

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 4th, 2026 – Epiphany of the Lord



World Day of Peace: With the beginning of a New Year, it is customary to make resolutions and set new goals for ourselves all aimed at improving a situation that needs tending to

ie. our health, personal development, finances, relationships, spiritual growth or mental/emotional health. On January 6th, the Solemnity of the Epiphany we will mark the end of the Jubilee Year, a Jubilee of Hope, a time for spiritual renewal, forgiveness and reconciliation.

January 1st marked the 59th World Day of Peace and this year's theme announced by Pope Leo XIV is, **"Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace," with a focus on peace built on love, justice, empathy and trust rather than violence.** According to the UN Refugee Agency it is estimated that as of June 2024, 122.6 million people globally have been forced to leave their homes due to conflict, violence or persecution. The following excerpt is from Pope's Leo XIV's message for World Day of Peace:

"Dear brothers and sisters, whether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey. Even when it is endangered within us and around us, like a small flame threatened by a storm, we must protect it, never forgetting the names and stories of those who have borne witness to it. Peace is a principle that guides and defines our choices. Even in places where only rubble remains, and despair seems inevitable, we still find people who have not forgotten peace.

Just as on the evening of Easter Jesus entered the place where his disciples were gathered in fear and discouragement, so too the peace of the risen Christ continues to pass through doors and barriers in the voices and faces of his witnesses. This gift enables us to remember goodness, to recognize it as victorious, to choose it again, and to do so together.

May this be one of the fruits of the Jubilee of Hope, which has moved millions of people to rediscover themselves as pilgrims and to begin within themselves that disarmament

of heart, mind and life. God will surely respond to this by fulfilling his promises: "He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." To read the Pope's entire message, click on the following link: [World Day of Peace](#)

The Jubilee Year is ending and we begin a new year -- as pilgrims of hope let us not lose hope for lasting peace in our world and be resolute in our prayers for peace for all.

Happy New Year!

*The Outreach Ministry would like to wish all the Parishioners, volunteers, and others at St. Ann's and Holy Family a **Happy New Year**. The response for the Food Bank and Shelters through Cookie Sunday donations over the past year has been amazing. Your dedication to this endeavor has consistently help make it possible for the Oromocto Food Bank to meet their mandate in the provision of their services. There are so many individuals and families who have benefited from your generosity - Thank You!*

To all who helped prepare our churches for the Advent and Christmas Seasons as well as Altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, Readers, members of the choir, the livestreaming, and our team of counters – Thank You!

To the many who volunteer on the Councils and Ministries of the Parish - Thank You. The time you dedicate to these activities is a blessing to the Parish.

Thank you to everyone for your many expressions of gratitude and blessing to each of us throughout this Christmas Season. Many thanks and many blessings!

Barb, Judy & Fr. Bill.

Summary of Support for December 20 & 21

Regular/Loose	\$ 3,738.75
PAD (wkly. average)	2,314.62
St. Mary's Cemetery	100.00
St. Patrick's Cemetery	15.00
Oromocto Food Bank	90.00
Christmas	615.00
Outreach	1,500.00
TOTAL	\$8,373.37

Summary of Support for December 24 & 25

Regular/Loose	\$ 4,395.95
Christmas	8,495.00
Outreach	210.00
TOTAL	\$13,100.95

Summary of Support for December 27 & 28

Regular/Loose	\$ 2,394.85
PAD (wkly. average)	2,314.62
St. Patrick's Cemetery	200.00
Oromocto Food Bank	25.00
Christmas	260.00
New Year's	20.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,214.47

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

Rosary: Please note there will be no Rosary at Holy Family for the next two weeks as we celebrate Christmas and New Year's Masses. Next Rosary date is **January 8th**.

Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Family Church: A new schedule is available in the entrance of the church for the period January to April 2026. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Kelly. Thank you for serving in this vital Ministry that supports our Liturgy.

YOUR 2026 DONATION OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Are now available to pick up at the entrance of the church. If there is not a box with your name, please feel free to take a 'NEW' box. Be sure to write your name and address on your envelopes as you offer them.

Parishioners using PAD (Pre-Authorized Debit) for your donations, there are packets of 'Special Collection Envelopes' available as well. Feel free to pick up a packet.

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

Thank you for helping to Turn Debt into Hope!

Thanks to your support of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada Fall Campaign 'Turn Debt Into Hope'.

Many impoverished countries in the Global South are struggling with conflict, humanitarian crises and climate change. Cancelling their unjust debts would free up scarce revenues, allowing them to better meet the needs of their citizens. Citizens like little Melati and her mother, Ade, in Ethiopia, who only aspire to live in dignity.

Each signature amplifies the message of debt justice to creditors and political leaders. You can still sign-the petition online by clicking on the following link: **[sign the petition](#)**



READINGS for January 4th

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Jan 4th For The People
Jan 11th Jason MacLeod
Jan 18th For the People
Jan 25th Deceased Members of the Russell Family

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Jan 3rd Charles LeBlonde
Jan 4th Edna Chisolu Ezeokafor
Jan 10th For the People
Jan 11th Nancy Ross / Michael Bardsley
Jan 17th Gary Llewellyn
Jan 18th David Emmerson
Jan 24th Jean Dufour
Jan 25th For the People

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Jan 4th Lawrence Cameron
Jan 11th John Monkhouse
Jan 18th Stacey Chessie
Jan 25th Elaine Geldart

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Jan 3rd Paula Ryan / Anna Mae Snider
Jan 4th Noreen Bonnell / Ebuka Ezeokafor
Oluchi Ezeokafor / Maureen Hawthorne
Jan 10th Mary Beth Gorey / Roly McSorley
Jan 11th Jane Buckley / Doreen Cormier
Maurice Harquail / Chinasa Trinitta

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Jan 3rd Rita Maxwell / Harold DeCoursey
Jan 4th JoAnne Linton / Annie Zdyb-Rinne
Jan 10th Wanda Cairns / Margie Snell
Jan 11th Sharon Watts / Bettyanne McMackin

**Knights of Columbus Community Breakfast:
Sunday, January 11th from 10:00AM to 1:00PM
at the Knicol Hall, 170 Regent Street.
Adults \$ 12.00, Children \$ 5.00 and
Families \$ 35.00
Everyone welcome.**

Our Sacred Stories

Christmas – A Blessing of Wonder and Awe (Fr. John Jennings)

*“The People who walked in darkness
have seen a great light; those who lived in a
land of deep darkness – on them light has
shone.” (Isaiah 9:2)*

The prophetic voice of Isaiah proclaims the wonder of God for all the earth. Are we able to stand in wonder at what is all around us? How often do we stand in awe? In fact, it is always before us. Dark places there are indeed in our lives. At times life seems pretty unexciting and routine. But life in fact is full of wonder and fills us with an awe that we do not recognize unless we open our eyes and heart to that blessing of God.

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 they encounter. To them, nothing is ordinary or familiar.

Young lovers manifest the same. 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.

January to June 2026 Holy Family Readers' Schedule - People who are regular readers at Holy Family, please pick up a paper copy of the new schedule in the entryway. The schedule is also available on the St. Kateri website at: <https://stkateri.ca/Lectors.html>

Here we enter the Christmas season, truly a season of wonder and awe. It is a time to let the wonder of God and God's relationship wash over us. For all the many ways in which we regard this Christmas season, at its core is the wonder of the Incarnation – that God has come among us in Jesus and shares our humanity. What a wonder - if we are truly awake and aware.

We journey this whole season of Advent and Christmas with many figures of our faith – with the prophets of the Old Testament and the hopes of Israel, with John the Baptist and his heraldic voice, with Mary and Joseph who walk in wonder and awe in what God is doing through them. Everything is new. Nothing can be ordinary or familiar for them or for us.

Can we stand in wonder and awe at God's dream for our world, for humanity? Is it possible for us to live in awe and wonder at such a loving act of God who has come among in Jesus and shares our human experience? Can we have the spirit of the little child, the sense of discovery of the young lovers, the awe of Mary as the Angel Gabriel appears?

Somewhere in the ordinary and familiar of our world we encounter and discover this great gift of awe and wonder. We see it in what we celebrate at Christmas – the Incarnation of our God. We may seek and search for God, but God is among us. God shares our humanity and stands with us in all creation. On the final Sunday of the Advent season, we hear of the wonder-filled presence of God. The Gospel writer Matthew (1:18-24) expresses this in the name given to the promised one "Emmanuel", God is with

us. We hear it again, in the readings of Christmas evening and day.

We are entering a season of wonder and awe, for God is among us. Jesus the Christ in the wonder of the Incarnation is the image of our loving and life-giving God. In Jesus, we come to recognize the wonder that marks our faith. Matthew who opens us to this awareness of God's constant presence, reassures us again at the end of his Gospel. Jesus passes on his mission to his followers with these words: *Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time* (Matt.28:20). Do we have the vision in our hearts to stand in wonder and in awe of a God who will never leave or reject us?

During this Christmas season, may you, your family and friends and all our world be blessed with the gift of wonder and awe in the many expressions of the loving presence of our God.

