

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 8th, 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

ADVENT WEEK 2 PURPLE CANDLE OF PEACE



THE ANGEL'S
CANDLE REMINDS
US OF THE PEACE
JESUS BRINGS US.
(READ ISAIAH 26:3-4)

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Mother Teresa to the Presidents of two countries at war with each other:

Choose the Way of Peace:

"I come to you in the name of God, the God that we all love and share, to beg for the innocent ones, our poor of the world and those who will become poor because of war. They are the ones who will suffer most because they have no means of escape. I plead on bended knee for them. They will suffer and

when they do, we will be the ones who are guilty for not having done all in our power to protect and love them.

I plead with you for those who will be left orphaned, widowed and left alone, because their parents, husbands, brothers and children have been killed. I beg you please to save them.

I plead for those who will be left with disability and disfigurement. They are God's children. I plead for those who will be left with no home, no food, and no love. Please think of them as being your children.

Finally, I plead for those who will have the most precious thing that God can give us, life, taken away from them. I beg you to save our sisters and brothers, yours and ours, because they are given to us by God to love and to cherish. It is not for us to destroy what God has given to us. Please, please, let your mind and your will become the mind and will of God. You have the power to bring war into the world, or to build peace. Please choose the way of peace."

Bless me, Jesus. Help me to remember that true peace begins with you, so I may share your peace and joy with all. (Word Made Flesh)

Advent Healing Mass – An Advent Healing Mass and Sacrament of Anointing for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish will be held at St. Ann's Church, Biliik First Nation (Kingsclear) on **Thursday, 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!

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!

Advent Reflections

"The Season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. So, stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon".
Jan Richardson, artist

"What is God trying to say to us in our busy lives? He suggests this: Be patient. Learn to wait – for each other, for love, for happiness, for God!" *Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

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!

Knights of Columbus Community Breakfast:
 Sunday, December 8th from 10:00AM to 1:00PM at the Knicol Hall, 170 Regent Street. Adults \$ 10.00, Children \$ 5.00 and Families \$ 30.00. Proceeds from the December breakfast will be going to Fredericton Community Kitchens. Everyone welcome.

Summary of your Support for Nov 30 & Dec 1

Regular/Loose	\$ 4,844.35
PAD (wkly. average)	1,986.92
St. Patrick's Cemetery	25.00
Christ the King	130.00
Oromocto Food Bank	1,535.00
Missals/Little Books	16.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,537.27

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**

READINGS for December 8th

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 8th Lynn Dunbar

Dec 15th Randy Murphy

Dec 22nd Shane Gallagher

Dec 29th Jason MacLeod

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Dec 8th Lawrence Cameron

Dec 15th John Monkhouse

Dec 22nd Stacey Chessie

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Dec 7th James Andrew McAllister

June Wilkins

Dec 8th Carlotta Everett

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 7th Paula Ryan/Margie Snell/Beth Wright

Dec 8th Anita & Ray Allain / Bonnie Deveau

Dec 14th Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley

Dec 15th James McGroarty, Clare & Genevieve Obi

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

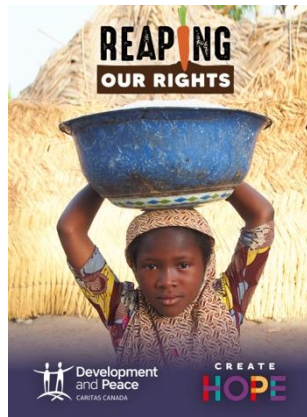
Dec 7th Joan Sowers / Harold DeCoursey

Dec 8th JoAnne Linton / Verna McCloskey

Dec 14th Wanda Cairns / Margie Snell

Dec 15th Sharon Watts / Bettyanne McMackin

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!



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.

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) and Christmas Day Mass (December 25th at 11am). We will also have a Mass on New Year's Day at 11am at Holy Family (also part of the sign-up sheet). If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Kelly. Thank you for serving in this vital Ministry that supports our Liturgy.

Our Sacred Stories
Preparing the Way of the Lord
(Fr. John Jennings)

Last weekend, while filling in at a local parish, I noticed something very striking. My hometown has become significantly more multi-cultural. Increasingly, it has become the place of many people from other countries and continents. The same picture has emerged in other parishes around the city. We are much richer and full of life because of this. It is one of the blessings of our country. And this has long been the story of our country.

Most of us are the descendants of peoples that migrated here in the last 2-3 hundred years. We continue to struggle with our treatment of the indigenous peoples who already were here. We often struggle as well with new immigrants who are currently arriving. It seems that we struggle with change and with creating new and open relationships with others who challenge our long-held customs and practices. Yet to be complete we need others and differences in our lives

Almost 500 years ago, an English poet, John Donne wrote a poem that began with these words:

*No [person] is an island, entire to [themselves],
Every [person] is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.*

Donne's words are a reminder that we rely on one another, that we are not alone in this world and our lives and well-being depend on the efforts and help of others. Significantly, who we are is the result of many who in love and care have made us who we are today. No one gets through life alone.

The Advent-Christmas season draws us into reflection on who we are and how we have become. In our Scriptures we discover the great love that God has for all creation, all humanity. We also encounter the challenge of what we are called to be as God's presence comes to be seen in our midst.

John the Baptist as well as the prophet Baruch are figures of the Advent season. Their cry dominates the story of what we are becoming in and for our world. John's call is clear as Luke presents it: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.... and all flesh shall see the salvation of God* (Luke 3:4-6).

Both the prophet Baruch (5:1-9) and John the Baptist, issue a clarion call for the coming of a new world that expresses the peace, justice, freedom and harmony of God's reign among us. What was proclaimed by each of these prophetic voices, was expressed in the message and mission of Jesus. It has been passed on to us as a mission for the whole world, for all humanity. The Spirit of Jesus draws all humanity to God's dream of openness, justice and peace, freedom and harmony.

We are to live as the prophetic voices of God's dream in our own age - open to all peoples, nations and cultures. Our message is one of hope and joy,... for all.

**The Little Blue Book – for Advent and
Christmas Season. Reflections on the Infancy
Narratives According to Matthew**
**Available in the church entrances. Suggested
donation \$2.00 each. Please drop your
donation in the basket provided.**

**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.

December 12, Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Bishop Riesbeck will preside at a special Mass on **December 12th at 7:00 pm at St. Dunstan's Church** in celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, and to observe the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. There will be a special collection in support of the Kehkimin Wolastoqey Language Immersion School. A reception will follow in the Monsignor Boyd Family Centre.