



**St. Peter's Parish  
Port Hood  
January 25, 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](http://www.saintpetersporthood.com)

Email

[stpetersporthood@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersporthood@gmail.com)

Pastoral Council Chairperson

Leon Livingstone  
(902) 787-3041

Finance Council Chairperson

Charlie 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](mailto: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. Jan. 31, 4:00pm	Gerard MacPhee	Janice Campbell
Sun. Feb. 1, 10:00am	Isabel Calder	Sandy MacKinnon
Weekday Masses		
Mon. Jan. 26 6:00pm	Special Intention by Fr. Eugene	
Tues. Jan. 27 6:00pm	Joanne Schmidt (for Healing) by Annie Beaton	
Wed. Jan. 28 6.00pm	(R) Edward Beaton by Pauline Furlong	
Thu. Jan. 29 6:00pm	Special Intention by Fr. Sunny	
Fri. Jan. 30 6:00pm	(R) Phyllis MacDonald by Joanie Burke	

**Session on MAiD:** Knights of Columbus, St. Peter's Council Port Hood is hosting a session on the Catholic response towards **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) on Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, in the Parish Hall (263 Main Street, Port Hood)**. The session will be led by **Professor William Sweet**, Director, Centre for Philosophy, Theology, and Cultural Traditions, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish. There will be a presentation and time for questions & answers. Tea and Snacks will be served.

**Parish Pastoral & Finance Councils:** A joint meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council will be held on **Tuesday, February 3** at 7.00pm in Glebe.

**Last Year's Palms:** If you wish, you can bring last year's palms back to the church, where they will be burnt and used for this year's ashes. **Ash Wednesday is on February 18.** You may simply put them on one of the tables in the porch. Thank you-*Liturgy Committee*

**Fr. Eugene Morris:** Let us pray for Fr. Eugene Morris as he celebrates his **91<sup>st</sup> Birthday on Sunday, February 1, 2026**, and wish him God's blessings.

**The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord:** On Monday, **February 2**, 40 days after Christmas, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple, also known as the Purification of our Lady, and Candlemass. Candles are traditionally blessed on this feast day. As the Feast falls on Monday this year, Candles will be blessed **at the beginning of the Holy Mass on Saturday, January 31, and Sunday, February 1.** Those who wish, can bring candles to be blessed.

**Blessing of Throats:** Tuesday, February 3, on the Feast day of St. Blaise, throats will be blessed after the 6.00pm Mass.

**CWL:** On **Saturday, January 31, during the 4:00 pm Mass** we will have the installation of our new CWL President, Debbie MacDonald. I will be stepping down after 9 years as your President and I invite all CWL members to attend Mass and show your support and pray for guidance and wisdom in her new role. After Mass there will be tea/coffee and light lunch (Chili, biscuits & sweets) at the Parish Hall to thank Debbie for accepting her new position. *Ann MacDonald*

**CWL:** A gentle reminder to all current CWL members, **Annual Dues of \$34.50** are now being collected. We sincerely hope you will once again renew your Membership for 2026. As well, we **warmly encourage all Ladies 16 and older** to consider joining us, on our journey to grow in Faith, promotion of Social Justice and our Love of God. Dues can be placed in a separate envelope and placed in the weekend collection. For your convenience, Debbie Mac Donald will also have a table set up at the back of the church, prior to and immediately following the weekend mass on **Saturday, January 31 and Sunday, February 1.** *Debbie MacDonald*

**First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion & Confirmation:** Invite the parents of those children who would like to make their **First Reconciliation** (in the spring before Easter) and receive the **First Holy Communion** (May) and the **Confirmation** (November) this year, may contact the coordinator for Religious Education, **Sheila MacIsaac at 902-631-2512.**

**Parish Registration:** You may be **regularly attending St. Peter's Church Port Hood, but you are not registered with the parish** or if you are **New to this Parish**, it is advisable that you register yourself and your family as the official members of the Parish. By registering you will get official communications from the parish and tax receipts for your contributions. To register please use a form that you will find at the back of the church and send it to the parish office.

### **From the Pastor's Desk**

**"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."** (Mathew. 4: 19) One brisk morning along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, a gentle tide touched the weathered boats drawn up on the sand. Two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Andrew, cast their net with the same rhythm they had learned from their father-never expecting their ordinary day to turn extraordinary. As they worked, a stranger approached, his presence calm but compelling. "Follow me," he called out, "and I will make you fishers of people." Without hesitation, the brothers dropped their nets, a symbol of leaving behind the familiar for something greater. Just a few steps further, James and John were mending their own nets with their father Zebedee. The same invitation was extended to them, and they, too, left their boats and family to follow. The stranger-Jesus who called them-set in motion a life-changing journey, not only for these men but for the world. The immediacy of their response marked by trust and courage, leaving their nets at once to follow Him, speaks volumes about the transformative power of Jesus' call which would later transform the whole world.

The Gospel passage from Matthew 4:12-23 presents one of the most profound moments in the Gospel: the calling of the first disciples of Jesus Christ. This passage draws attention to the courage and faith required to leave behind the familiar. Fishing was not just a job for Peter, Andrew, James, and John-it was their livelihood and identity. Yet, at Jesus' word, they abandoned their boats, nets, and even their family (as seen with James and John leaving their father Zebedee). Such a radical step raises questions for all who encounter it: what are we willing to leave behind in order to follow Christ? In a world where security and routine are highly valued, the disciples' willingness to embrace uncertainty for the sake of a higher calling is both challenging and inspiring.

This passage also speaks of the nature and purpose of Jesus' call or vocation. Jesus does not call the learned or the powerful, but ordinary individuals engaged in their daily work. In doing so, he affirms that everyone, regardless of background or status, is invited into the transformative work of God's kingdom. The promise to make them "fishers of people" signifies a shift from self-directed goals to a life oriented toward service and the gathering of others into the embrace of God's love. This reorientation moves us from individual pursuits toward a greater communal mission. Moreover, this passage highlights the cost and joy of discipleship. The disciples' response is immediate and total, reminding us that following Christ often requires sacrifice. Yet, this sacrifice is not for its own sake; it is for the sake of something far greater-a life of meaning, hope, and participation in the healing and restoration of the world. Jesus's subsequent ministry, teaching, and healing throughout Galilee demonstrates the tangible impact of saying "yes" to God's call. It is an invitation to be agents of light in places of darkness, offering hope where despair has taken root.

The call to "fish for people" reframes the disciples' previous work. Fishing requires patience, skill, and perseverance-qualities that would serve them well as they set out to share Jesus' message. This comparison illustrates that discipleship is not passive; it is active engagement in the world, drawing others into the transformative love of God. In answering Jesus, the disciples did not just change their occupation; they accepted a mission of service, compassion, and outreach. This passage invites us to consider our own readiness to respond to God's call. Are we attentive enough to hear His call in the midst of our daily routines? Do we possess the faith to step forward, even when the way is unclear? The narrative challenges us to trust that, like the disciples, we are equipped for the journey ahead-not by our own strength, but by the One who calls us. It is a testament to the power of divine invitation and human response. The disciples' willingness to leave everything behind models the kind of faith that transforms lives and communities. Their lives remind us that each call is unique, yet the invitation is the same: to follow, to serve, and to participate in the ongoing work of bringing hope and love to the world. Today let us acknowledge our call to be Christ's disciples. Every one of us is called by God, both individually and as a Church member, to be His disciple. The call is both a privilege and responsibility. The mission of preaching, teaching, and healing which Jesus began in Galilee is the responsibility of the Church and of each of us as a Christian. Our response to the call begins with our reception of Baptism and Confirmation. That response is meant to be strengthened through the years by the Eucharist and Reconciliation and to be made manifest in Matrimony or Holy Orders. We are healed and consoled in the Anointing which prepares us for eternal life. Let us respond to Christ's call, so that we can gain spiritual strength through our personal and family prayers, our Sacramental life and our faithful study of the Bible and the Church's teachings.

## **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN THE CHAPEL**

**"Remember your church in your Will"**