



**St. Peter's Parish
Port Hood
Feb.15, 2026**

Contact Information

Fr. Sunny Sebastian, Administrator
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

Charlie MacDonald
902-631-6533

CWL President

Debbie MacDonald
902-623-2578

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. Feb. 21, 4:00pm	Leon Livingstone	Marcella Watts
Sun. Feb. 22, 10:00am	Coline MacEachern	Marlene MacMillan
Weekday Masses		
Mon. Feb. 16 6:00pm Special Intention		
Tues. Feb. 17 6:00pm (R) Deceased members of CWL by CWL		
Wed. Feb. 18 7:00pm Ash Wednesday		
Thu. Feb. 19 6:00pm Protection of unborn & culture of life by Joe/Carmen		
Fri. Feb. 20 6:30pm (R) Fr. Vincent van Zutphen by Annie Beaton		

Ash Wednesday-February 18: The Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 pm followed by Holy Mass in the church. If you are unable to attend and wish to get ashes, a family member or friend can take a small container to church and take some home. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the **Weekday Mass during Lent** will be in the church if there are more people to attend. **Stations of the Cross** will be at 6:30pm on Fridays, followed by Holy Mass in the Church.

KOC: Regular monthly meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 7:30 pm** in the Church Hall with **Rosary at 7:00 pm**.

CWL: A gentle reminder to all current CWL members and those who are thinking about joining. The 2026 CWL Dues are currently being collected (\$34.50) until March 8th. They can be placed in a plain envelope in the weekly parish collection, or you may contact President, Debbie MacDonald for pickup. Also, if Members could email their civic address, phone/cell number to Debbie, she will update all information on the National Register. debtherookie@gmail.com.

Meeting: The CWL monthly meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 1st** following the **Sunday Mass**. Tea, coffee and muffins will be served. All members, particularly new members are invited to attend. This meeting is to welcome and extend support to new members and to make decisions on several new upcoming initiatives. *Deb MacDonald*

Washing of Feet on Holy Thursday: We are looking for **12 volunteers** to be part of the Holy Thursday service of washing of the feet this year. Those willing to be **one of the twelve**, may call Linda Beaton @ 902-787-3040 or write down their names and contact details on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Lent 2026: As the season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**, we shall make plans for the Lent. Let us make this season spiritually more fruitful by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation before or during Lent; by daily attendance of the Holy Mass; by Holy Hours; Stations of the Cross; limiting the use of social media; fasting and abstinence and other acts of penance; alms giving and other charities; fulfilling our obligations and responsibilities more faithfully. Let us prepare in advance to be reborn as new creations and thus experience the Joy of the Easter Gracefully. **Calendars for Lent with daily Mass Readings and Reflections for the use of adults** have been attached to the bulletin and **for the children are available at the back of the church.**

Consecration to Jesus through Mary: Just a reminder that 33-day preparation for the Consecration begins on February 20, 2026. The Annual Consecration will take place on **March 25, 2026**, on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Preparation books for the 33 days are available; please contact **Roberta MacEwan** at 902-787-2103 or robertamacewan@gmail.com or **Mary Buchanan** at 902-787-2723.

FISH FRIDAYS at the Judique Community Centre beginning Friday, February 20th 4:00-6:00pm. For adults \$25.00 and for children under 12-\$12.00

Holy Communion for the sick. The parish is making plans for those who are sick and unable to come to church, to bring the Holy Communion to their homes during Lent. Those who would like, may call Linda Beaton @ 902-787-3040.

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) at **902-631-6533** or John Gillies/Hughie John Beaton Cemetery Committee members. (**902-787-3441/ 902-787-2322**)

From the pastor's Desk

"If you choose, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your choice". (Sir.15:15) **The Chariot Allegory or Phaedrus** written by Plato is a dialogue between Socrates and Phaedrus, primarily focusing on the nature of the human soul. Plato (through Socrates) describes the soul as a winged chariot driven by a charioteer and pulled by two horses. The charioteer represents reason, the rational part of the soul that seeks wisdom and truth. The right horse is noble, obedient, and aligned with virtue, symbolizing the soul's higher impulses and moral instincts. The left horse is unruly, dark, and driven by lust, pride, and base appetites, representing the soul's lower desires and impulses (such as sexual or selfish urges) that resist control and discipline. Plato uses this metaphor to illustrate inner conflict of a person: the charioteer must control the wild horse while cooperating with the noble horse to ascend toward truth and beauty. If the charioteer fails, the soul is dragged downward, dominated by base desires, and unable to achieve higher understanding or virtue. The allegory emphasizes that reason must guide the soul restraining impulses and harmonizing the conflicting forces within. In other words, to live a good life, we should choose and lean on our ability to think and understand instead of just going with what we feel like doing. The first reading (Sirach. 15:15-20) and the Gospel passage (Mathew 5;17-37) speak of our free will to make choices-good or evil and urges us to take the right choice by obeying the commandments given by God.

As we are about to begin the season of Lent, the readings for this Sunday invite us to pause and prepare our hearts for transformation. Sirach 15:15-20 offers us a profound reminder: **"If you choose, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice."** God, in His great love, has granted us the freedom to choose our path. Before each of us lie, life and death, fire and water, and it is within our grasp to select that which leads to life. The passage calls us to personal responsibility and to recognize that the choices we make not only shape our journey but reveal our deepest desires. In the Gospel passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenges His disciples to live a life of justice and righteousness which should exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, and as the new lawgiver, he sets forth His own position with regard to the Law given through Moses, by providing new interpretation and meaning for the old laws. Jesus begins by affirming, **"Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil."** With these words, He urges us not merely to follow rules, but to understand the heart behind them-the spirit that breathes life into the law. The commandments are not burdens meant to restrain us, but pathways to love, reconciliation, and wholeness. Jesus expands upon the traditional interpretations of the law, inviting us to a deeper conversion. He teaches that anger is equal to murder, impure look is adultery and unlawful divorce is double violation of natural law and covenant with God and false oaths are sacrilegious. Jesus calls us to understand God's commandments in this way and allow them to enter our thoughts, words, and actions. It is not enough to avoid wrongdoing; we are invited to cultivate love, reconciliation, and integrity in all that we do. Anger, lust, and dishonesty are not just actions but attitudes that separate us from God and one another.

As Lent approaches, we are challenged to move beyond outward observance. True preparation begins within, as we seek to heal relationships, forgive, and make amends. Jesus invites us to reconcile, to forgive, and to act with integrity. He urges us to let go of grudges, to approach others with humility, and to cultivate peace in our hearts and homes. Let us examine our life and see what choices we make. What do we truly seek or choose-comfort, self-sufficiency, fleeting pleasures, or the fullness of life that comes from following Christ? Jesus challenges us to make the right choice. This season is a sacred invitation to examine our hearts, to seek forgiveness where we have fallen short, and to renew our commitment to the path of life. Lent is about continually choosing to deepen our love for God and neighbor and not just giving something up. To make the Lent more meaningful and fruitful, let us open ourselves to God's transforming love by reaching out to someone with whom we have a strained relationship-offering or seeking forgiveness, by examining our words and actions, by striving to be gentle and truthful, by dedicating more time to prayer, and asking the Holy Spirit to guide our heart on this journey. Let us pray for the courage to choose life every day, trusting in God's mercy and grace to guide us. May we enter Lent not as a burden but as a sacred journey, allowing Christ to fulfil the Law in us, and through our choices, reflect the transforming love of God to the world. May the coming weeks be a time of transformation-a season when old wounds are healed, relationships are restored, and our hearts are opened to the joy and challenge of living as Christ calls us.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN THE CHAPEL

"Remember your church in your Will"