

'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'



**St. Peter's Parish
Port Hood
Dec. 21 & 28, 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
Wed. Dec. 24, 4:00pm 8:00pm	Isabel Calder Melanie MacDonald	Darlene Watts Marlene MacMillan
Thur. Dec. 25 10:00am	Angela Avery	Marcella Watts
Sat. Dec. 27 4:00pm	Gerard MacPhee	Linda Beaton
Sun. Dec. 28 10:00am	Mary J MacDonald	Janice Campbell
Wed. Dec. 31 4:00pm	Ellen Murphy	Judy Leadbetter
Thu. Jan. 1, 10:00am	Coline MacEachern	Donna MacDnald
Weekday Masses		
Mon. Dec. 22 6:00pm	Special Intention by Fr. Eugene	
Tues. Dec. 23 6:00pm	(R) Bernie MacDonald by Mary Buchanan	
Wed. Dec. 24 4.00pm 8:00pm	Christmas Eve-Family Mass Christmas Eve-evening Mass	
Thu. Dec. 25 10:00am	Christmas Day	
Fri. Dec. 26 6:00pm	(R) Isaac Goswell by Dougie & Nellee Hawley	
Mon. Dec. 29 6:00pm	Special Intention by Fr. Eugene	
Tues. Dec. 30 6:00pm	Michael Fawcett by Jeanette MacNeil	
Wed. Dec. 31 4:00pm	New Years Eve	
Thur. Jan. 1 10:00am	New Years Day	
Fri. Jan. 2 6:00pm	In reparation for the sins of Canada	
Sat. Jan. 3 11:00am	In reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary	

****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.

****Due to certain circumstances, the envelopes for 2026 are late coming. We are hoping they will be here before Dec. 31, or Jan. 3 at the latest. We apologize for the delay.**

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

Knights of Columbus: We greatly appreciate the support we received in the sale of trees and wreaths. Thanks also to the knights involved in the program and to JP for arranging the purchase and delivery of the trees.

Midnight Holy Hour: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on **Wednesday, December 31, 2025, from 11.00pm to 1.00am on Thursday, January 1, 2026**, in the chapel. All are welcome to attend the Adoration.

Holy Hour: Holy Hour in honour of **Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday January 2, 2026, from 4.45pm to 5:45 pm** followed by Holy Mass at **6.00pm** and in honour of **Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday January 3, 2026, at 10.00am** followed by **Holy Mass at 11.00am.**

Religious Education: The **Christmas Carol** has been rescheduled to **Sunday December 21 at 4.00pm and Monday December 22 at 6.00pm.** Contact Sheila Maclsaac if you would like to join.

Carol Singing: The children from religious education will be singing **Carol songs** at the end of **Christmas Eve Family Mass.**

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 stands 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.*

Christmas Message

My Dear People,

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on the past and look ahead with hope. This past year has been one of reflection and growth, marked by both celebration and challenge. We have celebrated birthdays and anniversaries and mourned the loss of loved ones, especially our cherished priests and Religious Sisters. We continue to celebrate the Sisters of St. Martha's 125th anniversary year. This milestone reminds us of their enduring faith and service, which have shaped our faith community.

Looking back, we recognize that we are not the same as we were at the beginning of this year. We have endured difficult days-navigating a Trade War and tariffs, witnessing conflicts around the world, especially in Ukraine and Gaza, and responding to natural disasters and extreme weather events such as fires, earthquakes, and flooding. Time magazine named the architects of artificial intelligence its Person of the Year, acknowledging how AI "roared into view" and transformed many aspects of our lives.

As a Church, we observed the Jubilee Year of Hope as a special time for spiritual renewal, pilgrimage, forgiveness, and strengthening faith in God amidst world challenges. It reminded us that Christian hope is grounded in God's unending love, with Jesus as the ultimate reason for hope.

We mourned the passing of Pope Francis on April 21 and celebrated the election of Pope Leo XIV on May 8. Our journey continues with the ongoing process of Synodality, initiated by Pope Francis in October 2021. This is a call for a more reformed, listening Church eager to embrace radical inclusion and shared mission. The synodal process involves global listening sessions at the diocesan, national, and continental levels, culminating in a major gathering in Rome in October 2028.

Central to this journey are the themes of Communion, Participation, and Mission. These principles challenge us to deepen our unity, open our hearts to everyone, and serve with renewed purpose. Synodality calls us to be a Church that listens to one another and to the voice of the Spirit guiding us forward.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we are reminded that through our baptism, we are called to be a light for others by living out our faith visibly. When we live our faith authentically, we become a light of hope and love within our communities. The Christmas Season reminds us that neighbourly concern, generosity, and unselfish love are vital expressions of our faith. Signs of such love serve as a light that pierces the darkness of our world and reminds us that God's greatest gift to us is His Son, Jesus Christ-the Light of the World-who guides and leads us.

Our faith does not promise an escape from problems and hardships, but it sustains us with peace and hope. We know we are not alone-Emmanuel-God is with us in every struggle and every challenge. Many of our parishes and families are facing financial difficulties, and it's important to remember that through faith and community, we can find strength and solutions.

Looking to the future requires more than reflection on the past. I am reminded of the Canadian philosopher, Marshall McLuhan's famous words: "*We look at the present through a rear-view mirror. We march backwards into the future.*" Clinging only to familiar frameworks can leave us disoriented in a rapidly changing landscape. While our history is vital, we must also embrace new perspectives and possibilities. Collaboration and the ongoing process of Synodality are essential as we move forward together to meet the needs of our time.

May your Christmas be filled with peace, love, and joy. May the Light of Christ brighten your days and guide your way.

Fraternally,

+ *Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick*

Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick

Bishop of Antigonish



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!