

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish

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

Father Bill Brennan, Parish Priest Website: stkateri.ca Email: office@stkateri.ca

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

April 7th, 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Easter



Fr. Bill's Easter Message:

On several occasions this past week people have said to me, "I can't believe that it is Easter again already."

I certainly feel the same way. However, on deeper reflection, the truth is that it has been Easter over and over again every day of the past year thousands and

millions and billions of times.

Whenever there has been new creation born into our world and universe, this is God's creative love and life at work; be it a star, plant, fish, mosquito, lizard, moose or a human being. This is Easter Grace!

Whenever a kind, loving, or forgiving gesture has taken place, this too is Easter Grace!

Wherever a person or group speaks out against injustice and oppression and takes action to make 'right relationship', this is Easter Grace and Reconcili-action!

Wherever we pray and hope for God to break into circumstances in our lives in which we have no control to make much change or our efforts seem too small and inadequate, this is Easter Hope at work in us!

Wherever loved ones are making the passage through death, and we are with them from near or far away places through our prayer, support, care, and a faith that assures us and them that God's promise of Resurrection and Eternal Life for them is real and to be trusted, this is Easter Presence!

Whenever groups with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, ways of expressing their faith, ideologies, and ways of being family and community can sit together with a deep commitment to listen in a way that brings peace through dropping our protective armor of prejudice and the dismantling of military arms, this indeed is an Easter Miracle!

As we celebrate Easter Sunday and the 50 days of the Easter Season this year, may we notice each day the reality of God's presence through the Risen Christ among us through reflecting on the 'litany' above and anything you might add to this 'litany' as you experience and observe God's abundant Easter presence always and forever!

Happy Easter!

Shelter & Foodbank Donations. A huge **THANK YOU** to parishioners from St. Ann's Church, Holy Family Church, and Residents from Shannex for your generous donations throughout the Lenten Season and last weekend's Cookie Sunday! Your kind donations during Lent surpassed all expectations. Along with the cookies, the donations of soup, canned vegetables and so much more will go to prepare or assist in the creation of over 2,300 meals for those in need and provide over 1,750 smiles to the shelters and Food Bank. Your generosity is absolutely outstanding, and you are truly answering the teachings of Jesus. Thank you!

Knights of Columbus Community Breakfast

**Sunday, April 14th 10:00AM to 1:00PM at the
Knicol Hall, 170 Regent Street. Adults \$10.00,
Children \$ 5.00, Families \$ 30.00.**

Indigenous Knowledge - Solar

Eclipse: The following link is a video on Indigenous Knowledge on solar eclipses. This link is also provided on our Parish website, stkateri.ca.

<https://stkateri.ca/eclipse.html> An Easter Reflection



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 14th** 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.

Summary of your Support for March 30/31

Regular/Loose	\$ 5,315.30
Solidarity Sunday (D&P)	\$ 155.00
PAD (wkly. average)	1,827.69
Easter	2,435.00
St. Patrick's Cemetery	10.00
Holy Land/Good Friday	140.00
Poor & Needy	30.00
TOTAL	\$ 9,912.99

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

New Envelope User #195 and User #200
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 28th.** 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.

READINGS for April 7th

1st Reading: Acts 4:32-35
2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1-6
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Apr 7th Charles W. Solomon
Apr 14th Pauline Francis
Apr 21st Cindy Narvey

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Apr 7th Lawrence Cameron
Apr 14th John Monkhouse
Apr 21st Liz Solomon
Apr 28th Elaine Geldart

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Apr 6th Peter & John Awit and Family
Apr 7th Lorna MacNeil
Apr 13th Timmy Toner
Apr 14th Stanley Ramroop

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Apr 6th Harold DeCoursey / Leslie Carr
Apr 7th Joanne Linton / Verna McCloskey
Apr 13th Margie Snell / Judy Kelly
Apr 14th Bettyanne McMackin / Sharon Watts

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Apr 6th Anna Mae Snider / Joan Sowers
Apr 7th Norma Downing/Linda Hubbard/Debbie Landau
Apr 13th Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley
Apr 14th Anul & Abuka Ezeokafor / Laura McCarron
Apr 20th Paula Ryan/Margie Snell/Beth Wright
Apr 21st Noreen Bonnell/Jane Buckley/Maurice Harquail

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 (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 –Contact: Bob McDermott email mcdermot@nbnet.nb.ca These retreats are for those seeking an atmosphere of silence. They include daily meetings with a director and daily Eucharist.

A big “thank you” is extended to all those from St. Ann's Church and Holy Family Church who helped in organizing the Holy Week and Easter Services in our Parish. Your help and support ensured things ran smoothly and were much appreciated. Thank you to those who arranged communications, livestreaming, our power point presentations, Readers, and Eucharistic Ministers and for making our church look so beautiful for the Easter Season. Also, thanks to those individuals who saw a need and jumped in to help at the time.

A special “woliwon” (thank you) to Wolastoqey Fire Keepers Ray Francis and Mike Solomon from Bilick First Nation (Kingsclear) for sharing their knowledge and spirituality of the Sacred Fire which was used to light our new Paschal Candle at the Easter Vigil. Thank you to Ryan Tapley for his beautiful singing of the Exsultet and Psalms and the beautiful gift of music from the choir at the Easter Vigil. Your support and kindness are appreciated.

Lastly, a special thank you to Fr. Bill for his continued support and spiritual guidance with thought provoking messages during the Lenten Season and into the Easter Season. Warmest Easter Blessings to you all!

Our Sacred Stories
Easter and Our Journey of Faith Begins
(Fr. John Jennings)

Journeys are exciting and filled with adventure. Right now, I have a couple of friends who are on a journey and keeping us informed of their trek. They are on a camino in Portugal from Porto to Santiago de Compostella. This is a pilgrimage along coast of Portugal to the Cathedral in Santiago, Spain, a trek of about 270 kms. In all probability it will be a hike of c.10 days. Their first three days have been rainy and windy. Despite the challenges, they are in good spirits and happy about their days. Meeting others on the trail and encountering new experiences and places have been fulfilling. Faith is often described as a life journey. It has its challenges, but likewise it creates new vision and life for us.

Baptism is one of the three sacraments of initiation in our faith community. The other two are Confirmation and Eucharist. With Baptism, the door is opened into a community of faith and we begin our journey of faith life. In the journey, we join with other fellow Christians in a relationship with Jesus Christ. We call this relationship – discipleship. Along with our fellow believers we spend our lives nurturing this relationship, learning what it means for us and growing in our faith. In the end, this is a life-giving adventure which brings meaning to our lives.

In the Gospel of John there is a wonderful story that helps us to see the importance of the faith community in our personal relationship with God through Jesus (Jn.20:19-31). John describes the disciples of Jesus after the crucifixion. They are cowering in a locked room, fearing that they were going to be next on the cross. Gathered together, they experience the presence of the risen Jesus with them in that room. Jesus greets them with “Peace be with you.”

This experience of the presence of the risen Jesus that they had together broke through the isolation and fear that the disciples faced in that locked room. It opened the eyes of faith to see that the Spirit of Jesus continued among them and would bring them peace and strength for their journey. In addition, it opened them to realize that they had a mission, the same mission Jesus had shared with them – the reign of God was building in our world. They now had this mission to share as Good News for all peoples.

One of the disciples, Thomas was not present at the time of their experience. Later when they told him what had taken place, he refused to believe. His journey of faith had not begun. A week later, when the disciples again gathered in that room Thomas was with them. Again, they experienced the presence of the risen Jesus. Thomas’ eyes of faith were opened as he gathered with the other disciples. He immediately believed and joined in the mission they were given to share.

This story is one of Christian faith. Discipleship is a community call. In community, the disciples discovered faith their Risen Lord. Separated from the community, Thomas was unable to believe. It was only when back with the circle of the disciples that his faith came to recognize this presence of the risen Jesus.

Faith in Jesus, Christian faith while it is personal, is not a private affair. We need a community of faith to assist and support us. We need others to join us in our journey. We need fellow believers with whom we can share our faith. Our mission is always to share the Good News. None of us can do this alone. Baptism is the first step into this community of faith. But it is only the first of many steps that we need to walk with others in this journey. We are baptized to be with others, for sake of all humanity.

The Mission of the Catechist Workshop for all Religious Education Coordinators and Catechists is being held for the Fredericton Region on Wednesday, April 24th 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 or 506-627-6465.

Since Easter Monday is our Peace Service at Saint Dunstan’s, we will change to April 8 at 7 pm.

Mercy Sunday will be celebrated at St. Magdalene Parish on April 7 at 3 pm. Father Suresh will be present.