

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

December 14th, 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Advent Week 3 – **Pink Candle of Joy**. THE SHEPHERD'S CANDLE REMINDS US OF THE JOY OF THE SHEPHERDS IN HEARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS' BIRTH. "GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD, HIS STEADFAST LOVE LASTS FOREVER." –PSALM 136:1



Advent Song Week Three – 'Joy to the World': First published in 1719 by Isaac Watts an English Minister and hymnist. It first appeared as a poem in Watts' collection of poems entitled, 'The Psalms of David'. In this collection, each poem was based on a Psalm. This hymn's lyrics are an interpretation of Psalm 98 uniting humanity and earth, "Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous

things...Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music."

Watts wanted more than a connection to the Old Testament so he incorporated the work of Jesus as revealed in the New Testament. Interestingly this hymn calls out to both people and creation alike to rejoice in the birth of the infant Jesus.

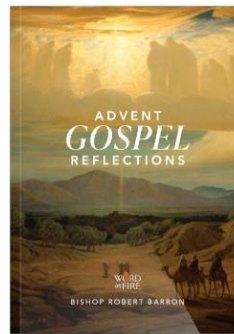
- Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King.
- Joy to the world, The Savior reigns...while fields, floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.
- Let every heart prepare him room. And heaven and nature sing.

The tune that accompanies this popular hymn is from the 1848 edition by Lowell Mason, a well-known composer and arranger of the time. Originally unassociated with Christmas this hymn has become one of the most published Christmas carols in North America. In this third week of Advent, as you set aside some quiet time, you may want to try entering into a 'Joy Practice' by reflecting on these questions:

- What is bringing me joy this week?
- What small, joyful moment can I intentionally create or notice?
- How does my spiritual practice foster joy for me?

"Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day." –Henri Nouwen

Advent Weekday Masses: During the Advent Season weekday Masses followed by one hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on the following date: December 18th at 7pm at Holy Family Church.



Journey Through Advent. The second session will be on **Monday, December 15th at 7pm at Holy Family Church.**

The final session will be on Monday, December 22nd. These sessions are being offered throughout Advent using the "Advent Gospel Reflections" journal by Bishop Robert Barron. This is a wonderful opportunity to slow

down, connect with God and one another and to open our hearts to the grace God is waiting to give us in this season of waiting. Everyone is welcome!

NEW DATE: Advent Healing Mass – An Advent Healing Mass and Sacrament of Anointing for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish will be held at St. Ann's Church, Bilijik First Nation (Kingsclear) on **Friday, December 19th at 2pm.** We hope you can join us - all are welcome!

African Mass of Thanksgiving. The African Catholic Community are joining us for a special Mass of Thanksgiving on **Sunday, December 21st at 11am at Holy Family Church** and taking part in various ministries. There will be a Parish Pot-Luck gathering after Mass @ 12noon in the Parish Hall. Please let Agnes know how if you wish to contribute to the potluck, via email wgns70@hotmail.com There will be many African dishes and other international dishes you might bring. All are welcome!

Summary of Support for December 7 & 8

Regular/Loose	\$5,527.90
PAD (wkly. average)	2,314.62
St. Patrick's Cemetery	25.00
Christ the King	20.00
Oromocto Food Bank	510.00
Collection for Life	610.00
Outreach	10.00
TOTAL	\$9,017.52

OPTIONS FOR OFFERTORY DONATIONS:

1. Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD). Forms are at the entrance of the churches. Return to parish office.
2. Mail: St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, 1500 Hanwell Road, Fredericton NB E3C 1N3.
3. Electronic Funds Transfer to office@stkateri.ca

YOUR 2026 DONATION OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Are now available to pick up at the entrance of the church. If there is not a box with your name, please feel free to take a 'NEW' box. Be sure to write your name and address on your envelopes as you offer them.

Parishioners using PAD (Pre-Authorized Debit) for your donations, there are packets of 'Special Collection Envelopes' available as well. Feel free to pick up a packet.

Thank you for your generous and continued support of our parish.

Thank you for helping to Turn Debt into Hope!

Thanks to your support of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada Fall Campaign 'Turn Debt Into Hope'.

Many impoverished countries in the Global South are struggling with conflict, humanitarian crises and climate change. Cancelling their unjust debts would free up scarce revenues, allowing them to better meet the needs of their citizens. Citizens like little Melati and her mother, Ade, in Ethiopia, who only aspire to live in dignity.

Each signature amplifies the message of debt justice to creditors and political leaders. You can still sign the petition online by clicking on the following link: **[sign the petition](#)**



Christmas Mass Schedule St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish

December 24th: 4pm and 6pm, Holy Family Church, Christmas Eve Masses. *(Masses will be livestreamed and will be the traditional Family Bell Mass with the children.)*

December 25th: 9:30am, St. Ann's Church

December 25th: 11am, Holy Family Church

January 1st, Mary, Holy Mother of God

Mass at 11am at Holy Family Church

Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas and New Year Masses at Holy Family:

December 24th at 4pm:

Joanne Linton / Harold DeCoursey / Leslie Carr
Sharon Watts / Margie Snell / Judy Kelly / Fr. Bill

December 24th at 6pm:

Dorothy Blanchard / Colleen Hamilton
Sadie Cameron / Fr. Bill

December 25th at 11am:

Patrick Burgoon / Bettyanne McMackin / Fr. Bill

New Year's Day at 11am:

Patrick Burgoon / Harold DeCoursey / Fr. Bill

Rosary - Rosary is prayed every Thursday morning at 10:30am at Holy Family. During Ordinary Time we will be reciting the Luminous Mysteries. All are welcome to attend.

Please check out extra reading materials for Advent in the lobby of the church.

READINGS for December 14th

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Dec 14th Randy Murphy
Dec 21st William Buckley
Sandy & Myrtle Goodine
Dec 25th Peter & Chris LaForest

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Dec 13th For the People
Dec 14th Olga Richards
Dec 20th For the People
Dec 21st Howard Richards
Dec 24th (4pm) Leona Murphy / Gary Stewart
Dec 24th (6pm) June Wilkins & Tyler Messer
Dec 25th Leah Devlin

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Dec 14th Elaine Geldart
Dec 21st Carolann Doherty

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

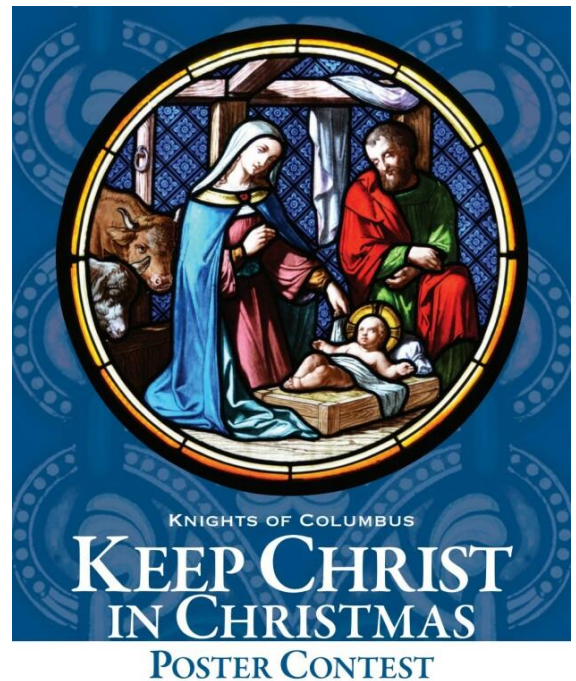
Dec 13th Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley
Dec 14th Jane Buckley / Doreen Cormier
Maurice Harquail / Chinasa Trinitta
Dec 20th William Cormier / Mona LeBlanc
Dec 21st Patrick Burgoon / Carl Duivenvoorden
Flora Ederaro / Mandy Gilmore

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Dec 13th Lynn Laagland / Judy Kelly
Dec 14th Sadie Cameron / Dorothy Blanchard
Dec 20th Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton
Dec 21st Annie Zdyb Rinne / Verna McSorley

Readers – Holy Family – Christmas 2025

Christmas Eve 4 pm	Christmas Eve Bell Mass for Kids	Debbie Landau, Mary Beth Gorey Roly McSorley
Christmas Eve 6 pm	Christmas Eve Bell Mass for All	Jane Buckley James McGroarty
Christmas Day 11 am	Christmas Day	Doreen Cormier Ebuka Ezeokafor Maureen Hawthorne One member of the Obi family
Thursday, Jan. 1	Mary, Mother of God	Patrick Burgoon Norma Downing Mandy Gilmore Anna Mae Snider



Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Drawing Contest 2025

Parishioners in Kindergarten through Grade 8 are invited to participate in the Keep Christ in Christmas Drawing Contest. All submissions should be on paper approximately 11" x 17". Paper will be available in the entrance of the Church. All posters should be the original work of a single person. The theme of the contest is: "Keep Christ in Christmas". Drawings will be judged in five categories: Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6 and Grades 7-8. Prizes will be awarded for each group at the local level and the first place winner from each group will be entered for competition at the Provincial level. Local level prizes: 1st Place: \$ 25.00, 2nd Place: \$ 20.00, 3rd Place: \$ 15.00. Provincial level prizes: 1st Place: \$ 75.00, 2nd Place: \$ 50.00, 3rd Place: \$ 25.00. All entries become the property of the New Brunswick Knights of Columbus. The following information must be printed on the back of each drawing: Name of Participant, Age of Participant, School Grade, Name(s) of Parent or Guardian, Telephone Number for Parent or Guardian and Name of Parish. Entries must be received by Thursday, December 25th, 2025. Drawings can be left in the box in the entrances of Holy Family Church or St. Ann's Church. For more information, parents can contact Vic Badeau at 506-440-2840.

Our Sacred Stories
Being a People of Hope and Joy
(Fr. John Jennings)

It was a noisy, active crowd of people who gathered. They were family, friends, neighbours, about 50 to 60 of all ages were in the entrance way to the church. In the confined space of the entry way the excitement was palpable as was the joy that permeated the gathering. In the center of this excitement were three of the smallest and youngest – Holt, Katelyn and Benjamin. This was the occasion of their baptism into the community of Christians.

The gathered family and friends were definitely in a celebrating mood and delighted to be present with each other. The three little ones were all related, cousins from three different families. Their sense of delight at being the center of such attention was not always as obvious. Nonetheless, the moment was certainly an expression of family joy for all.

We all need joy. And such joy deserves to be revealed and expressed. Even though Katelyn, Benjamin and Holt may not have realized it they were bringing a marvelous gift to these families and their friends. The opportunity to celebrate new life and the joy that accompanies it was lifting the spirits of all who were there.

What was happening on this occasion revealed the fundamental joy that rests in the human soul. It is a joy that comes from the adventure of life. These three newly born children were surrounded by the circle of love that every child and adult deserves. True, as we grow we discover that life is not always joyful and that there is pain in our world. Through such pain and those periods of darkness however, the opportunity to experience the love and joy in that room remind us of our fundamental beginning – the joy that comes from life.

The joy and the hope, the grief and the anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and the hope, the grief and the anguish of the followers of Christ as well.

These are the opening words of Vatican II's *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*. The words represent a description of who we are as Catholic Christians.

This joy and this hope are the characteristics that we called to bring into our world and share with all humanity.

They may all have been under 6 months of age, but together, Benjamin, Holt and Katelyn were generating the joy and the hope that rest in the heart of each of us.

This weekend, we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent. It is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for "Rejoice". It is a reminder of this fundamental joy that comes with this gift of life that God gives us. Despite the challenges that we face, life has a fundamental goodness, for God is good and life is God's gift.

In the midst of the deserts through which we sometimes must pass in life, the challenges we and our world face, there is a basic truth of our faith. That truth is that God recognizes the goodness of every human being and gifts us with a love that can never be lost.

This Sunday we hear the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah (Is.35:1-2a) present us with the image of the joy that comes with this gift of life and God's ever redeeming love:

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall **rejoice** and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and **rejoice** with joy and singing.*

Advent is always a season of anticipation, waiting for the coming of God in the person of Jesus the Christ and savior. This savior comes to be among us, to bring about the redemption of all humanity. His coming brings the healing and reconciliation that all humanity longs for and the joy that is God's dream for us all. Called to such joy we are to express it and share it in the midst of our world. This is the joy we see in the face of a child. It is the joy that filled the room with those three newly baptized children. May our Advent journey bring witness to the joy and the hope in which God holds us all.

Our Lady of Peace Parish's monthly "Touched by Cancer" Mass for those whose lives have been affected in any way by cancer will take place at St. Anthony's Church on Friday, December 19 at 7:00 pm.

Knights of Columbus Community Breakfast: Sunday, December 14th from 10:00AM to 1:00PM at the Knicol Hall, 170 Regent Street. Adults \$ 10.00, Children \$ 5.00 and Families \$ 30.00 everyone welcome.

Note to Parishioners: Please be mindful of those who are sensitive to scented products and refrain from wearing perfumes/colognes when attending Mass. Thank you!