

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'



St. Peter's Parish Port Hood March 30, 2025

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.saintpetersparish.com

Email

stpetersparish@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. Apr. 5 4:00pm	Gerard MacPhee	Darlene Watts
Sun. Apr. 6 10:00am	Mary J. MacDonald	Marlene MacMillan
Weekday Masses		
Mon. Mar. 31 6:00pm	Special Intention by Fr. Eugene Morris	
Tues. Apr. 1 6:00pm (R)	Ditta MacDonald by Elaine & Jim Lostus	
Wed. Apr. 2 6:00pm (R)	Gordie Gillis by Ann MacDonald & family	
Thur. Apr. 3 6:00pm	Souls in Purgatory by Joanne MacDonald	
Fri. Apr. 4 6:30pm	In reparation for the sins of Canada	
<i>No First Saturday Mass</i>		

KOC Pilgrimage: Knights of Columbus have organized a pilgrimage and an "afternoon reflection" at Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Monastery on Sunday **March 30th from 1:00 pm to 4:00pm** as part of the Jubilee Year. All are invited to join this pilgrimage and retreat. **Anyone needing a drive please feel free to contact any KOC member.** Those planning to attend are asked to meet in the Church parking lot at 11:45 am and travel together to Monastery.

Parish Finance Council: There is a Parish Finance Council meeting on **Wednesday, April 2, at 7.00pm** in the glebe.

Holy Hour in honour of **St. Joseph** on **Wednesday, 2nd April** from **4:45pm to 5:45 pm** followed by Holy Mass at **6.00pm**.

Stations of the Cross: There will be **Stations of the Cross** on **Friday April 4th at 6.30pm** followed by Holy Mass in the Church.

KOC Meal: On **Saturday, April 5th from 4-6:30pm**, we are sponsoring a hot roast beef dinner to support our charities. **Eat-in or take-out for \$25.** Featuring butterscotch, apple and lemon pies guaranteed to relieve stress. Come support worthy causes. **Notice to Knights:** We are gathering on **Friday at 4pm** to prepare the vegetables and the hall. Your help is also required on Saturday for the meal.

Lenten Reconciliation. The annual Lenten Reconciliation is to take place on **Sunday, 6th at 2.00pm** in the church. Several priests will be available.

Parish Pastoral Council: There will be a parish pastoral council meeting on **Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00pm** in the glebe.

Mass of Chrism: If any family or anyone else is interested to attend the **Chrism Mass at 3:00pm, on Monday April 14th at St. Ninian's Cathedral** to receive the **Holy Oils** for the parish, please contact Linda Beaton.

CWL: CWL is collecting the 2025 CWL Dues. Once again, this year the Annual fee is \$34.50. Money can be placed in a sealed envelope, marked CWL Dues and add to the weekly church collection. If additional arrangement for collection is required, please call Debbie MacDonald at 902-6232578.

Lenten Mission in Inverness: Lenten Mission in Stella Maris chapel (Inverness) and St. Margaret's Church (Broad Cove) is to take place from **April 5th to 9th**. Sessions on the theme of Jubilee Year, **'Pilgrims of Hope' on Wednesdays (April 2 & 16) from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.** For more details contact the Parish office.

Building Fund Silent Auction: The Finance Council is planning a **Facebook auction** as a fundraiser for the **Building Fund**, and we are looking for donations of goods and services from local businesses as well as parishioners. Donations can be anything from hand-made crafted items to batches of baked goods to guitar lessons. To donate and for more details contact Melanie MacDonald at **902-495-7903** or email to melanie_mac@hotmail.com.

Lawn Caretaker: Expressions of interest are being sought for a person to provide lawn mowing services for St. Peter's parish properties. The work covers the period from May through September. The properties to be maintained are the two parish cemeteries and the lawns around the parish glebe, the church and the hall. For further information contact **Charlie MacDonald**-Finance Committee chair (902-631-6533), or **John Gillies/ Hughie John Beaton**-Cemetery Committee members. (902-787-3441/ 902-787-2322)

Dates to Remember:

April 13 : Passion (Palm) Sunday
April 14 : Mass of Chrism at St. Ninian Cathedral at 3.00pm
April 17 : Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 pm followed by Adoration
April 18 : Good Friday: 10:00am Stations of the Cross outside (weather permitting)
3:00pm Good Friday Services
April 19 : Easter Vigil 8:00pm
April 20 : Easter Sunday 10:00am
April 27 : Divine Mercy Sunday at 2:00pm (Novenas will be available on back table on Palm Sunday in time to start Novena on Good Friday.)

Donations for flowers: If you wish to make donations to defray the costs for Easter flowers, you may put the money in an envelope (marked flowers and your regular envelope number) in the weekend collections.

The Food Bank uses a lot of food/grocery bags. If you have extra bags you would like to donate, please leave them at the back door of Food Bank and someone will pick them up daily. Thank you.

From the Pastor's Desk

"But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." (Luke. 15: 32). ***"I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; I fled Him, down the arches of the years; I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways, Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears, I hid from Him, and under running laughter"***. These are the opening lines of the Poem 'Hound of Heaven' by Francis Thompson, the subject of which is the pursuit of the human soul by God's love. The Jesuit author J.F.X. O'Connor made the following remark on this poem. ***"The name is strange. It startles one at first. It is so bold, so new, so fearless. It does not attract, rather the reverse. But when one reads the poem, this strangeness disappears. The meaning is understood. As the hound follows the hare, never ceasing in its running, ever drawing nearer in the chase, with unhurrying and unperturbed pace, so does God follow the fleeing soul by His Divine grace. And though in sin or in human love, away from God it seeks to hide itself, Divine grace follows after, unwearingly follows ever after, till the soul feels its pressure forcing it to turn to Him alone in that never ending pursuit."*** (Ref: ***A study of Francis Thompson's Hound of Heaven***). The poem presents the themes of spiritual longing, redemption and the conflict between material and spiritual worlds. It centres on God's love for a sinner who is trying to run away from God. This Divine Love is both relentless and compassionate; that love is powerful and patient. Despite the sinner's fear and resistance, the divine love is unyielding, but not forceful or violent, as it patiently waits for the sinner to return. God's Love is finally revealed as an outstretched hand ready to embrace the sinner, highlighting the divine love as not punitive but rather redemptive, offering the sinner the ultimate solace and fulfillment that he/she had been fleeing from. Divine love is characterized as an inescapable, yet tender force that seeks to reclaim the soul.

On this fourth Sunday of Lent which is also called as ***Laetare Sunday*** or Rejoice Sunday, we are called to experience this Love of God who waits patiently for the return of the sinner and welcomes back with Love the sinner who returns. Anticipating the Easter Joy, we are invited to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God. The Gospel for this Sunday celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his "homecoming" where he discovers his father's forgiving and overflowing love. It is also the story of the joy of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honor, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community, and his God. It is really the Parable of the Forgiving Father, the story of Divine love and mercy for us sinners, a love that is almost beyond belief. The common theme of joy resulting from reconciliation with God and other human beings is announced to all of us-an assembly of sinful people, now ready to receive God's forgiveness and His Personal Presence as a loving and forgiving God in the Holy Eucharist as well as in the Sacrament of Confession. Let this season of Lent be a time to return to our Heavenly loving and forgiving Father with repentant hearts and experience the Joy that He is waiting to share with us. Let this Lent be a time to "pass over," from a world of sin to a world of reconciliation-a time to transform hatred into love, conflict into peace, death into eternal life. So today we are faced with this question: ***"Will you accept the Father's forgiveness and partake of the banquet, or will you remain outside?"***

"Remember your church in your Will"