

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
January 12th, 2025 – Baptism of the Lord

Homeless - Shelter Donations: A couple of days before Christmas I had a visual experience of the 'now' of homeless people. Dropping off donations of warm mittens and socks from our knitting group and extended members of the group I saw a homeless woman sitting on the cold pavement up against the building with her sweater pulled up to her forehead and noticeably in distress.



There are many issues that need to be addressed with homelessness and while some are endeavoring to make changes for

the better, the homeless continue to live in the 'now' and the 'now' is January with freezing temperatures and bitter cold winds. In the process of delivering the donations we have learned that the Shelters are struggling to provide warm outer wear to the many that are in need, especially affected are the hands and feet.



Action: With this in mind, we are asking parishioners' support for donations of warm gloves and mittens to the Shelters. A donation

box will be set up in the lobby of the church for any donations you can provide, and we will ensure the items are brought to the Shelters. *"We must grow in love and to do this we must go on loving and loving and giving and giving until it hurts – the way Jesus did. Do ordinary things with extraordinary love: little things like caring for the sick and the homeless, the lonely and the unwanted.*

We are all God's children, so it is important to share his gifts. Do not worry about why problems exist in the world – just respond to people's needs. Some say to me that if we give charity to others, it will diminish the responsibility of government towards the needs of the poor. I don't concern myself with this, because governments do not offer love. I just do what I can."
–Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa understood the 'now' of the poor and homeless more profoundly than most and we can look to her as our model on doing what we can to assist those who are struggling with the 'now's' in their lives.

Any support would be appreciated but please only give what you can. A donation box will be available in the lobby of the church until the end of January. In keeping with the theme for this Jubilee Year, let us all strive to be pilgrims of hope.

Blessings, Judy

An opportunity for Adult Faith Formation in our Parish:

The Parish Survey (the Disciple Maker Index) results indicated a strong desire of adults in the parish for opportunities to learn about their faith, discuss their faith and connect with others on the faith journey. In response, there will be six evening sessions for Adults scheduled between January 21st and into the Easter Season. These sessions will be 90 minutes in length and will each have a theme. You are welcome to attend any or all of these events. There will be input on a particular 'theme' or 'aspect' of our faith followed by an opportunity for small groups to have conversation. This is for those who are newly inquiring about the Catholic Faith or those who want to learn more and deepen their faith journey. The First session is Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00 pm at Holy Family Church (upstairs). **The theme is 'Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist: Relevance for our Adult Lives Today'.**

There will be no registration. Just come if you can!



Jubilee 2025 – Prayer Cards: In his recent letter to the Parishes, Bishop Riesbeck asked that throughout this Jubilee Year we join him in praying our Diocesan Jubilee Prayer. Copies of the prayer cards are now available at the entrance of our churches.

2025 Annual Catechist Retreat - Pilgrims of Hope - registration deadline of January 20th is fast approaching. The retreat is from January 24-26, 2025 at the Villa Madonna Retreat House in Rothesay. Our retreat facilitator is Jim Anderson, teacher, author and musician. Join us for a time of personal faith renewal and to re-energize in your role as a catechist. Weekend registration fee is \$260.00 (includes accommodations, refreshments and meals), commuter fee is \$120.00 (includes refreshments and meals). To register call Patricia Lee at 506-627-6465 or <https://forms.office.com/r/tRuMTjxDQK>

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!

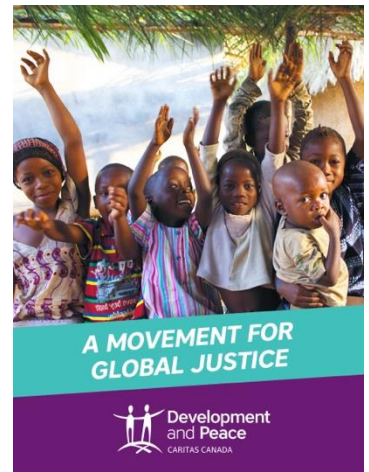
Rosary: Please join us every Thursday morning at 10:30am at Holy Family Church. Everyone is welcome!

Development and Peace: Reaping our Rights Campaign: 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.



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.

Holy Family Readers' Schedule for January to June 2025 – Readers at Holy Family may pick up their copies of the new schedule for 2025 in the entryway, starting the weekend of December 21-22. The website version will appear after New Year's Day

Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Family Church: A new schedule is available in the entrance of the church for the period January to April 2025. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Kelly. Thank you for serving in this vital Ministry that supports our Liturgy.

READINGS for January 12th

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Responsorial Psalm: O bless the Lord, my soul!

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Jan 12th Eleanor Solomon
Jan 19th Norma Daigle
Jan 26th James Andrew McAllister

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Jan 12th John Monkhouse
Jan 19th Stacey Chessie
Jan 26th Elaine Geldart

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Jan 11th Jean Dufour / Michael Bardsley
Jan 12th Erik Alexander Lister
Olympic and Richard Albuquerque
Jan 18th Ray St. Laurent / Fred Brennan
Jan 19th Souverain LeBouthillier
Jan 25th Charlie Doherty
Jan 26th Jerry Leach

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Jan 11th Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley
Jan 12th James McGroarty / Clair & Genevieve
Obi
Jan 18th William Cormier / Mona LeBlanc
Jan 19th Chinyese Alozie / Norma Downing /
Debbie Landau
Jan 25th Anna Mae Snider / Joan Sowers
Jan 26th Noreen Bonnell / Ebuka Ezeokafor /
Maureen Hawthorne

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Jan 11th Wanda Cairns / Margie Snell
Jan 12th Sharon Watts / Bettyanne McMackin
Jan 18th Lynn Laagland / Judy Kelly
Jan 19th Ewart Kenney / Patrick Burgoon
Jan 25th Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton
Jan 26th Rhadia Ange / Rhadissa Ange

**Offertory for Jan 1 and Jan 4/5 details will
be in next week's bulletin.**

**Jan 1st – Total offertory - \$1,584.25
Jan 4th & 5th – Total offertory - \$5,391.17**

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*



**Ecumenical
Service and
Prayer for the
Week of
Christian Unity
January 18th to
25th.** There will
be a service at
St. Dunstan's

Church (120 Regent Street) on **Thursday,
January 23rd at 1:15pm (please use the
entrance located on King Street in behind the
Tim Hortons).** Following the service there will
be a small reception in the Centre. Everyone
is welcome!

***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, January 17th at
7:00 pm. All are welcome!

Knights of Columbus Community Breakfast:
Sunday, January 12th, 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 Sacred Stories
Baptism of the Lord: A Beginning:
Baptism and Mission
(Fr. John Jennings)

Can you recall a time you began something new? Perhaps it was a course or a career? Perhaps it was a trip or a journey. Maybe it was a new relationship, a friendship or even a marriage. We set out on many adventures in our lifetimes. Each of these beginnings are marked by anticipation... and anxiety. What will we achieve? What will be the risk? What will it cost us to reach our goal? Can we even achieve our goal? Baptism can be seen in this light. It sets us out on a journey or an adventure. A better word might be a **mission**.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It marks the beginning of Jesus's mission to bring the Reign of God into our world. The Gospel writer Luke tells us, (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22) Jesus walks to the Jordan River with others. All are filled with expectation and asking John the Baptist for baptism. Some even think he could be the longed-for messiah. John indicates someone was coming who would fulfill their hopes, not him. After his baptism, Jesus comes up from the water. Luke tells us: "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon [Jesus] in bodily form like a dove." With this gift of the Spirit, Jesus begins his mission.

What is this **mission**? The short answer is that Jesus received the call to proclaim and make present the Kingdom or the Reign of God in our world. The whole meaning of the Incarnation, what we have just celebrated in the Feast and season of Christmas, is that in Jesus God shares in our humanity and our experience. There has been an entry of God into our world and our lives. The point of this entry of God is that God's Reign takes root and grows in the midst of creation and our human history.

And now the "So what" question. What difference does this make to us and our world? Several years ago, Fr. Richard Rohr in an online reflection quoted theologian Brian McLaren: "For centuries, Christianity has presented itself as an 'organized religion' – a change-averse institution... that protects and promotes a timeless system of

beliefs that were handed down fully formed in the past. Yet Christianity's actual history is a story of change and adaptation. We Christians have repeatedly adapted our message, methods, and mission to the contours of our time. (e.g. Vatican II)"

Like the baptism of Jesus, our own baptism launches us on a mission and that mission is to build the Reign of God in our world. Like Jesus, we are to speak the Good News to the world of our own time and place. In this we model Jesus as we share his mission. How to do this?

Jesus, in his mission formed a community of believer around him, his disciples. Together they were to come to know the mission and then include others in it. It was not so much a personal undertaking or a "conversion" as individuals. Our baptism, like that of Jesus, is always with and for others. We are a communal faith, a grace or gift from God out of love. Out of love we share this gift out of love. In doing so, like Jesus himself, we are to speak of love, live in love and plant, grow and nurture a world of love, mercy and compassion... for all.

Only recently, in the Synod on Synodality, our faith community had the opportunity to reflect on the baptismal call we have received and are called share. Pope Francis, as he opened this Synod, pointed to three hopes of what we can become as a faith community, if we truly accept and live the Synod. These are hopes of our baptismal community. May we become this church:

- "Not occasionally, but structurally a **synodal Church**, an open square where all can feel at home and participate"
- "A listening Church" – listening to the Spirit, and truly listening deeply to all our fellow sisters and brother of faith for renewed pastoral life.
- "A Church of closeness" – using God's way, which is "closeness, compassion and tender love."

May we become this baptized Christian community and reveal it in word and action, in our own time and place.