

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
August 18th, 2024 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

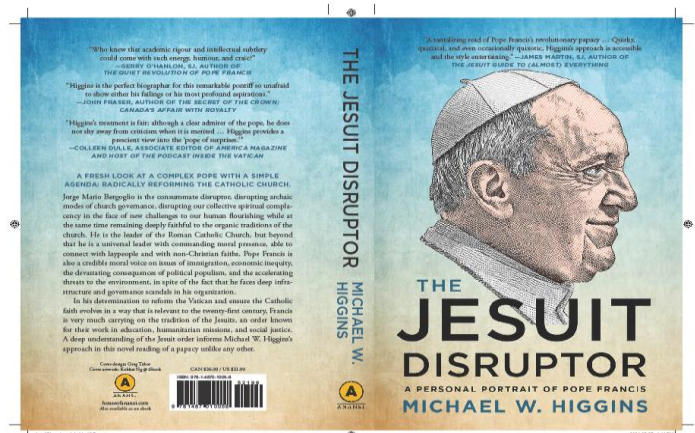
Gift of Light

"I was walking out a great loneliness in my life one night. As I moved along the wooded path, I saw a bright light in the distance. I quietly drew closer and saw that it was only one tiny firefly. It was just a small fragile frame that was giving forth such brightness! The lone firefly then joined the dance of a hundred fireflies as I walked in the late dusk. All across the vast meadow, far into the woods, their little lights danced and brought me a sense of bondedness. They were like a silent symphony, a gift to my lonely spirit. Like Christmas tree lights without the strings to mar their freedom, the fireflies held vigil with me. They danced for the earth, giving light to its darkness, and I thought they danced for me, a pure and simple gift of beauty in the night.

In our darkest hour, it is often the smallest spark that brings us the gift of light, be it ever so frail a flicker. It is the moment of simple grace in a softly spoken word, a letter from a friend, an unexpected phone call, a warm touch from a loved one, or even, a glance at the earth in its moment of hope. God has blessed our spirits with his own fireflies. They are small and fragile, but they fly in our dark woods and their little, beaming lights seem brilliant in our need."

This article was written by Joyce Rupp O.S.M. Well known for her work as a retreat and conference speaker and writer. She is a member of the Servite (Servants of Mary) community. She has written a number of books including: The Cup of Life, Your Sorrow is my Sorrow and Dear Heart Come Home.

Dr. Michael W. Higgins is coming to Fredericton to launch his new Book, **The Jesuit Disruptor: A Personal Portrait of Pope Francis**, published by **House of Anansi**, and give a presentation on **The Synod on Synodality**. On **Saturday, September 14th** he will be at **Holy Family Church, 1500 Hanwell Road, Fredericton** from **10:30 am till 1:00 pm** This gathering will begin with a presentation on the Synod and Synodality (and Q and A) followed by the book launch and a social time with food and refreshments and book signing. Westminster Bookmark will be present with books available. **Dr. Michael Higgins** is well known to us as an **author, English and Religious Studies Professor, former President and Vice Chancellor of St. Thomas University, journalist, documentarian, columnist with many prominent newspapers, commentator and analyst with CBC and CTV, and biographer of Henri J. M. Nouwen and Thomas Merton**. He will be attending the next Synod gathering in Rome in October, as he did the first synod gathering as a credentialed journalist on behalf of Paulist Press. **No registration or fee to attend! However, for the sake of numbers for food preparation and ordering books (Westminster Bookmark) please let us know if you are attending @506-444-6021 or email: office@stkateri.ca. All are welcome!**



An Afternoon for High School Youth in our Diocese (ages 14-18) - Join Us for Fun, Faith, Fellowship and Food! "Take Up His Calling"

Date: **August 18, 2024** Time: **1:00 PM to 6:30 PM** Location: **Villa Madonna Retreat House**

Come and enjoy an afternoon filled with activities, faith, fellowship, and food. We are honored to have **Bishop Christian** celebrating Mass with us.

Don't miss this special event just for high school youth! We look forward to seeing you there. To help with food planning, email catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org or text 506-627-6465 that you are attending.

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**Visioning Youth Ministry in our Parishes – a day of prayer, discernment, and discussion about Youth Ministry – Tuesday, August 27, 9:30-4:30 at the Villa Madonna.**

Do you feel a burden of spiritual concern for high school aged youth in your parish? Do you feel a nudge from the Holy Spirit to help address the needs for evangelizing young people? Patricia Lee and Jim Anderson will be facilitating a day of reflection and discernment for anyone interested in discussing the needs and initiatives for the evangelization of young people in our parishes. This is for current and new people drawn to building youth groups in your parish. The gathering will be held at the Villa Madonna Retreat House in Rothesay, on Tuesday, August 27, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Please register by email [catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto:catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org) or by calling 506-627-6465.

**READINGS for August 18<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6  
2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20  
Gospel: John 6:51-58

**Responsorial Psalm: Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**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!*

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

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

Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Joan Polchies  
Aug 25<sup>th</sup> James Andrew McAllister  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Arthur Solomon

**READERS AT ST. ANN'S**

Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Betty Colligan  
Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Mike Solomon  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence Cameron

**Mass Intentions at Holy Family**

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Bernie McCann, Fr. Monte Peters, and Tyler Messer  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Lorna MacNeil / Larry & Arlene Gallant  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Frank Quigg / Pauline Asterino  
Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Souverin LeBouthillier / Gladys Johnstone  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup> Gordon Frazer  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Richard Murphy

**READERS AT HOLY FAMILY**

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Joan Sowers / Judy Kelly  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Ray & Anita Allain  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Paula Ryan / Mona LeBlanc  
Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Maurice Harquail/Flora Ederaro  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup> Joan Sowers / Mona LeBlanc  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Maurice Harquail / Marijke Hurkens

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY**

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Patrick Burgoon / Ewart Kenney  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Wanda Cairns / Margie Snell  
Aug 25<sup>th</sup> JoAnne Linton / Verna McCloskey  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup> Lynn Laagland / Judy Kelly  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Bettyanne McMackin / Sharon Watts

**Note from Fr. Bill about Mass Intentions:** Due to an increase in requests for Mass Intentions for the same day and Mass time to celebrate special anniversaries and birth dates of deceased loved ones, you will notice at times that we have more than one Mass Intention for the same Mass. Since Church Law allows for this to happen we will continue this practice into the future. We are grateful to be able to provide this blessing as we live and celebrate all of the gifts of Christ's Resurrection that we share in through the Eucharist.



## “Christians in Gaza: Choosing Life Amidst Chaos.”

In the compound of Gaza’s only Catholic church, Caritas Jerusalem staff work hard to provide psychosocial support and a semblance of normalcy to traumatized children, many of whom have been orphaned by the ongoing war.

For the past six months, George Antone, Caritas Jerusalem Administrative Manager in Gaza, along with his wife Nisreen and their three children, has called the compound of the only Catholic church in Gaza home. Their journey is one of resilience amongst the backdrop of fear and desperation.

As the conflict escalated in October 2023, Antone and his family made the difficult decision to leave their home in the Rimal district of Gaza City and seek refuge in the Holy Family Catholic Church.

With each passing day, more families sought shelter within the church compound, swelling the population to around 500. Despite the risks, this new community remained steadfast in their commitment to stay, determined to preserve the Christian presence in Gaza.

The reality of war soon struck close to home as Al-Rimal district, once a bustling area, became a target for bombings. George recounts the destruction: *“Our apartment has been destroyed. Our home was the most warm and beautiful place.... When we heard... our home had been destroyed, my wife and my older daughter broke down.”*

Within the loss, George and his family found strength in their faith.... *“We are in Jesus’ house, we are in his hands,”* he says, *“We choose life, despite being surrounded by death.”*

Life within the church compound has been a delicate balance of survival and solidarity. Daily routines, including Masses, prayers, and caring for the injured, provided an appearance of order amid the insecurity. However, the lack of essential supplies like food, water, and medicine posed a constant challenge.

As the conflict raged into the new year, the situation grew increasingly dire. George reflects on the hardships his family and the community faced: *“The struggle to secure our daily bread is exhausting.... Life is shattered here.”*

Despite the hardships, George remains focused on comforting and stabilizing his children. *“We strive hard to provide our children with safety and protection,”* he says. *“All we have is to tell them that we love them above all else.”*

Throughout the ordeal, the Antone’s cling to hope, drawing strength from their faith and the support of their community. *“For the first time in our history, we are making the communion bread in Gaza with our own hands,”* George shares. *“We are determined to preserve the Christian presence in Palestine. This is our homeland.”*

As the conflict persists, George’s story serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Within the chaos of war, he and his family continue to choose life, standing as a beacon of hope amongst despair.”

Your donations help Caritas Jerusalem provide vital aid and support to displaced and bereaved families in Gaza and across the Holy Land. To donate, click the following link: <https://devp.org/en/make-a-donation/>

(Story provided by Development and Peace — Caritas Canada’s long-time partner, Caritas Jerusalem.)

### **Summary of your Support for August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Regular/Loose</b>          | <b>\$ 2,629.50</b> |
| <b>PAD (wkly. average)</b>    | <b>1,827.69</b>    |
| <b>School Supplies</b>        | <b>300.00</b>      |
| <b>St. Patrick’s Cemetery</b> | <b>55.00</b>       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>\$ 4,812.19</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)

**Our Sacred Stories**  
**REAL PRESENCE & PEOPLE of GOD**  
**(Fr. John Jennings)**

Every time we come together for Eucharist, we begin our gathering in the same way. First, we make the sign of the cross that represents the faith we share in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. That is what draws us together as one community. Then the priest/presider will say: *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be/is with you all.* In response the gathered community will say: *And with you/your spirit.* What are we saying?

What we are expressing is that in the community gathered at Eucharist we see the *Real Presence of Christ.* As Jesus tells his disciples: *Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among you* (Matt 18:20). The *Real Presence of Christ* is not only under the form of bread and wine. It is in the assembly around us as we celebrate together, walk together, share together and commit ourselves to sharing and sacrificing for each other. We are the *Real Presence of Christ* for our world

In many cultures, one of the signs of support for life is bread. To have bread means that we can sustain our lives. In the Old Testament Book of Exodus, as the Israelites trekked through the desert, they faced starvation. Their confidence flagged and their faith was threatened. Had God who promised liberation, in fact led them out into the desert to starve? Discovering the manna, bread-like feeding saved both their lives and their faith in their God. Their God was a life-giving and sustaining God.

Chapter 6 of John's Gospel is a very long discourse or sermon which begins with the wonder of Jesus feeding the crowd of followers around him with bread and fish. It was a miraculous event and the crowd who were fed were impressed by having been fed. They want more. They want another miraculous feeding. In chapter 6, Jesus calls for a faith that the fullness of life will come with the taking on of Jesus's life: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in them* (Jn. 6:56).

There is a common saying that might help us to grasp what John is expressing: *We are what we eat.* Very often we hear this in a very narrow and literal sense. What Jesus calls for in chapter 6 is much greater. The Table, the Eucharist, is a sharing that opens us as disciples to the very mind and spirit of Jesus. Coming to the Table means that we are open to a conversion of life and spirit. We are to become Jesus for one another. More than this, we are to leave the Table that we might bear Jesus to the world in which we live. Each Eucharistic experience is not so much a personal moment **for me and my faith**, it is more. It is a conversion to take what we have received and become the **Real Presence of Christ for our world.**

**Cookie Sunday & School Supplies:** Next Cookie Sunday Weekend is **August 24th & 25th.** In addition, we have been advised by local food banks that the need for school supplies this year are much greater than anticipated due to high inflation and living costs. We all are feeling the pinch from inflation levels and we most likely know someone who is struggling. So, we have decided to try and help with a collection of school supplies. Children today need anything that you may wish to donate. For example, backpacks, calculators, earbuds, pens, pencils, color pencils, crayons, erasers, notebooks, highlighters, and glue sticks. We will be **collecting school supplies until Labour Day weekend**, and for those who wish to donate funds towards school supplies, envelopes will be available in the lobby of the church. Please only donate what you can, and if you are struggling in any way, please remember that all prayers are heard.

**Holy Family: New Readers Welcome for 2024-25** - Interested in reading at the 4:30pm Saturday or 11am Sunday mass this coming year? If you are new to Holy Family or did not read this past year, please sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board in the entryway. If you were a regular reader this past year, you will be contacted by phone to ask whether you want to read this coming year.

