

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish

Office: 1500 Hanwell Road, Fredericton NB E3C 1N3 Phone (506) 444-6021
Father Monte Peters 470-2235 Website: stkateri.ca Email: office@stkateri.ca
Sunday, December 27th, 2020 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Christmas message from Fr. Monte:

Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard to make our uplifting services possible.

May the spirit of the Christmas Season bring you joy and peace in these troubling days of COVID-19.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to each and every one.



Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM at Holy Family Church (live streamed).

Christmas Day at 9:30 AM at St Ann's Church at Kingsclear and at 11:00 AM at Holy Family Church.

Watch from home on YouTube livestreamed. Go to our website at stkateri.ca – click “**on-line services**” and then click “**live**”. The Christmas Eve Mass will be saved on the website by Christmas morning and you can watch it at any time.

READERS at HOLY FAMILY:

Dec 19th Anna Mae Snider
Dec 20th Linda Hubbard
Dec 26th Margie Snell
Dec 27th Marijke Hurkens

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Dec 24th Father Jack Dolan
Dec 25th For the People
Dec 26th Robert Wilkins
Dec 27th Margaret Hersey
Jan 2nd Edna Saad
Jan 3rd Michael Nicholas
Jan 9th Leon Landry
Jan 10th Stan & Josephine DeCoursey

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Dec 25th Sandy and Myrtle Goodine
Dec 27th Kasey M. Atwin
Jan 3rd Bertha A. Clark

Readers for St. Ann`s – Dec 25th

1st Elaine Geldart
2nd Pauline Frances

Readers for St. Ann`s – Dec 27th

1st Liz Solomon
2nd Lawrence Cameron

Readers for St. Ann`s – Jan 3rd

1st Mike Solomon
2nd Anne Feeney

READINGS for December 25th

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

READINGS for December 27th

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Responsorial Psalm: Today is born our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.

Live Streaming: Each Saturday you can watch the 4:30pm Mass from Holy Family live on the internet at our website stkateri.ca. The recording of the Saturday Mass will be posted on the website (stkateri.ca) the next day. Father Monte Peters in inviting you to participate in this part of our journey.

2021 Offertory Envelopes are available to pick up. If there is not a box with your name on it, take a new box and fill out your name, address and phone number on your first envelope offered. Remember, Offertory through Pre-Authorized Debit is a convenient and safe way to give your donations. Forms available at the church entrance. Thank you!

Cookie Sunday

December's Cookie Sunday, which is normally held the last weekend of the month, is moved to the 30th and 31st of Jan 2021. The reason is that Cookie Sunday in December falls on Boxing Day the 26th and the 27th of Dec. Donations for the Food Bank will be accepted at any time. Thank you for all you do through the year for those less fortunate. Barb and I would like to wish you and Merry and Peaceful Christmas, Judy.

2020-2021 Sunday Missals are available in the Church lobby - \$4 each.

Parish Updates on your Home Phone - The Parish is looking to provide updates via phone messaging to include upcoming events and special announcements for our Parish. If you would like to sign-up for this service, please include your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet in the Church Lobby or call the Parish Office (444-6021) and leave your name and number.

November INCOME

Regular/Envelope	\$ 20,902.85
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 6,337.00
TOTAL	\$27,239.85

November EXPENSES \$ 13,068.51

Your continued financial support of the parish during these difficult times is much appreciated.

OPTIONS FOR OFFERTORY DONATIONS

1. **Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD).** There are envelopes in the mail box at the main entrance of Holy Family church with PAD forms. Fill out and mail in the self-addressed, stamped envelope back to the parish along with a VOID cheque.
2. **Mail your envelopes** to the parish. St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, 1500 Hanwell Road, Fredericton NB E3C 1N3.
3. **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).** Through online banking, you may send your weekly donations office@stkateri.ca
4. **Delivery to the Rectory.** Drop off in a sealed envelope at the Rectory Mail Box by the back door, ring the bell and Fr. Monte will collect them daily. If you choose this method, please put them in an envelope marked "OFFERTORY".

Our Sacred Stories

Christmas – The Wonder and Awe of God’s Love (Fr. John Jennings)

*I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord forever;
I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.*
(Ps 89:1)

How ready, how able am I to bless the Lord God, at all times? Am I able to stand in wonder and awe at the immense love of our God for humanity and all creation? Am I ready to recognize Christmas as a celebration of this great love.

Wonder makes everything new. It is the gift of every small child. Watch the eyes of the little ones. Their world is ever new. It is a world of discovery at every moment, in all their encounters. To them, nothing is ordinary or familiar. Young couples manifest the same. A wedding, for all the busyness and the trappings that surround it, is essentially about a loving couple. They may be nervous, they may be excited, but as they look into each other’s eyes and express their love, nothing else matters. They stand in wonder and awe of each other.

They have embarked on a journey of discovery, standing in a world of wonder with each other. Moved by their love, the awe in which they hold each other causes them to glory in their companionship.

As we move into the Christmas season our gaze turns to Mary (Luke 1:26-38). Her encounter with the Angel Gabriel leaves her in wonder and awe. Everything is new. Nothing can be ordinary or familiar for her. She is now the servant of the Lord as she brings God’s dream to fulfillment in the world. Can we have the spirit of the little child, the sense of discovery of the young lovers, the awe of Mary?

The God of our faith is an awesome God, not because of power, nor of immensity. Our wonder comes from the reality that God has come to us where we are – in what we so often take for granted, God’s love for us all. God touches us in what we see as so familiar and ordinary. We stand in awe of our God who has such love.

Ilia Delio, a Franciscan nun, theologian and scientist expresses how our God is so awesome and why celebrating Christmas is so significant for us:

We can read the history of our 13.7-billion-year-old universe as the rising up of Divine Love incarnate, which bursts forth in the person of Jesus, who reveals love’s urge toward wholeness through reconciliation, mercy, peace, and forgiveness. Jesus is the love of God incarnate.... Christian life is a commitment to love, to give birth to God in one’s own life and to become midwives of divinity in this evolving cosmos. We are to be wholemakers (unity builders) of love in a world of change. (Quoted by Richard Rohr, [Online Reflection 7 Dec 20](#))

Somewhere in the midst of the ordinary and familiar of our lives we discover this great gift of awe and wonder. This is what we celebrate in Christmas – Emmanuel, God is with us.

Hours of Mass and other services at Holy Family and St. Ann’s at Kingsclear:

1. **St Ann’s Church. Mass** is offered on Sunday at 930 am. Contact Liz Solomon at 363-4493 or Father Monte at 470-2235 for information and seat availability.
Divine Mercy has resumed at St Ann’s Church every Friday at 3pm on July 7th. For further information call Liz Solomon at 363-4493. All are welcome.
2. **Holy Family Church. Mass** is offered by reservation on Saturday at 430 pm and on Sunday at 11am. To make a reservation call one of the following numbers: Barb Perry at 457-1559; Judy Kelly at 478-7274 or Holy Family Church Office at 444-6021 and leave a message with your phone number. **Note:** making a reservation is recommended.

Rosary takes place every Thursday at 1030 am at Holy Family Church. All are welcome. For further information call Judy Kelly at 478-7274 or the parish office at 444-6021.

Masks Mandatory in Indoor Public Places:

Parishioners and visitors are advised that our Parish will follow provincial guidelines that **masks will be mandatory** for all indoor public places. Therefore parishioners will be required to wear their masks at all times, while in the Church.



Christmas Message 2020

Dear faithful,

This year will be a Christmas like no other! As a world, we have grown a little weary, and with good reason. We are in the midst of a pandemic, and many are suffering as a result, from contracting Covid-19, to the loss of loved ones, or from the consequences of lockdowns and restrictions, including loss of employment, missed medical care, a rise in cases of mental health issues, drug overdoses, fear and anxiety, and separation from those closest to us. The pandemic remains a constant concern, never far from our thoughts. In all of this, we must remember that Jesus does not abandon us. He is Emmanuel – God with us - to satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts, lift us from our weariness, and be the hope we so desperately need. We need Him now more than ever to illumine these days.

The promise of a long-awaited Messiah was fulfilled when “the Word became flesh and lived among us.” (John 1:14) When Mary gave her “fiat” (her yes) to bear the Son of God into the world, our lives were changed forever. Let us not allow the unusual circumstances we are enduring to take away our wonder at the miracle of the Incarnation. The birth of Jesus is not confined to a moment in history but continues every day. Do we believe this is possible? Even now during a pandemic? Let us not allow the current disruption in our lives to distract us from the true meaning of the Christmas season. Jesus is the reason for the season! Jesus is the Word made flesh! If you have difficulty encountering God’s presence, then ask Him to show you that He is real, that He is alive! How different our lives would look if we lived from the awareness that God is with us! If nothing else, the difficulties of this pandemic should highlight even more how much we need Jesus. He is the one we can count on to meet us in our sufferings, and we encounter Him most powerfully in the Eucharist, which is the sustenance we so desperately need. Let us return to Him often in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, so He can renew us with His love.

The Christmas season always draws to our churches people who have been absent for a while. As people approach Mass for the first time in weeks, months, maybe even years, uncertainty may accompany them. Returning to Mass, after being away, may be both physically and spiritually challenging.

People are longing for a sense of community and stability, and for the opportunity to encounter or re-encounter the God who cares deeply for us, speaks to us out of love, and reveals His “face” in Jesus – true God and true man. I urge our regular churchgoers to be particularly welcoming of these brothers and sisters who will be visiting our churches for consolation and comfort. Our pandemic protocol committees continue their noble efforts of keeping our churches safe. I urge everyone to co-operate with them in charity, just as I urge our selfless volunteers to truly reflect the love and innocence of the Christ-child, adopting a welcoming and joyful disposition before all who will be gracing the doors of our churches this Christmas. Let us remember that hospitality is not a measure of what we do but a condition of the heart, as we seek to evangelize and provide consolation during a difficult time.

God is not distant but close to us in every way. As we celebrate Christmas, let us be aware that Jesus – God made flesh and dwelling among us – is the hope we seek. He alone satisfies our deepest longing for meaning and purpose, and is the fulfillment of all desire. God has given us so much - the greatest gift of all – His Son. The greatest gift we can give Him now in return is to let Him be born in our hearts over and over again. Let us open our hearts wide to welcome our Saviour this Christmas so that we can truly experience the peace and joy only He can give. Let us give God permission to transform us, our perspectives, our way of doing things so that we could become more and more the person He has called us to be from our baptism. Let us share that joy, peace and love with the people around us so that all may know the true meaning of Christmas!

Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us! St. Joseph, pray for us!

✠ Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John

December 15, 2020