

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish

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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

February 15th, 2026 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Day of Prayer 2026: An international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative that shares the hopes, concerns and prayers of women from around the globe. **World Day of Prayer (WDP)** is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. This year's date is **Friday, March 6th**.

This year's service and reflections have been prepared by our sisters in Nigeria with the theme, "**I will give you rest, come.**" from Matthew 11:28-30. In a time in our world when heavy burdens are being felt daily by so many, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God. As outlined in the resources this year, "...through their exploration of different kinds of burdens, shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair, they help us to understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support."



This year's artistic work is entitled 'Rest for the Weary' by Gift Amarachi Ottah a final-year Mass Communication student at Alex Ekwueme Federal

University Ndufu-Alike in Ebonyi State and draws inspiration from her home state of Abia in Nigeria. Following her family's tradition in creative arts and printing, Gift has developed a unique artistic voice that speaks to the struggles and strength of Nigerian women. She was motivated to design this artwork for the 2026 World Day of Prayer program because of the burdens that Nigerian women are facing. She hopes that her art will help to amplify their voices.

The **theme song** for this year's service, "Come Unto Me" written especially for World Day of Prayer by Chisom R. Chukwumerije and is sung in English and Igbo. The song invites those who are weary and oppressed to find comfort and rest in God.

To listen to this beautiful song, click on the following link: [Theme Song-World Day of Prayer](#)

More information to come over the next couple of weeks from the resources prepared by the team of women from Nigeria outlining their struggles and what it means to bring their burdens to God and help others who are weary. There will also be information on World Day of Prayer services in our region.

LENT 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – FEB 18TH

10:30 am, Holy Family Church

3:00 pm, St. Ann's Church

7:00 pm, Holy Family Church (this Mass will be live-streamed).

Updated Schedule of Weekday Masses during Lent:

Tuesday, February 24th, 10:30am, St. Ann's Church

Tuesday, March 3rd, 7pm, Holy Family Church

Tuesday, March 10th, 10:30am, St. Ann's Church

Tuesday, March 17th, 7pm, Holy Family Church

Tuesday, March 24th, 10:30am, St. Ann's Church

Note: Each Mass will be followed by one hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. If Fr. Bill is unable to celebrate a weekday Mass, a Stations of the Cross will be held.

Lent Reflection Sessions and Group Discussions: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish is offering an opportunity to enter into the Lenten Season by offering 7 sessions of prayer, reflection and discussion using the book, "Show Me The Way:

Daily Lenten Readings" by Henri J.M. Nouwen. Henri Nouwen, was a Dutch Catholic priest, theologian, professor and author best known for his deeply personal writings on spirituality and community. The first session took place on **Thursday, February 12th (introduction session and book distribution)** at 7pm at **Holy Family Church.** Continued

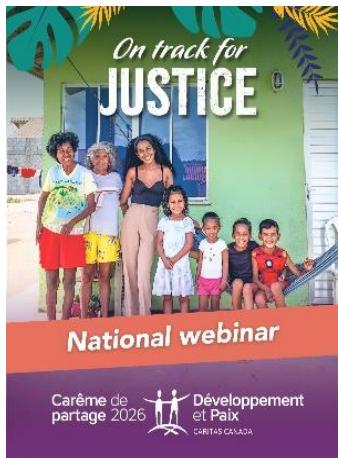
Other sessions to follow on February 19th & 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. If you are interested in participating in these sessions and to ensure we have adequate number of books, please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby of the Church.

This Lent, enrich your spiritual journey by creating space to listen to God's calling amidst the busyness of life's demands. In the words of Henri Nouwen, a master of prayer, "Praying means above all listening to the voice of Jesus, who dwells in the depths of the heart." We hope to see you on February 12th. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Kelly who will be the facilitator for these sessions (506-478-7274).



Food Bank Campaign for Lent: We are sure you all remember this tower we built last year during Lent as part of our Lenten campaign for the Food Bank. With Lent just around the corner, we are again asking you to donate the following items for the Food bank: tomato soup, tomato sauce, tomato paste, crushed or stewed tomatoes, pasta etc.

Essentially it is the '**everything tomato and pasta**' campaign. Donations will be accepted all throughout Lent – let's get busy building a new tower!!



Do you know Development and Peace — Caritas Canada?
Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, is a democratic movement for global solidarity rooted in Catholic Social Teaching.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada addresses

the root causes of poverty, oppression and inequality by working with partners in the Global South and by mobilizing Canadians in the common struggle for justice and dignity. The organization also champions women and social movements as key agents of lasting change.

Join the *On Track for Justice* Campaign Launch

Webinar - To learn all about Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's new Share Lent campaign, ***On Track for Justice***, join the launch webinar on **February 21 at 1:30 p.m. ET**.

We will learn about the work of our Brazilian partner, ***Justiça nos Trilhos*** (Justice on Rails), in the company of Padre Dario Bossi, a Comboni missionary and Lenten solidarity visitor, and a member of a community along the Carajás railway that is affected by industrial agriculture.

Rosary - Rosary is prayed every Thursday morning at 1030 at Holy Family. During Ordinary Time we will be reciting the Luminous Mysteries. All are welcome to attend.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Lent is almost here! The Oromocto Food Bank (101 D'Amours Street) will be holding a pancake supper on **Tuesday, February 17th** from 4:30pm-5:45pm. This will be a drive-thru pick-up and is recommended that you pre-order by calling 506-357-3461. The cost is \$12.00 per plate and consists of pancakes, sausage, homemade beans and gingerbread cake. Come out and support the Oromocto Food Bank.

2026 Men's Retreat ~ We are pleased to invite you to the 2026 Men's Retreat at Villa Madonna Retreat House, taking place **March 20-22, 2026**. The theme for this year is: **On Fire with the Spirit. Sent with Purpose. Igniting Heroic Faith.** **Registration:** To register online (deadline is March 6, 2026), please visit, <https://events.insogan.org/CHAA>

For more information please contact:
menoffaith.nb@gmail.com

Your 2025 Donation Receipts are available to pick up at the church entrance. Please advise the parish office if you wish to have your receipt mailed and confirm your address. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

coldest *night

OF THE YEAR

Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser: On February 28th 2026, the Confirmation Class from St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish will be walking in the Coldest Night of the Year, a fun, family-friendly walkathon

to raise money to support the John Howard Society of Fredericton and their work with people in our community experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.

The John Howard Society of Fredericton (JHSF) runs a variety of programs for youth and adults in our community to help them make better life decisions and lead happy and productive lives. JHSF owns five residential buildings, scattered across Fredericton, that provide supportive housing for 58 individuals who were previously experiencing homelessness, including five youth between 19 and 24 years of age. Residents all have a case manager who helps them with personal challenges in their lives.

They also have access to peer support and a mental health and addictions worker. Other services provided include:

- support youth in crisis with housing and supports,
- provide inclement weather response during times of extreme heat or cold to people experiencing homelessness and living rough,
- provide snacks and beverages to people experiencing homelessness who are clients of our Ironwood Resource Centre,
- deliver family programs to help kids do better in school,
- provide a lunch snack program to kids in need/provide breakfast to our shelter clients,
- run our peer support group that is free to anyone in the community who needs support in the topic areas of mental health, addictions, homelessness, grief and loss,
- cover some of the construction costs of our new family housing units for families experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence, and much more.

How to donate to the fundraiser: Our confirmation students are having a fundraiser for their team at Mass at Holy Family Church on **Saturday, February 21st and Sunday, February 22nd**. Craft and bake sale items will be for sale.

Another way to donate by clicking

<https://cnoy.org/location/fredericton> and under 'Teams' click **"Holy Family St Kateri"**. Please support our students who are helping bring dignity to those who have lost all hope.

READINGS for February 15th

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Summary of Support for February 7 & 8

Regular/Loose	\$ 4,107.21
PAD (wkly. average)	2,298.46
St. Patrick's Cemetery	25.00
Indigenous Reconciliation Fund	20.00
Building Fund	60.00
Indigenous Reconciliation Fund	20.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,530.61



Looking for Bingo Volunteers. A fundraiser bingo is being organised to support the Bilijk Elders Fundraising efforts for their annual trip to Ste. Anne de Beaupré. The bingo will take place in the Hall of St. Ann's Church. For more details contact Terry Young at maliseet@hotmail.com or text 514-775-3058. Everyone is welcome!

Steubenville Atlantic Youth Conference & LEAD

Registration is now open. This is a call to all high schoolers to come and explore how Jesus meets our deepest longing for meaning, joy, and love. Join hundreds of Catholic teens at **Steubenville Atlantic in Halifax, July 10–12, 2026**, and encounter the transforming love of Christ. Youth in grade 9 through grade 12 are welcome to attend. If you are interested as a youth or a chaperone, you can learn more at <https://www.steubenville.ca> or to register click on the following link: [Steubenville Registration](#). You may also speak to Sharon Watts, Fr. Bill, or Patricia Lee, Director of Catechesis, Diocese of Saint John: 506-627-6465 or email catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org

Readers – Holy Family – Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18

10:30am	1st Reading Psalm 2nd Reading Prayers of the Faithful	Anita Allain Anita Allain Bonnie Deveau Margie Snell
7pm	1st Reading Psalm 2nd Reading Prayers of the Faithful	Marijke Hurkens Obi family Obi family Chris Robbins

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Feb 15th Don Cameron Jr.
Feb 22nd McKerral Family
Mar 1st James Andrew McAllister

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Feb 14th Fred & Rita Burgoon
Feb 15th Nicole Mary Bourcier
Feb 21st Norah Marshall
Feb 22nd Conrad Bourcier & Dec Family Members
Feb 28th Norma Brown
Mar 1st For the People

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Feb 15th Mike Solomon
Feb 22nd Lawrence Cameron

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Feb 14th William Cormier / Mona LeBlanc
Feb 15th Noreen Bonnell / Ebuka Ezeokafor
Oluchi Ezeokafor / Jayne Buckley
Feb 21st Margie Snell / Joan Sowers
Feb 22nd Maureen Hawthorne / Doreen Cormier
Maurice Harquail / Chinasa Trinita

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Feb 14th Lynn Laagland / Judy Kelly
Feb 15th Sharon Watts / Bettyanne McMackin
Feb 18th Ash Wednesday
10:30am Leslie Carr / Harold DeCoursey / Fr. Bill
7pm Sharon Watts / Patrick Burgoon / Fr. Bill
Feb 21st Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton
Feb 22nd Ewart Kenney / Patrick Burgoon

OUR SACRED STORIES

Our Community of Living Faith: A Path to Liberation and New Life (Fr. John Jennings)

Ten years ago, in 2016, Pope Francis proclaimed a jubilee year. The Jubilee took as its theme and focus: Jesus as the face of God's mercy. With this theme, our Church, both globally and locally is called to be the "Face of Jesus' Mercy" in our world. With mercy there is a call for openness to one and all. Through this open and inviting love and mercy, the Christian community is the face of a God who loves all freely and openly.

The call to open and liberating mercy is seen in Jesus throughout the Gospels. It is found again in the deliberations and documents the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). Looking back to that Council, Pope Francis

remarked on the vision it expressed: *With the Council, the Church entered a new phase in her history.*

[The Council] perceived as a breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way. What was expressed then and continues to be revealed now is that we are to be a Church not of judgement and condemnation. We are a Church of reconciliation and healing, with an open door to welcome all.

Our faith tradition is intended to be a path to liberation and new life. It is not a narrow path by which our personal salvation is guaranteed. Rather, it is an outreach to the whole of life and human existence, aimed at bringing all of creation together in a manner by which we become the creation of God's dream. We find it expressed in the very early poetic words of the Old Testament Book of Genesis: *God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good* (1:31).

The gospel writer Matthew, saw this as the direction in which Jesus was leading his disciples. He captured this core teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7). After introducing this core with the Beatitudes and using the images of salt and light for the role of his disciples, Matthew honours the Judaic Law of Moses. But he warns that if we do not go further than the scribes and Pharisees who honoured the Law literally and strictly, we have fallen short. More is called for (Matt 5:17-37).

Jesus, and his teachings are the new Law for his disciples. This new law is not mere rules and rituals, it is a way of life. This life is in imitation of the Master. It is a way of living that brings compassion and love, healing and peace. One can say that at the center of Christianity is not the law or the rituals or even the scriptures, but a person and that this person is Jesus the Christ. He it is who, in word and action, reveals the everlasting love of God. This is our center.

Globally and locally, the challenge is to discover that we can reveal mercy and welcome to all, especially the outcasts and marginalized in our midst. We face this challenge as church, as a community of faith. There are many areas of our relationships with one another and with our world where mercy and love to all is a difficult path. Is our compassion sufficient and open enough to welcome all? How open are we to all who have for so long been outcasts? To the poor and homeless, to gay persons and the divorced in our churches, to all the lost and ones who come to our door. How ready are we to recognize that we are one Church and though we many have a variety of roles and all are honoured, women and men, young and old, all are called to the same discipleship, equally.

When Pope Francis proclaimed the jubilee year in 2016, he stated: *The church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love* ("The Face of Mercy" 10). Our very identity lies not in meticulous observance of law and ritual, but in our love, compassion, mercy and inclusivity.