

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 15th, 2024 – 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.
(READ PSALM 136:1)

Good News of Great Joy

(words from Sister Joan Chittister)

"The truth is that the Christmas Season is unabashed about the purpose of the Christian Life. "I am bringing you good news of **great joy**," the angel says to the shepherds on the hillside outside of Bethlehem about the birth of a baby in a stable there. Good news of great joy, we learn at the beginning of the liturgical year, is what searching for the baby is all about and it's how and where we're searching that matters.

"Happiness is a choice that requires effort at times," the

Greek playwright Aeschylus wrote. But that's wrong. Happiness does not require choice some of the time. Happiness requires choice all the time. It requires learning to choose between what is real and what is fleeting, what is worthless and what is worthwhile. It is the ability to choose between one good in life over another, that the liturgical year parades before our eyes over and over again, until we finally develop enough maturity of soul to tell what lasts from what pales, to discern what's worth having from what isn't, to know what happiness is rather than what satiety is.

Meaning we discover, has nothing to do with what is outside of us. It had to do with what we have to see within our souls. It has to do with the vision that is within us rather than the things we are heaping up around us as indicators of our success, our power, our station.

Joy is not about what happens to us, the Manger indicates. It is the meaning we give to what we do that determines the nature, the quality of the lives we live."

Jesus, help me to be a person of reflection who seeks to follow you with a joyful heart. (Word Made Flesh)

Christmas Mass Schedule, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish:

December 24th: 4pm & 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

Welcome Everyone: The African Community are joining us for a special Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, Dec 15th @ 11 am and taking part in various ministries. There will be a parish Pot-Luck gathering after Mass @ 12 noon in the Parish Hall. There will be many African dishes and any other dishes you might bring (Only if you wish). All are Welcome!

This coming year, beginning on December 24th, there will be a 'Jubilee Year' with the theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The Bishop has addressed the whole diocese with a letter outlining the background of 'Jubilee Years' in our Church history and introduces ways we can participate in the diocese throughout the year with such activities as pilgrimages to the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception, as well as to Diocesan Shrines and the Minor Basilica (St. Michael's, Miramichi), Works of Mercy, Missions, retreats, Spiritual Exercises and faith Formation Activities. You can pick up a copy at the entrance of our Churches..

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX (DMI) SURVEY RESULTS - St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish

150
Respondents
 150 people took the Survey which is a good sample size in respect to both our numbers and our average weekend Mass attendance (~500 over a weekend).

The survey results are in, and we are happy to provide the first update on the survey which the Parish undertook in December 2023. This survey was created by the Catholic Leadership Institute to assist Parishes with their pastoral visioning process by capturing

the experience of parishioners as to what nurtures, inspires and supports their faith journey but more importantly what their needs, hopes and desires are going forward.

Survey results were provided in the Fall to all Parishes in the Diocese. Our Parish Council met this past November to review the results and discuss next steps for the Parish. As Fall/Winter gets underway, the Parish Council hopes to further engage with you and receive your feedback by sharing details on the survey

RELIABLE DATA
 The Catholic Leadership Institute considers anything over 10% of average weekend Mass attendance as statistically significant.

results via the Parish Bulletin, the call-out program, Parish website and the Did You Know, leading up to a Town Hall meeting in the new year.

The next several updates will

highlight some of the Parish's strengths and opportunities, benchmarks and key leader perspectives. Thank you for your participation in the survey. Your continued input will be essential as we move toward the creation of a Parish Pastoral Plan.

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 the Season of Care for Creation we will be reciting the Joyful Mysteries. Everyone is welcome!

Reminder: We continue to collect items for the **Foodbank for their Christmas Hampers until the weekend of December 7th- 8th**. Items needed for the hampers include: gravy, canned vegetables, canned cranberry, stuffing, pie mixes, pancake mix and syrup. Or if you prefer you may make a monetary donation to the Foodbank for the purchase of turkeys. This year the Foodbank needs to purchase 500 turkeys. Special envelopes are available in the lobby of the church.

Your kindness and generosity are outstanding! You are truly answering the teachings of Jesus. Thank you!

Summary of your Support for Dec 7th & 8th

Regular/Loose	\$ 5,864.35
PAD (wkly. average)	1,986.92
St. Patrick's Cemetery	25.00
Christ the King	130.00
Oromocto Food Bank	1,535.00
Indigenous Reconciliation Fund	1,000.00
Missals/Little Books	16.00
TOTAL	\$10,557.27

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**

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 20th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

READINGS for December 15th

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 2:25-28, 34-36

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Dec 15th Randy Murphy

Dec 22nd Shane Gallagher

Dec 29th Jason MacLeod

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Dec 15th John Monkhouse

Dec 22nd Stacey Chessie

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Dec 14th Raymond Goodine and Brothers
Norman and David

Dec 15th Gerald Hoogendyk

Dec 21st Tyler Messer / Leona Murphy /
June Wilkins

Dec 22nd Jean Dufour & Annette Belliveau

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Dec 14th Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley

Dec 15th James McGroarty, Clare & Genevieve Obi

Dec 21st William Cormier / Mona LeBlanc

Dec 22nd Chinyese Alozie / Norma Downing
Debbie Landau

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Dec 14th Wanda Cairns / Margie Snell

Dec 15th Sharon Watts / Bettyanne McMackin

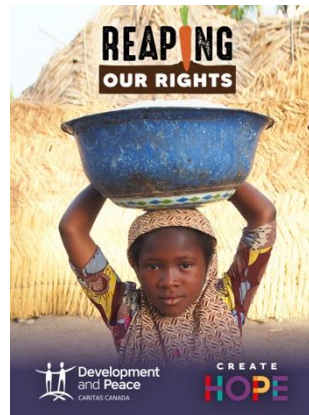
Dec 21st Lynn Laagland / Judy Kelly

Dec 22nd Ewart Kenney / Patrick Burgoon

In preparation for the commemoration of the birth of Christ, we are called to make His path straight, level every mountain and fill all valleys in our hearts. The Fredericton Region will therefore, hold an Advent/Christmas Regional Reconciliation Service and Confessions at St. Francis of Assisi, Lincoln at 3.00 pm on Sunday, December 15 2024. There will be many priests available for Confessions. Everyone is welcome!

Readers – Holy Family – Christmas 2024

Dec. 24 4pm	Christmas Eve Bell Mass for Kids	Clare Obi, Debbie Landau Margie Snell
Dec. 24 6pm	Christmas Eve	Jane Buckley Carl Duivenvoorden
Dec. 25 11am	Christmas Day	Flora Ederaro Paula Ryan
Jan. 1 11am	Mary, Mother of God	Mary Beth Gorey Roly McSorley



Thank you for participating in our **Reaping Our Rights Campaign!** Thousands of Canadians signed the action sheet for the **Create Hope Campaign** in solidarity with the peasant farmers who feed the world and care for the Earth.

Undaunted, peasant farmers organize and advocate for their rights. It was their courageous mobilization that led to the adoption of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)*. Let us be thankful for the abundance of food we are privileged to eat provided to 70-80% of the world by peasant farmers and rural communities in the Global South.

We continue to collect signatures online across the country until **April 17, 2025**. After that, a delegation from Development and Peace — Caritas Canada will take the signatures to Ottawa to ensure that the Canadian government heeds our call for **mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation**.

Thank you for your continued commitment and mobilization! ❤️

- ✓ To **sign up** and support the campaign, visit devp.org/act.
- ✓ To **become a member** and support the mission, visit devp.org/joinus.

Our Sacred Stories
Incarnation: God Is Among Us – How Can We Tell?
(Fr. John Jennings)

The Feast of Christmas is around the corner. Central to this celebration and to our whole Christian faith is that God lives among us. Are there ways that we can express this basis of our faith? Sometimes we use the word “mystery” to describe such wonders of our faith. It is important that we do not confuse this term as something beyond our understanding. Instead, it is a word that allows us to accept that we are referring to a truth that is so great and full of meaning that we can never fully define or exhaust it. It will ever have a meaning for us that is inexhaustible.

The First Letter of John captures some of this inexhaustible “mystery” of our faith: *My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God* (1 Jn. 4:7). If we were to understand what we are celebrating with this Feast of Christmas, then perhaps there is no better starting point than this brief statement from John’s letter. With it, we glimpse the “mystery” as it touches our lives. Surely, this is Good News.

Our English word, Gospel comes from the Anglo-Saxon, *god-spell* or glad tidings. These glad tidings or good news or gospel are the story of God’s presence acting among us. What a wonder! This is good news that is so important, so wonderful that from the earliest times Christians told and retold the story, again and again. At some point in the first several generations it was decided that this oral story of the message and mission of Jesus should be written down. This writing down occurred in numerous Christian communities and was shared around their world, as the glad tidings, the gospel.

With the Feast of the Incarnation, we celebrate the glad tidings of God’s coming among us, to all humanity. It is the beginning of the Paschal Mystery and truly gospel, good news. How do we know and experience God among us? How do we discover that God has a love that brings the divine to live among, to live with the human?

In the reading from Luke’s Gospel (Luke 3:10-18) we meet another John - the Baptist. John is often seen as the last of the Old Testament prophets and at the same time, the first of the apostles of Jesus. As prophet, he calls on people to change, to prepare for the advent of God into our lives. As apostle, John calls for us to recognize and acknowledge that God is now among us.

Listening to this prophet and apostle, how can we grow in our own awareness of this wonder of our faith? Perhaps it is in a very active way.

Hearing John, repeatedly people ask him the question *what should we do?* John’s responses are varied, but they all call for an attitude of compassion, respect, justice and peace. Paul, writing to the Philippian community of Christians (Phil.4:4-7) reveals the same message: live with gentleness to all, that God’s peace may be with you.

As we continue to move closer to the Feast of the Incarnation both John and Paul help us to find a response to our question. How can we tell that God is among us? It is by recognizing and acknowledging God’s presence in those we encounter – acknowledging that God is indeed among us and acting towards others in ways that reflect this presence.

The Old Testament prophet Zephaniah presents us with the ultimate result of such a vision of God’s active presence when we are told:

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,...The Lord, your God is in your midst, God will rejoice over you with gladness, You will be renewed in God’s love. (Zeph. 3:14-18)

Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Drawing Contest 2024 – Parishioners in Kindergarten through Grade 8 are invited to participate in the Keep Christ in Christmas Drawing Contest. All submissions must be on paper no larger than 11” x 17”. Drawings must be drawn free hand. 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 Sunday, December 29th, 2024. 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.