

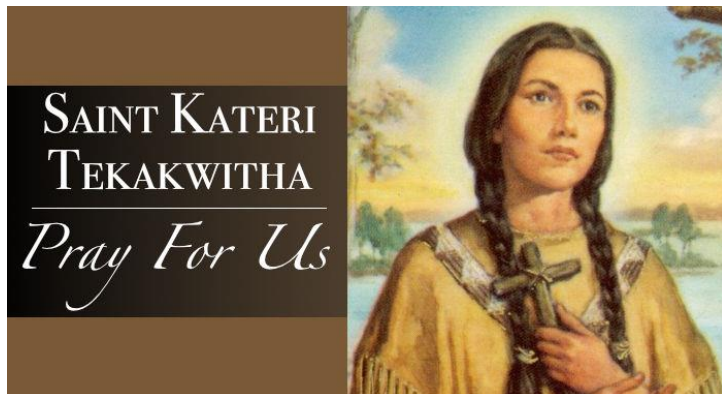
# St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish

Office: 1500 Hanwell Road, Fredericton NB E3C 1N3 Phone (506) 444-6021

Father Bill Brennan, Parish Priest Website: [stkateri.ca](http://stkateri.ca) Email: [office@stkateri.ca](mailto:office@stkateri.ca)

Mass Schedule: St. Ann's Sunday @ 9:30 am/Holy Family Saturday @ 4:30 pm and Sunday @ 11:00 am

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter



## Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

This coming Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. During Lent she was a featured Saint in one of our Bulletins. Ahead of her feast day we offer insights on the journey of a little girl who listened to her mother's stories about Jesus and combined with the spirituality of her community lead her to grow into a young woman who chose to be baptized and devote her life to Jesus.

*The story begins...* Born in 1656, she most likely lived in a bark-covered longhouse within the Turtle Clan community. As a toddler she would play near her mother, Kahenta, and the other women while they planted corn, squash, and beans.

At a young age her mother told her stories about Jesus but since this was all done in secret it was likely told to Tekakwitha in whispers. At the age of four, a smallpox epidemic killed her family, and she was then for a time cared for by her mother's Christian friend, Anastasia.

*Tranquility and solitude...* As she grew up her eyesight worsened from the effects of smallpox and bright sunshine hurt her eyes. Despite poor eyesight she was a child of nature. Tekakwitha and the other children in her community gathered to listen to elders' stories. She heard stories of the sun, thunder, and stars and of the spirit of plants and animals. Stories of the world being made by the Creator filled her with joy. She also would think of the stories her mother and Anastasia had told her about Jesus and treasured them in her heart.

*A child of the woods...* Because the woods provided shelter from the bright sunlight, Tekakwitha would often wander and gather blueberries, strawberries, and woodland flowers. In the fall, she would return to the woods this time gathering hickory nuts and walnuts. Tekakwitha noticed how squirrels gathered food for the winter and how the evergreen boughs danced in the wind. She was surrounded by gifts of creation.

During her walks in the forest, she often spoke with the Creator God. She would make crosses out of two sticks and place them in many places in the forest. Returning the next day, she would kneel at each cross and pray, continuing to feel God's calling and giving back to God her love and attention.

*Baptism day...* Easter morning of 1676 was Tekakwitha's baptismal day which took place in a rustic chapel. In honor of Easter the chapel was adorned with beaver and elk pelts, colorfully embroidered bear and buffalo rugs, blossoming branches and flowers. Her baptismal waters were drawn from a spring nearby which still flows more than 300 years later. She was given a new name, Catherine, after Saint Catherine of Siena. The Indigenous pronunciation being Kateri.

In honour of St. Kateri, let us all take time on April 17<sup>th</sup> to pray together in mind and spirit:

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, our elder sister in the Lord, discreetly, you watch over us; may your love for Jesus and Mary inspire in us words and deeds of friendship, of forgiveness and of reconciliation.

Pray that God will give us the courage, the boldness, and the strength to build a world of justice and peace among ourselves and among all nations.

Help us, as you did, to encounter the Creator God present in the very depths of nature, and so become witnesses of life,  
Amen.



Dear Supporter,

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, my thoughts are drawn to the Holy Land, where it all began. During my last trip there in January 2020, I visited Gaza's only Catholic community: the Parish of the Holy Family. Right

next to the church was this little house, where the Missionaries of Charity look after people with mental and physical disabilities.

As I entered the room where around 20 of them were waiting for us, I sensed that I was being watched. Turning my head, I noticed a young wheelchair-bound girl look at me.

I approached her with a smile and, without rushing her, placed my fingers in the palm of her hand. She closed her hand over my fingers with an unbidden smile. I had the impression that she was saying, "Thank you for taking the time to come and meet me." Those few minutes I spent with her touched me deeply. Her greatest strength was her powerful disarming, inspiring gaze. She had no filters, no agenda, no demands; just an openness to receiving my friendship and giving me hers.

**God is well and truly present in Gaza!** Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." This is an invitation to follow Him to the Cross; to stand up for the excluded, the marginalized, the victims of hatred and violence. This is exactly what the Holy Family community and the Missionaries of Charity are still doing today.

As we celebrate the Easter Season, let us draw inspiration from them as they live out Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, keeping hope alive all around them. Their presence is an undeniable sign that God's love is still present in Gaza through their faith and their commitment.

And here in Canada, God is present in your faith and your commitment, which are inspiring, too. Your solidarity with our most vulnerable sisters and brothers around the world confirms Pope Francis's assertion that "In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured."

Happy Easter to you and your family!

Carl Héту, Executive Director, Development and Peace

**To donate:** Give to fight against hunger and poverty, for access to education and health care: To make a donation to Development and Peace call 1-888-234-8533 or donate online: <https://devp.org/en/make-a-donation/>

**Interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister?** Over the next several weeks, I will be preparing a new schedule for Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister at Holy Family Church, please contact July Kelly (459-2781) by **April 14<sup>th</sup>** so you can be added to the new schedule.

A reminder to all our Eucharistic Ministers that masks are still required when distributing communion. A box of masks has been placed on the small table just off the altar. Thank you for serving in this vital Ministry that supports our Liturgy.

**Knights of Columbus  
Community Breakfast**  
**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM to 1:00PM at the  
Knicol Hall, 170 Regent Street. Adults \$10.00,  
Children \$ 5.00, Families \$ 30.00.**

#### Summary of your Support for April 6 & 7

<b>Regular/Loose</b>	<b>\$ 4,240.80</b>
<b>Easter</b>	<b>145.00</b>
<b>PAD (wkly. average)</b>	<b>1,827.69</b>
<b>St. Patrick's Cemetery</b>	<b>40.00</b>
<b>Holy Land/Good Friday</b>	<b>65.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,317.69</b>

Thank you for your continued and generous support.

#### OPTIONS FOR OFFERTORY DONATIONS:

1. Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD). Forms are at the entrance of the churches. Return to parish office.
2. Mail your envelopes St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, 1500 Hanwell Road, Fredericton NB E3C 1N3.
3. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) You may send your donations by Electronic Funds Transfer to [office@stkateri.ca](mailto:office@stkateri.ca)

**New Envelope User #195 please call the office  
506-444-6021 and leave your name and  
address.**

**General Parish Meeting** to present our Financial 'Picture' at St. Kateri Parish: **All are invited to a General Parish Meeting at Holy Family Church Site at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.** At this time the Parish Finance Council will give a report on the Revenues and Expenses for 2023 and for the First Months of 2024. They will also present a detailed picture of all assets and accounts/amounts that belong to the parish.

**Divine Mercy:** Divine Mercy is held every Friday at 3pm at St. Ann's Church. Please call Nelson Solomon at 363-4493 for further information. All are welcome.

**Please consider supporting *L'Arche Fredericton's* annual online spring fundraiser, involving the Masters Golf Tournament. Quick and easy to enter - no golf knowledge required - minimum 1st prize \$1000. Full details at [larchefredericton.org/masters](http://larchefredericton.org/masters) (entry deadline April 10th). *L'Arche* celebrates the gifts of persons with intellectual disabilities and encourages growth and inclusion through a variety of activities and programs.**

**AASEA RETREATS –Silent Directed Retreats** are being offered with directors from the Saint John Local AASEA at the Villa Madonna Retreat House in June. A 5 – Day Silent Directed Retreat takes place from Mon. June 10, 2024, to Fri. June 14, 2024, with a registration cost of \$130.00 and \$570.00 due upon arrival. A 4– Day option is also available from Tue. June 11, 2024 to Fri. June 14, 2024 with a registration cost of \$130.00 and \$400.00 due upon arrival. Pre-retreat installment payment may be arranged. Please contact Bob McDermott [mcdermot@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:mcdermot@nbnet.nb.ca) These retreats are for those seeking an atmosphere of silence. They include daily meetings with a director and daily Eucharist.

### **READINGS for April 14<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19  
2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5  
Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

**Responsorial Psalm: Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.**

### **Mass Intentions at St. Ann's**

Apr 14<sup>th</sup> Pauline Francis  
Apr 21<sup>st</sup> Joan Polchies  
Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Arthur Solomon

### **READERS AT ST. ANN'S**

Apr 14<sup>th</sup> John Monkhouse  
Apr 21<sup>st</sup> Stacey Chessie-Shepherd  
Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Elaine Geldart

### **Mass Intentions at Holy Family**

Apr 13<sup>th</sup> Timmy Toner  
Apr 14<sup>th</sup> Stanley Ramroop  
Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Dec members of the Legere Family  
Apr 21<sup>st</sup> Ann Hawkins  
Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Keith Jones

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY**

Apr 13<sup>th</sup> Margie Snell / Judy Kelly  
Apr 14<sup>th</sup> Bettyanne McMackin / Sharon Watts  
Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Lynn Laagland / Colleen Hamilton  
Apr 21<sup>st</sup> Sadie Cameron / Patrick Burgoon  
Apr 27<sup>th</sup> Joan Sowers / Harold DeCoursey  
Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Blanchard / Ewart Kenney

### **READERS AT HOLY FAMILY**

Apr 13<sup>th</sup> Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley  
Apr 14<sup>th</sup> Anul & Abuka Ezeokafor / Laura McCarron  
Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Paula Ryan/Margie Snell/Beth Wright  
Apr 21<sup>st</sup> Noreen Bonnell/Jane Buckley/Maurice Harquail  
Apr 27<sup>th</sup> Mona LeBlanc / William Cormier  
Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Patrick Burgoon/Carl Duivenvoorden  
Flora Ederaro

**Our Sacred Stories**  
**Encountering Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread**  
**(Fr. John Jennings)**

One of the three sacraments of initiation in our Catholic Christian church is Eucharist. In our regular celebration of this sacrament, we are acknowledging we are members of a community of faith. We entered this community through the three sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Eucharist is food for our faith journey, sustaining us along the way and strengthening us with companions as we journey on our mission to share the Good News.

Can we live our faith in isolation? Are we able to be believers without a community? There are many who assert that they have a spirituality, but it is so personal that they live it with no community. It is their own and they do not need others to be part of their spiritual life. Christian faith, Christian spirituality is more than personal. It is very much a community experience. The Gospels express this in so many ways, none more significantly than in the accounts of the Risen Jesus appearing to the disciples. In many of these instances, the appearances occur as the disciples are gathered together. Not only are they together, they are together around a table, sharing a meal. Christian spirituality is strongly human.

Did you ever think about how many of our conversations take place over a cup of coffee or at a meal? It seems that the connections we make with others very often lead us to sitting down and sharing food and drink. Developing relationships and sharing a meal together seem so natural to us. Thus, it should come as little surprise that if we searched the Scriptures for the encounters his disciples had with Jesus after his resurrection, they frequently involved a meal. What we hear in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 24:35-48) is one of these encounters.

Luke's account begins with a reference to an encounter that two disciples had with the Risen Jesus as they were walking along the road to Emmaus. What is striking is they noted that: *Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.* These two disciples only recognized Jesus when they broke bread together.

There is something quite significant about this *breaking of the bread.* It is Eucharistic. The earliest Christians began to gather regularly as communities of believers. When they gathered they did so in a Eucharistic fashion, sharing stories of Jesus, recalling how the Jewish Old Testament Scriptures were fulfilled in him, sharing in the meal of the Eucharist and then noting that they were to be witnesses of all this to all nations.

It is in the gathering of the faith community, around the table of the Eucharist that we most commonly express the faith and Spirit that draws us together. It is here that we experience the presence of the Risen Jesus active in our midst. It is from this assembly of Christians that we go forth to serve as witnesses to the continuing love of God expressed in our world.

What Luke describes of the appearance of the Risen Jesus to the disciples is what we live each time we gather for the Eucharist and go out into the world in care and concern. The encounter with Jesus in the *breaking of the bread* is at the foundation of who are – disciples of Jesus, gifted with his Spirit, bringing his healing love and care to our world.

**The Mission of the Catechist Workshop** for **all** Religious Education Coordinators and Catechists is being held for the Fredericton Region on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:30 pm at St. Theresa's Church Parish Centre, 1 William Street, Fredericton North. The event will be lead by Patricia Lee, Director of Catechesis, and Jim Anderson, Director of Missionary Discipleship Formation. A light lunch will be provided. The workshop will provide a space to reflect upon the call of Jesus in the mission of the Catechist as we prepare for developments in catechetical formation for our young people in the Diocese of Saint John.

**Steubenville Atlantic 2024 Youth Conference** – Youth aged 14-18 are invited to participate in this event held at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, NS from July 5-7. If you are between 18 and 21, you can attend as a peer leader. Before registering please talk to your parish priest or RE coordinator about registration. Conference information can be found on the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth website under Steubenville Atlantic. Transportation to NS is included in the registration fee of \$300.00. Pick up locations will be from Fredericton, Saint John, and Moncton. For more information please contact Patricia Lee at [catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto:catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org) or 506-627-6465.