound trust that God is present, active, and faithful. Jesus' response invites us to find joy in the visible signs of God's love and mercy: the restoration of sight, the healing of wounds, the raising of the hopeless, and the proclamation of good news to the poor. These are not just the miracles did by Jesus during His Ministry on earth, but ongoing realities wherever compassion, justice, and hope take root in our world. We are reminded that the source of authentic joy is not in our achievements or possessions, but in the recognition that God's grace is at work even in the most unexpected places and people. The pink candle on the Advent wreath calls us to embody a joy that withstands hardship and uncertainty. In a world so often shadowed by anxiety or disappointment, this Sunday challenges us to look for signs of God's presence and to be bearers of joy to others. Like John and his disciples, we may have questions and struggles, but we are invited to recognize the glimpses of the Kingdom already at hand. In our daily life-be it in our community gatherings, in reaching out to those in need, or in the quiet moments of our life-we will be able to rediscover joy as God's gift. Let us rejoice, not because all is perfect, but because Christ assures us that God's love is breaking through, restoring, and renewing all things. On this third Sunday of Advent, may our hearts echo the call of St. Paul: **"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice!"** (Phil. 4:4)

Inverness County Singers and Young County Singers present: 'Tell the Story', under the direction of Laurel Browne and accompanied by Lawrence Cameron: **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.

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.

The November winners of the JCC weekly draw for \$500. November 3rd: Father A. MacMillan, # 617, Judique; 10th: Florence and Tony Campbell, #575, Judique; 17th: Iain MacEachern, #583, Judique; 24th: Blaise/ Irene MacLellan, #560, Judique.

Diocesan Newsletter: Would you like to receive the Diocesan Newsletter '**Seven Ears of Grain**' which is emailed each Monday morning, with news and events from our diocese and parishes, plus news and resources from the Vatican and national offices. To subscribe visit: www.antigonishdiocese.com/newsletter or email jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN THE CHAPEL

"Remember your church in your Will"