

# 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

## Seeing the Good That You Do – Helping Newcomers

It's understandable if you are a bit confused about 'who's who' among the different newcomers who have been helped by St. Kateri Parish in recent years.

First there were the two Al Yamani families, originally from Syria, who came to Canada with our assistance in the 2016-2021 period.

Next were 3 young Eritrean men who had escaped a country where, once you are drafted into the Army it is for an extended time, at little or no pay. Not much hope of forming a family. Along with tens of thousand of others, all 3 had fled to Israel.

The first one, **Yohanes Abraha**, arrived in March 2020, just as COVID was closing everything down. Less than a year later Yohanes moved to Saint John, to be with friends there.

Then, as COVID eased, the other two Eritreans, Dawit Maherai and Bereket Welidysus, arrived in late 2021. The rest of this story is about them.

Dawit is expected to be back in late March, at which time he will seek work to begin an apprenticeship in carpentry.

The third Eritrean, **Bereket Welidysus**, arrived in December 2021. He has worked at Claudine's Eatery. He shared a 2-bedroom apartment with Dawit.

Soon after his arrival, Bereket hired an immigration consultant to bring his wife and daughter, who had been living in Ethiopia, to Canada. He met with success when his wife, **Tsegehana**, and daughter, **Delina**, arrived in April 2023. Roommate Dawit very kindly vacated the 2-bedroom apartment for the family.

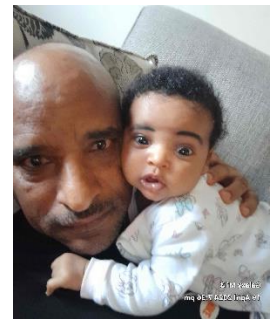
Daughter, Delina, attends George Street Middle School. Wife, Tsegehana, found employment as a housekeeper at a motel near their apartment. Then came the happy news that Tsegehana was going to have a baby. In March 2024, baby girl, Hiyab, arrived. Photos: Bereket, Tsegehana and Delina, each holding baby Hiyab.



**Dawit Maherai** came first. He worked in food prep after his arrival, combined with food delivery, once he was able to buy a car. In early 2023 he had to leave the restaurant work because of extreme pain from a foot that needed surgery after an auto accident 10 years ago in Israel. His food prep job

demanding that he stand through most of his shift. Last July-October he attended classes at the Cultural Centre that guided him to an apprenticeship.

In Fall of 2023 Dawit finally received a Travel Document - the equivalent of a Canadian passport. He left in late November 2023 to meet up in Ethiopia with his father, mother and other family whom he had not seen for well over 10 years. While in Ethiopia Dawit married Yorsalem Ruisom. Here are Dawit and Yorsalem on their wedding day.



**THIS WEEKEND – ANNUAL 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. There will also be a summary report on Pastoral activities for 2023. **Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.**



**Development and Peace Caritas Canada, Share Year Round Monthly Donations.**

Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world. Monthly donations reduce our administrative costs and strengthen our ability to respond quickly to emergency situations. During the Lenten Season and until Pentecost Sunday, May 19, new monthly donors will have their donations matched dollar for dollar through a fund supported by Religious Communities. You can enroll in the monthly donation program on our website, [devp.org/shareyearround](http://devp.org/shareyearround). Being a Share Year-Round donor simply means acting for social justice and human dignity all year long. Thank you for your support!

**Cookie Sunday Weekend: It’s Cookie Sunday Weekend - April 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.** In addition to cookies, we continue to collect the following items for the Foodbank: can meat, can corn and large cans of soup. Donations can be dropped off at Holy Family Church at the Saturday Mass or Sunday Mass at both St. Ann’s Church and Holy Family Church. Thank you for your continued support of our Outreach Ministry!

Summary of your Support for April 13/14

<b>Regular/Loose</b>	<b>\$ 3,326.55</b>
<b>PAD (wkly. average)</b>	<b>1,827.69</b>
<b>St. Patrick’s Cemetery</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,169.24</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.**

**Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Family Church:** A new schedule is available in the entrance of the church for the period May 18<sup>th</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Eucharistic Ministers are required to wear a mask when serving communion. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Kelly. Thank you for serving in this vital Ministry that supports our Liturgy.

**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.

**FIRST COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DURING THE 11AM MASS AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH. WE ARE PLEASED TO BE CELEBRATING THIS SPECIAL SACRAMENT WITH OUR PARISHIONERS PRESENT AGAIN. PLEASE KEEP THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS. (FIRST COMMUNION THAT IT WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED VIA OUR WEBSITE AT [STKATERI.CA](http://STKATERI.CA))**

**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.

**Rosary:** Every Thursday morning at 10:30am at Holy Family Church. During the Easter Season we will be reciting the Glorious Mysteries. Everyone is welcome!

**Holocaust Memorial Observance, Sunday May 5th @ 3 pm. Capital Community Church, 71 Downing Street, Fredericton.**

On behalf of the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue and the Capital Community Church, it is our pleasure to extend an invitation to you to attend the annual Holocaust Remembrance. This year's keynote speaker is Japan's Ambassador to Canada, Kanji Yamanouchi. Ambassador Yamanouchi will be speaking about the heroic actions of Japanese diplomat Chiunue Siguhara which saved thousands of displaced Jews by issuing transit visas to Japan during the Holocaust. Following the service, a reception will be held in the social hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **READINGS for April 28<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 9-26-31  
2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24  
Gospel: John 15:1-8

**Responsorial Psalm: Lord, from you comes my praise in the great congregation.**

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

Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Arthur Solomon  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Keith Jones / Fr. Monte Peters  
May 12<sup>th</sup> Myrtle Goodine

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

Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Elaine Geldart  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Carolann Doherty  
May 12<sup>th</sup> Betty Colligan

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

Apr 27<sup>th</sup> John Mason  
Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Keith Jones  
May 4<sup>th</sup> Mike McIntosh / Fr. Monte Peters  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Laura Gaul  
May 11<sup>th</sup> Lynn Justason  
May 12<sup>th</sup> Melada Saad and Family  
May 18<sup>th</sup> Trevor Messer  
May 19<sup>th</sup> Nafla and Vicky Anderson

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

Apr 27<sup>th</sup> Joan Sowers / Harold DeCoursey  
Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Blanchard / Ewart Kenney  
May 4<sup>th</sup> Leslie Carr / Judy Kelly  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Joanne Linton / Verna McCloskey  
May 11<sup>th</sup> Margie Snell / Lynn Laagland  
May 12<sup>th</sup> Bettyanne McMackin / Sharon Watts

### **READERS AT HOLY FAMILY**

Apr 27<sup>th</sup> Mona LeBlanc / William Cormier  
Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Patrick Burgoon/Carl Duivenvoorden  
Flora Ederaro  
May 11<sup>th</sup> Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley  
May 12<sup>th</sup> James McGroarty/Clare & Genevieve Obi

**Our Sacred Stories**  
**Spiritual Life: Our Relationship with God**  
**(Fr. John Jennings)**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.  
He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.  
Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it  
bear more fruit. (John 15:1-2)*

Outside a local church are a number of rose bushes. Each year they grow to a height of perhaps a meter and a half by Fall. Every spring a very diligent rose bush grower visits them with clippers and cuts them back to about 50 cms, and the cycle begins again. This process is called pruning.

Why would someone do this? Why do we prune these bushes? The diligent rose bush grower embarks on this process every spring in order to nurture and assist the development of strong, healthy, productive rose bushes. To leave the old growth on the bush saps the energy and the health of the rose bush. It is not just rose bushes that are assisted by such a process. Grape vines are similarly aided and nurtured by such pruning.

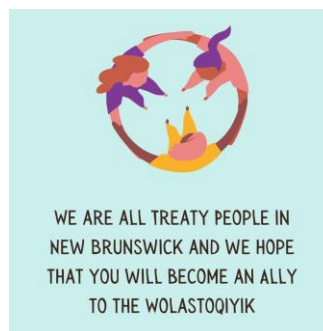
The Gospel writer John as we hear this Sunday (John 15:1-8) uses this image of pruning the vines to speak about the relationship of the disciple with Jesus. In John's telling of the Good News Jesus proclaims to his friends: *I am the vine, you are the branches*. Like all grape vines, the branches call for pruning and the image of this process is how John leads us to reflecting on our spiritual life.

In some ways we all live two lives – biological life which involves all of our anatomy and how it operates, and spiritual life. This latter is more interior but it is significant as it energizes and gives fuller meaning and sense to our biological existence.

It is this spiritual life that involves our relationship with God. But it is not just about our relationship with God. It is also about our connections with one another – with our family and with our friends. And it is about our relationships within community. Our spiritual life is not about US. It is about our relationships with the Other and the others, with God and humanity and all creation.

It is this spiritual life that is the center of the image of pruning described in today's Gospel. If we were to simply let the rose bushes go on without pruning every spring, they will still grow, but not in so healthy a fashion. We can have life (biological) and yet be lifeless. The desire and effort of developing spiritual life with constant care (pruning) brings a sense of meaning and energy to the person. It opens the path to new life and gives vision and hope. It connects us with the Other and with the lives of others.

**Q/What is the condition of my  
spiritual life? What's it look like?**



**Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB) Ally Toolkit.** As noted on the Truth and Reconciliation website: "for Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples to coexist peacefully, a relationship must be built on understanding and respect.

That understanding can be a first step to better relations on a range of issues including environmental, spiritual, societal, and justice matters." The link below provided by the WNNB is a great resource on what it means to become an ally and how we can best accomplish this as individuals and within our Parish. Woliwon- Thank you.

<https://wnnb.wolastoqey.ca/toolkit/>

**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 [catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto:catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org) or 506-627-6465. The Parish will assist with financing.