

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 5th, 2025 – Epiphany of the Lord

Let Peace Fill Our Hearts: The following is an excerpt from the diary of Sister Joyce Rupp, O.S.M on January 29, 2023: "Dare I believe in peace for a world caught in the snares of domination, greed, and disregard for human life? Dare I believe in big-hearted love, self-giving service, and a setting aside of conflict, hatred and hurtful indifference? Only if I remember the kindness, caring, and selfless compassion of people whose stories never make national news yet stay forever in the grateful hearts of those who've been recipients of that goodness.

One of those stories occurred several weeks ago when I learned of neighbors assisting an older couple in their mid-eighties, both elders using walkers in their home and no longer able to drive. Living in a rural area without public transportation they were increasingly concerned about finding a way to travel to scheduled medical appointments. Imagine their relief and joy when neighbors several miles away happened to stop by, detected their need, and eagerly volunteered to provide their transportation.

It is this type of compassionate attitude and quiet action that contributes to a foundation for peace desperately longed for in our world. We cannot stop believing in the possibility of a major change to move humankind from deadly violence to global peace. I've begun praying daily the following World Prayer for Peace that was written in 1981 with the intention that "people around the world would offer this prayer at midday everyday. ...around the globe a continuous vigil.

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

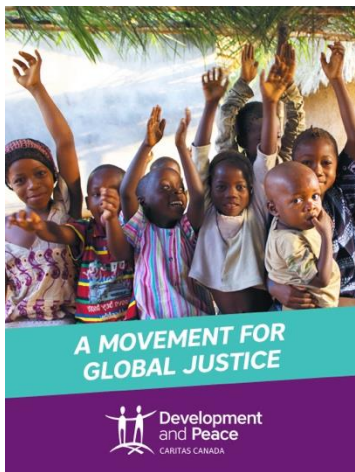
Peace begins in the minds and hearts of individuals, and that includes my own where rancor and division have no place if my life is to make a positive difference. I believe that to be a person of peace is to be a person of compassion, one who unites rather than divides, who seeks to love rather than to vent animosity, one who gives wholeheartedly rather than grasps selfishly, a person at home with oneself, and consequently at home with others.

I have long felt a resonance with the verse from Isaiah 52:7: "*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace.*" And so, I am trusting a Spirit of Enduring Peace to continue to reach into human hearts and I am planning to pray daily for people near and far, that we may respond in a way that leads to furthering harmony and well-being on our beloved planet." Abundant Peace, Joyce Rupp.

Prayer of Peace

I want to be there at dawn's arrival
when the last stars of night yawn,
and the morning's first radiant smile
filters through the coming of daylight.
I want to be there at the sun's setting
when birds chatter their evening prayers,
and darkness falls like a gentle cloak
over the planet's beloved residents.
I want to be there in human history
when peace overtakes all violence,
and each unsettled heart leaves behind
whatever blocks the flow of kindness.
I want to be there when true kinship
unites me to people here and everywhere,
gathering the enduring thread of Spirit
into a strong bond that nothing can separate.
I want to be there. (Joyce Rupp, OSM)





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

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!**

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.

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 5th

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
 2nd 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 5th Joe Power
 Jan 12th Eleanor Solomon
 Jan 19th Norma Daigle
 Jan 26th James Andrew McAllister

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Jan 5th Lawrence Cameron
 Jan 12th John Monkhouse
 Jan 19th Stacey Chessie
 Jan 26th Elaine Geldart

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Jan 4th Deceased Members of Hickey
 Family
 Jan 5th Richard Murphy
 Jan 11th Jean Dufour / Michael Bardsley
 Jan 12th Erik Alexander Lister
 Jan 18th Ray St. Laurent
 Jan 19th Souverein LeBouthillier
 Jan 25th Charlie Doherty
 Jan 26th Jerry Leach

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Jan 4th Paula Ryan / Margie Snell / Beth
 Wright
 Jan 5th Anita & Ray Allain / Bonnie Deveau
 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

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Jan 4th Joan Sowers / Harold DeCoursey
 Jan 5th JoAnne Linton / Verna McCloskey
 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

Summary of your Support for Dec 21, 22, 24, 25

Regular/Loose	\$ 8,201.50
Christmas	6,372.00
PAD (wkly. average)	1,986.92
St. Patrick's Cemetery	45.00
Collection for Life	70.00
Oromocto Food Bank	50.00
Poor and Needy Fund	50.00
Christ the King	300.00
TOTAL	\$ 17,075.42

Summary of your Support for Dec 28 & 29

Regular/Loose	\$ 5,962.05
Christmas	1,005.00
St. Patrick's Cemetery	25.00
Collection for Life	40.00
Oromocto Food Bank	25.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,057.05

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

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

Feast of the Epiphany: A Revelation of God's Gift (Fr. John Jennings)

O. Henry (1862-1910) was a famous American writer of several hundred short stories. Among his most notable was one entitled *The Gift of the Magi*. Della and Jim were a young couple, very much in love. Each admired the other for many things. Della was moved by the way Jim valued his gold watch on an old leather strap. It was gift from his family, first his grandfather and then his father. For Della it revealed Jim's love of family. Jim was always admiring Della's long, golden hair. For Jim, Della's hair represented the shining spirit and heart that was the center of his love for her.

Christmas came and they had little they could spend on gifts for one another. Each pondered their dilemma – how to find a suitable gift for the other. They looked everywhere for the best gift for the other, with few resources to spend on it.

Desperate, Della decided to cut her hair and sell it to a wigmaker. It was long and beautiful. The sale gave her enough for the gift she wanted to buy for Jim. Jim, on his search for just the right gift for his beloved Della, decided that he needed to pawn the gold pocket watch.

On Christmas morning, the two sat in front of the tree and in turn, they opened the gifts they had managed to buy for each other. Della carefully opened her gift from Jim – a beautiful gold comb and brush for Della's long, golden hair. Then, Jim rapidly opened his gift from Della – a shining brass chain to replace the old, tattered leather strap on his watch. Both sat in silence for what seemed a long time, then both broke out in laughter and embraced. They had an "epiphany", a discovery. In love, both Della and Jim had sacrificed for the other.

Epiphany, what do we mean? Literally, the word *epiphany* means a manifestation, a showing forth. The Feast of the Epiphany, which is part of the Christmas season, calls us to see the birth of Jesus as a manifestation of God to us. Put another way, it calls us to see God's gift to humanity and to all creation shown in a very small package, the gift of this special child in a humble setting. The Incarnation expresses the way in which God's love for humanity has taken flesh in Jesus.

One aspect of our Christmas season is the tradition of gift-giving. Such a tradition has value. To give a gift can be the expression of an inner sentiment. It is not the material value or size of the gift that makes it special. It is special for what it says about the relationship that you have with the other person.

Gift-giving is not about the material thing. It is a relational action. It allows us to bring what is invisible into the visible world. The gift, when best understood, and this is when it is most effective and real is an expression of the heart. As Jesus is an epiphany of God's love, so our gift-giving tradition can be an epiphany of human love for one another.

The gospel of this Feast of the Epiphany is drawn from the Gospel of Matthew (2:1-12). It highlights the story of the Magi, the wise persons who came to visit the child Jesus. We see the visitors bringing gifts to the child. It is not the value of the gifts that is important in this story. Rather it is the pilgrimage made by these visitors from afar and the way in which they see the child Jesus as special for them. More than the gift itself, it is the act of giving that is significant. In doing so, the Magi express what is in their hearts. **May our Epiphany recognize, the deep love of God for all humanity. May we live this gift for each other. Peace be with you, throughout this new year!**