

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

January 19th, 2025 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Household items for Yorsalim and Dawit – Dawit

Maherai was sponsored by St. Kateri in 2021. He fled from Eritrea over 10 years ago. Many thousands of young people did



the same to escape being drafted into the Eritrean army, where they would have to serve for an indefinite time, at little or no pay. What chance would they have to have a family if they stayed?

Since arriving in Fredericton, Dawit (which means 'David') has worked in food service and in food delivery, after he got a license and car. This March he is confirmed to begin training on an apprenticeship in Carpentry. He is excited!

Last year Dawit travelled to Ethiopia, which is next to Eritrea. There he could safely meet up with his family for the first time since fleeing Eritrea, AND marry the young woman whom he has been courting online in recent years. Her name is Yorsalim, which means 'Jerusalem'. An application to bring Yorsalim to Canada is well-advanced, just waiting for IRCC (Immigration Canada) to finalize it. She could be here in a few months, since Family reunification applications are processed much more quickly than most others.

They want to rent an apartment, of course, and need all the usual stuff to set up house. They already have a lot of items from a St. Kateri parishioner who was decluttering recently. We are looking for lightly-used items. Things like linens should be next-to-new or new.

You may have noticed the sign-up sheets on the flip chart in the entryway.

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'.**

Future Dates: Tuesday, February 4th and Thursday, February 27th

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



THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLICS ET LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES CATHOLIQUES Praxis Council Ecumenism Centre catholique de l'Acadie Centre catholique de la Nouvelle-Écosse

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!



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.

Homeless – Shelter Donations: We will continue to collect donations of gloves and mittens for the Shelters for the next



two weekends. The donation box will remain in the entrance of the church until that time.

“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. –Mother Teresa

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

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!

READINGS for January 19th

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1.5
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel: John 2:1-12

Responsorial Psalm: Declare the marvelous works of the Lord among all the peoples.

Mass Intentions at St. Ann’s

Jan 19th Norma Daigle
Jan 26th James Andrew McAllister

READERS AT ST. ANN’S

Jan 19th Stacey Chessie
Jan 26th Elaine Geldart

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Jan 18th Ray St. Laurent / Fred Brennan
Jan 19th Souverein LeBouthillier
Jan 25th Charlie Doherty
Jan 26th Jerry Leach

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

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 18th Lynn Laagland / Judy Kelly
Jan 19th Ewart Kenney / Patrick Burgoon
Jan 25th Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton
Jan 26th Rhadia Ange / Rhadissa Ange

Cookie Sunday Weekend: As begin the New Year we will once again collect food donations for the Shelters and Food Bank. Cookie Sunday weekend this month is **January 25th & 26th**. In addition to cookies, the Food Bank needs pasta, pasta sauce and soups. Donations can be dropped off at Holy Family Church at the Saturday Mass or Sunday Mass at both St. Ann’s Church and Holy Family Church. Any donation you can provide is most appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of our Outreach Ministry!

Summary of your Support for January 1

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Regular/Loose | \$ 687.00 |
| New Year's | 862.00 |
| Christmas | 35.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 1,584.25 |

Summary of your Support for January 4 & 5

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Regular/Loose | \$ 3,089.25 |
| PAD (wkly. average) | 1,986.92 |
| New Year's | 260.00 |
| Christmas | 40.00 |
| St Patrick's Cemetery | 5.00 |
| Indigenous Reconciliation Fund | 10.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 5,391.17 |

Summary of your Support for January 11 & 12

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Regular/Loose | \$ 3,772.96 |
| PAD (wkly. average) | 1,986.92 |
| New Year's | 95.00 |
| Christmas | 100.00 |
| St Patrick's Cemetery | 10.00 |
| Indigenous Reconciliation Fund | 1,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 6,964.88 |

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

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND COLLECTION

On the weekend of January 25 & 26, the Diocese will be taking up a special collection for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. The fund was established to accept donations from 73 Catholic Dioceses across Canada, fulfilling the \$30 million financial commitment made by Canada's Bishops in September 2021. As of January 1, 2025, the Board has approved 216 projects from across Canada, including nine from our Diocese.

Special Collection envelopes are included in your parish boxed sets and at the church entrances. You may also contribute on the Diocesan website

(<https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/donations>).

Please consult the diocesan website for additional resources

<https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/indigenous-relations>.

Copies of the letter from Bishop Riesbeck are available at the entrance of the church.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18th-25th)

This year is the 1700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council in Nicaea near Constantinople, and to mark this special anniversary the Nicene Creed is included as part of the Order of Worship for services held during this week of prayer. "Christians can pray together because they have a shared understanding of who God is and one version of this is found in the Nicene Creed." (Anglican Church of Canada)

Reflections this year were prepared by the monastic community of Bose in Northern Italy. The theme for this week of prayer is "Do You Believe This?" and is drawn from the Gospel of John 11:26. This challenging question is asked of Martha by Jesus, following the death of her brother Lazarus, who had been dead for four days before Jesus arrives in Bethany. Martha is distressed and believes her brother would not have died if Jesus has come sooner. Take time this week to reflect on the entire dialogue between Martha and Jesus by reading John 11:17-27.

- What feelings or emotions did you notice in this passage?
- What lessons can we learn from both Martha and Jesus?
- Ask yourself, "Do You Believe This?"

Prayer

Lord Jesus who prayed that all might be one, we pray to you for the unity of all Christians according to your will. May your spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by our failures, and to hope beyond all hope. Amen." (WCPU)

Our Sacred Stories

A Wedding, Wine and God's Compassion: Vision with Faith (Fr. John Jennings)

"They have no wine." This is the simple comment of the mother of Jesus at a wedding they were attending. In the story as John tells it becomes much more than a simple observation by the mother of Jesus. (John 2:1-11) It is a revelation of the divine presence expressed in Jesus. At first we might think that this revelation takes place through a wondrous act. Jesus changes water into wine for the wedding feast. This is reading the story on the surface. We might call it the physical meaning of the action. But for John, and for us, there is a much deeper meaning. The Gospel writer comments that this action was "the first of his signs."

John relates many such stories in his Gospel. Each of the stories can be read superficially and it describes an action of Jesus that is remarkable. If we stop there, we will miss the deeper meaning to which the Gospel writer is really leading us with these stories. We are called to read more deeply and see the sign in the story.

In the Gospel of John, these stories present us with signs, signs that reveal. Through the eyes of faith, we discover who Jesus is, the incarnation of God, present among us. To see this reality in the stories means reading with faith. Faith allows a deeper, spiritual meaning, beyond surface. Through faith, we discover the sign and the sign takes us beyond the action itself, wondrous or miraculous as it might be.

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus, his mother and his disciples attended. His mother saw a need, a lack, at the feast – "They have no wine." It was this need or lack that allowed Jesus to enter the story. It was this entrance into an occasion of need or lack that reveals the meaning of God's presence with us.

Throughout John's Gospel we find many such occasions when in the face of a need or lack, the compassionate love of God is revealed. This story is one of them.

We see it again when a royal official appealed for Jesus' help for his sick child. (John 4:48).

It appears again when Jesus was asked for help by a blind beggar (John 9:25). Again it is revealed as Jesus responds to the Martha and Mary whose brother Lazarus is dying. (John 11:3)

All these stories hit us first as wondrous actions. But the fuller, more significant meaning lies deeper. They are signs for us of a loving and compassionate God. This is what the incarnation is all about. It reveals that God has come among us in a divine-human connection, Jesus the Christ. And, God has done this out of God's boundless and unconditional love – for all humanity.

John is explicit in expressing this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.... God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)

John's story of a wedding and wine reaches far beyond a social embarrassment and even beyond a wondrous action. The presence of Jesus at the wedding as well as in John's other stories, forms revealing vision that God's compassionate love is present in all the lacks and needs of our humanity. This is God's compassion and mercy come among us.

Can our personal, life stories reveal our faith in this loving God of compassion and mercy?

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>