

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 7th, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Advent Week 2 – **Purple Candle of Peace**. THE ANGEL'S CANDLE REMINDS US OF THE PEACE JESUS BRINGS US. *"Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—in peace because they trust in you."* (Isaiah 26:3-4)

Advent Song Week Two – 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear': Written as a poem titled 'The Angels' Song' in 1849 by Edmund Sears, a Unitarian Pastor and published around the time of the Mexican-American War, an era marked by strife where many focused on concerns of the day rather than their spiritual growth.



Feeling there needed to be an emphasis on peace, Sears used the words from the Song of the Angels, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men" in the hopes of shifting the focus from war to that of peace. The music for this poem was written in 1850 by an American composer, Richard Storris Willis. This

peaceful song is connected to the scriptures in Luke 2:8-14, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors." It was Sears' desire that people would view this poem as a 'call to action' to restore peace in their own lives and communities and for a world which was in great need of peace and sadly, still is.

This Advent, let us ask ourselves where can I find peace in my life? Is there anyone I need to forgive? What am I grateful for in my life and why does it bring me peace? Can you "...hush the noise and hear the angels sing?"

"Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing."

Bishop Dollard Medal of Merit Award

On behalf of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish we extend heartfelt congratulations to Liz and Nelson Solomon of Bilijk First Nation as one of the recipients of the 2025 Bishop Dollard Medal of Merit Award. This award was created to honor lay people for their long-standing and faith-inspired service to their Parish in the Diocese of Saint John and is named after the first Bishop of Saint John, William Dollard.

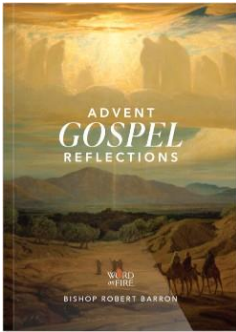
Liz and Nelson have fostered a strong parish devotion, a continued commitment to volunteer their time, their faith, their joyful witness and charity. Hearts filled with love and compassion and their life commitment to each other in faith is to be celebrated and honored. It is truly a gift to have Liz and Nelson as part of our Parish as a witness of faith in putting the Gospel into concrete actions.

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 dates: December 4th, 11th and 18th at 7pm at Holy Family Church.

Advent Healing Mass – An Advent Healing Mass and Sacrament of Anointing for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish will be held at St. Ann's Church, Bilijk First Nation (Kingsclear) on **Friday, December 12th at 2pm**. This is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe now known as National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and has special significance for Indigenous People. We hope you can join us - all are welcome!

REGIONAL ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 AT 3 PM AT ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH. THIS IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF THE PARISHES OF FREDERICTON REGION TO CELEBRATE THIS SACRAMENT IN A COMMUNAL SETTING WITH PRIESTS OF THE REGION AVAILABLE TO WELCOME YOU FOR CONFESSION.



Journey Through Advent. The second session will be on **Monday, December 8th at 7pm at Holy Family Church.** 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!

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!

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 at last weekend's Cookie Sunday!

This is our **last weekend for collecting for the Foodbank Christmas Hampers.** Your donations to date are much appreciated but there is still time to donate. Please only give what you can. Donation envelopes are still available in the lobby of the Church.

Your gifts are a blessing and your generosity is making a much-needed impact on those who need it most!

Summary of Support for November 29 & 30

Regular/Loose	\$ 5,697.10
PAD (wkly. average)	2,314.62
St. Patrick's Cemetery	25.00
Christ the King	20.00
Oromocto Food Bank	430.00
Outreach	20.00
World Mission Sunday	150.00
IRF	150.00
TOTAL	\$8,806.72

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

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.



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**

Are you passionate about walking with young people in their journey of faith? Do you feel called to help build vibrant parish youth groups and support diocesan youth events? We invite you to join us for an **online introduction to youth ministry on Tuesday, December 9, from 6:00–7:30 PM**. This session is designed to help you discern whether youth ministry might be your calling and to explore how you can be part of a growing movement to empower youth across our diocese. The session will be led by: **James Pereira**, Program Coordinator and **Margaret Raymond**, Campus Ministry Coordinator, Holy Cross Chaplaincy (Halifax). Whether you're a seasoned catechist, a young adult looking to serve, or simply curious about how to get involved, this is a great first step. We hope you'll join us and consider being part of this exciting mission. Please email Patricia Lee at catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org or call 506-627-6465.

Dec. 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Dunstan's
Bishop Christian Riesbeck will preside at a special Mass on Friday, December 12th at 6:30 pm in St. Dunstan's Church, in celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, and the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. Graydon Nicholas will give a short talk on the miraculous appearance of Our Blessed Mother to St. Juan Diego in Mexico City on December 9, 10 & 12 of 1531. There will be an Indigenous presence with drumming and chanting and a special collection in support of Gignoo Transition House. A reception will follow in the gym of the Monsignor Boyd Family Centre. Everyone is invited to attend.

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.

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School is having its Christmas Concert on Thursday December 11 at 7:00 pm at Faith Baptist Church in New Maryland. This is an old-fashioned Christmas concert with hymns and plays. Admission is \$12.00 for adults-children are free. Please join us for a fun-filled evening.

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!



Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Family Church – Christmas Sign-up Sheets: Please see the sign-up sheets in the lobby of the Church for Eucharistic Ministers to serve at our Masses on Christmas Eve (December 24th at 4pm and 6pm); Christmas Day (December 25th at 11am); and Mass on New Year's Day (Mary the Holy Mother of God) at 11am at Holy Family. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Kelly. Thank you for serving in this vital Ministry that supports our Liturgy.

Advent and Christmas Events & Music

2025 Advent Series of Music and Message

Finding the Light of Christmas in the Darkness of December
(each Wednesday @ 12:05 pm)

with Bishop Hockin at Christ Church (Parish) Church
December 10th – Messenger: Canon Albert Snelgrove

December 17th – Messenger: Bishop Bill Hockin

245 WESTMORLAND ST. Free Will Offering will be accepted for the Greener Village Food Bank.

Fredericton Ladies Choir Annual Christmas Concert
Tuesday, December 9th @ 7 pm at St. Dunstan's Church

Special Guest: Elm City String Quartet

Tickets: \$20/Adult - \$10 Under 18

(Available at Westminster Bookmark, from choir members, and at the door)

READINGS for December 7th

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Responsorial Psalm: In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound forever.

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

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Dec 7 th	Lynn Dunbar
Dec 14 th	Randy Murphy
Dec 21 st	William Buckley Sandy & Myrtle Goodine
Dec 25 th	Peter & Chris LaForest

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Dec 6 th	Joseph Doiron
Dec 7 th	Carlotta Everett / Laura Gaul
Dec 13 th	For the People
Dec 14 th	Olga Richards
Dec 20 th	For the People
Dec 21 st	Howard Richards
Dec 24 th (4pm)	Leona Murphy
Dec 24 th (6pm)	June Wilkins & Tyler Messer
Dec 25 th	Leah Devlin

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Dec 7 th	Stacey Chessie
Dec 14 th	Elaine Geldart
Dec 21 st	Carolann Doherty

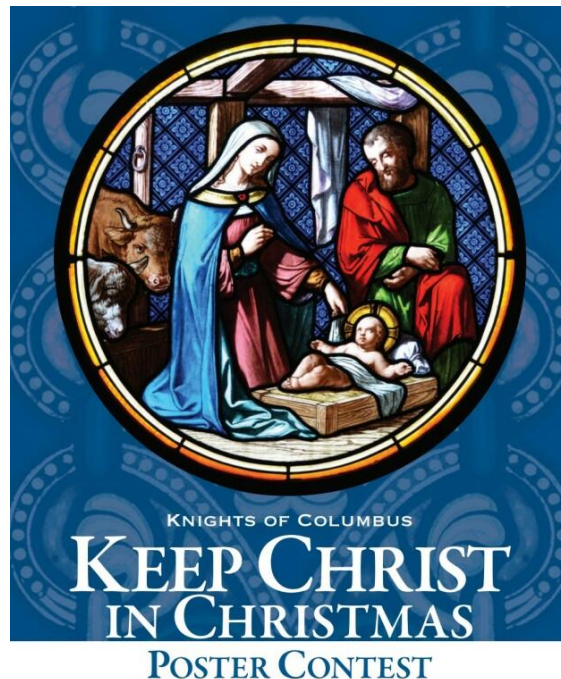
READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Dec 6 th	Paula Ryan / Joan Sowers
Dec 7 th	Noreen Bonnell / Ebuka Ezeokafor Oluchi Ezeokafor / Maureen Hawthorne
Dec 13 th	Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley
Dec 14 th	Jane Buckley / Doreen Cormier Maurice Harquail / Chinasa Trinita
Dec 20 th	William Cormier / Mona LeBlanc
Dec 21 st	Patrick Burgoon / Carl Duivenvoorden Flora Ederaro / Mandy Gilmore

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Dec 6 th	Wanda Cairns / Margie Snell
Dec 7 th	Rhadia Ange / Rhadissa Ange
Dec 13 th	Lynn Laagland / Judy Kelly
Dec 14 th	Sadie Cameron / Dorothy Blanchard
Dec 20 th	Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton
Dec 21 st	Annie Zdyb Rinne / Verna McSorley

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



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
John the Baptist: Repentance & Change of Heart
Hope for Humanity
(Fr. John Jennings)

Water, what a wonder! It is truly amazing. In the last few months, we have witnessed its threatening power as floods, monsoons and hurricanes take place around the world. At the same time, this same water has allowed agriculture to flourish in these same places that have experienced floods. The very places whose coastlines have experienced damaging hurricanes and floods rely on these seas as a way of travel and of economic life. What a paradox!

Water is a source of life itself. The earliest forms of life on earth emerged from the sea and life on land evolved and developed in areas where there were sources of water both for life and for movement. Water continues to be necessary for the sustaining of life on earth. In fact, 50-65% of the human body is composed of water.

Religious traditions around the world often use water as expressive of the divine presence and action. For the ancient Celts springs, rivers and water sources were often regarded as sacred, places of divine presence. Hindu tradition regards the river Ganges as a site for pilgrimage and spiritual cleansing, a sacred place.

In the Jewish scriptures of the Old Testament we repeatedly see the importance of water as the source of life (Gen. ch.1). At the same time, we see it as destructive or as something through which humanity must pass for renewal and new life. It is a flood which destroyed, and as well was an element of new life after passing through it (Gen. ch.6-8). In the great story of Israel's liberation from bondage in the Exodus we see a huge role played by water. Passing through it was a way of ending their slavery and then of being sustained by God's gift of water in the desert journey (Exodus chs.14,15,17).

In the New Testament, Jesus begins his mission after passing through the waters of the Jordan, in baptism by John the Baptist (Matt.3:13-17; Mk.1:9-11; Lk.3:21-22).

Throughout this mission, water continues as a source of discovering the action of God through Jesus. In John's Gospel, it is at a well that the Samaritan woman shows a gradual discovery who Jesus is (Jn.4:1—30). When speaking of the gift of the Spirit as a gift of God, water was the image Jesus used: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me, drink (Jn.7:37-38). Water is so often the way to new life, whether in a desert, or in us and our world.

It is no surprise that in our Christian tradition water, in our initiation sacrament of baptism, is the great sign of our entry into new life as part of a community of disciples. We pass through the waters of baptism and filled with the Spirit, become Christians, new People of God. With Jesus as our mentor and model, we are then given his mission, to share the Good News.

John the Baptist (Matt.3:1-12) and the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah (11:1-10) are two of the great figures of our Advent season. Both take us on the journey of transformation and change that brings new life to us personally, communally and globally. In their calls for repentance and change of heart, these two prophetic voices reflect the call given to all humanity.

For Christians, the waters of baptism mark us as heralds of hope for all humanity. With God's Spirit, we become more and more the reflection in word and action of God's face for our world. This face reflects mercy, love, compassion and openness to all. And the fruit and gift of this face is as Isaiah points out – PEACE FOR ALL.

This Advent season, how am I God's face bringing peace where I am?

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.

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