

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

March 15th, 2026 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Our Lenten Journey—Week Four

“Life A Breath of Fresh Air. A person who prayerfully goes about their life is constantly ready to receive the breath of God, and to let their life be renewed and expanded.”

Prayer: *Lord, accept my thanks in this moment of prayer—my thanks for the many times prayer has been a lifeline for me, for the many times it has been the way you sent your power into my life to bear me up when I was falling.* – Henri Nouwen, *Daily Lenten Meditations*

As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, some questions to reflect on, focusing on sharing with others gifts we have received from God:

- How has giving to others blessed you? Where might God be asking you to be more generous?
- What are you grateful for?
- Who do you know who's struggling? How might you be present to them?
- What gifts has God given you to share with others?



Symbols in Anticipation of Easter – Week Four: “A Candle”.

The fragile flame of a candle is a silent

symbol that speaks of hope, gladness, warmth, learning and love. We pray that the flame of faith will be kept burning brightly.

Weekday Masses:

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.

‘Show Me the Way’ – Lent Sessions: The third session for our group gathering is on **Thursday, March 19th at 7pm at Holy Family Church.** We are using the book of Daily Lent Reflections by Henri Nouwen. Please speak to Judy Kelly if you have any questions (506) 478-7274.

CCCB Journey through Lent Resources. This Lenten series includes reflections on the readings for each Sunday of Lent including Palm Sunday. This year's spiritual reflections are delivered by the Most Reverend Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough. You can access the link at www.cccb.ca/lent

REGIONAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR LENT

A Service will be held this Sunday, March 15th at 3 pm at St. Dunstan's Church. Several Priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada Share Lent Campaign:



On Track for Justice – from father to daughter. Lives in the village of Piquiá de Baixo in Brazil began being disrupted in the 1980s, with the arrival of several polluting industries in their backyard. The villagers formed an association to defend their rights. Flavia's

father started the fight, and she picked up the torch.

Last year, after a 20-year struggle, 312 families affected by industrial pollution moved to the new, cleaner, safer village of Piquiá da Conquista. The support of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partner, **Justiça nos Trilhos** (JnT), made this relocation possible for 1,300 people. Learn more in our [Mini-magazine](#) and meet Flavia and her daughter Aylla by watching their testimonies at devp.org/lent.



Solidarity Sunday is Next

Weekend! "Lent is a time of fasting, giving and anticipation. It is also a time to remember God's presence in the poor, which encourages us to act with charity, generosity and justice. This Lent, the Bishops of Canada continue to invite the faithful

to be in solidarity with the poor by **giving generously to the Share Lent fundraising campaign of Development and Peace which takes place next weekend, the fifth Sunday of Lent, March 21st and 22nd.**" –Bishop Pierre Goudreault, President of the CCCB. Your generosity helps support over 59 projects in 34 countries around the world! Special collection envelopes are available in the lobby of the Church.

Symbols of Solidarity: 4th Symbol – The mustard seed. The mustard seed and sprout represent hope for tomorrow. As the Gospel says in Matthew 13:32, "It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree...".

This parable illustrates how small gestures or small gifts, made with great love, can really make a **BIG** difference. Together, let's build a world of justice so that our sisters and brothers in the Global South and future generations can live in peace and dignity. Sharing our gifts of solidarity helps to build a bridge of global solidarity. On behalf of all the partners of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada and the communities they support, **thank you for your solidarity and generosity!!**

Catholic Social teaching (CST) is central to our faith and the work of Development and Peace. Each Monday, discover a CST and learn how it helps building the Kingdom of God. Use the link: [Solidarity Calendar Activities](#)



Shelter & Foodbank Donations. A huge **THANK YOU** to parishioners from St. Ann's Church, Holy Family Church, and Residents from Shannex for your

generous donations at last weekend's Cookie Sunday. We collected 154 dozen cookies which represents 1,850 smiles!

Food Bank "Everything Tomato & Pasta Campaign" will continue throughout the forty days of Lent. Our tower is growing, let's keep going!! Your gifts are a blessing and your generosity is making a much-needed impact on those who need it most!

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

Summary of Support for March 7 & 8th

Regular/Loose	\$ 5,420.65
PAD (wkly. average)	2,298.46
D & P	25.00
St. Patrick's Cemetery	45.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,789.11

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 – Rosary is prayed every Thursday morning at 10:30am at Holy Family Church. During Lent we will be praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. Everyone is welcome.

May 13– 24, 2026: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Hector Caissie. Cost of \$2795 (plus taxes) includes airfare from the Moncton/Halifax, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local guide. (Optional single room supplement, \$250/p.) **Payment by e-transfer, bank transfer or cheque gets a REBATE of \$250.00** **INFO:** Hector Caissie at hectorcaissie@gmail.com or 506-857-2295.

READINGS for March 15th

First Reading: Exodus 13:21-22
 Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
 Gospel: John 9:1-41

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Mar 15th Iverson & Solomon Families
 Mar 22nd Helen McLenaghan
 Mar 29th For the People

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Mar 14th Omer Doucet
 Mar 15th Arthurenne Basque
 Mar 21st Jerry Chessie Jr. / Eddie Skidmore
 Mar 22nd Charles Sargeant
 Mar 28th Martin Clark
 Mar 29th Paul McGrattan

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Mar 15th Elaine Geldart
 Mar 22nd Carolann Doherty
 Mar 29th Betty Colligan

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Mar 14th William Cormier / Mona LeBlanc
 Mar 15th James McGroarty/Clare or Sophia Obi
 Genevieve Obi / Oma Olopade
 Mar 21st Margie Snell / Joan Sowers
 Mar 22nd Chinyere Alozie / Norma Downing
 Anuli Ezeokafor / Debbie Landau

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Mar 14th Ron Breau/Judy Kelly
 Mar 15th JoAnne Linton / Sadie Cameron
 Mar 21st Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton
 Mar 22nd Sharon Watts / Bettyanne McMackin

Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Week at Holy

Family Church: Please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby of the church for Masses during Holy Week. Please sign up if you are interested or able to be a Eucharistic Minister for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil on Saturday, and Easter Sunday. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Kelly, 506-478-7274. Thank you!

Ste. Anne de Beaupre – June 2026.

For anyone that had expressed interest in the Annual trip to Ste. Anne de Beaupre with Rick Bourgeois, please give Rick a call to secure your seat and deposit. Phone 506-327-6777.

Our Sacred Stories
Living Faith: Ever Changing
(Fr. John Jennings – 3rd Sunday of Lent)

Spring is approaching. We can see it in the length of the days, the warming of the sun, the melting of the ice and snow. We may even sense it in ourselves. The brighter, sunnier days seem to give us more energy. Change comes with the season and life is full of change. In fact, change is a constant in life. To have life is to have a capacity to change, to grow. Put another way, to have life is to be open to change, to be ready for the new expressions of who we are and what life means for us. Relationships are like this as well. If our relationships have life they are always changing and growing. Faith follows the same pattern, for faith is relational. To be alive, it must be growing and changing.

The Gospel for this 3rd Sunday of Lent comes from the Good News according to John (John 4:5-42). It is the rather long account (John tends to be long-winded) of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. The story describes the manner in which the woman gradually comes to a faith and awareness of who Jesus is – first as a prophet, then as messiah, then we hear of her fellow Samaritans coming to a faith that he is the Savior of the world.

This is a story of how faith is a dynamic, growing and living experience, not a static body of doctrine. It is an experience of life that is constantly evolving and changing. The woman's experience revealed this as did the experience of the other Samaritans of the town. In addition, it reveals something of faith as the result of an encounter or rather, a series of encounters. First there is the woman's meeting of Jesus at the well. This is a totally unexpected meeting. To have Jesus, a Jewish man meet and speak to a Samaritan woman would be unheard of in the society of the time. The woman realizes this. Even the disciples remark upon this and question it.

The woman then encounters some others from her town and shares her experience and her bewilderment with them. This encounter apparently intrigues the townspeople.

Their curiosity leads them to go to meet Jesus themselves and this third encounter brings them an experience of faith in Jesus that is even more than what the woman expressed. They come to faith in Jesus as the Savior of the world.

Where does living faith come from? It comes first as a gift of God. But God seems always to work through created and human instruments. Our living faith has resulted from many encounters over the years – our parents, our children, our teachers, our priests,...our friends. It grows with every experience we have. This process of growth is a story like John's Gospel, for our recognition of Jesus and how we relate to Jesus (and God) is never constant. Like any relationship every experience of our lives, down through the years, will change that relationship. As children that relationship will have a child's character. As youths then as adults that relationship will change and perhaps challenge us.

Living and adult faith is not the faith of a child. It has many more questions, many more demands for us. It is like all other relationships, one which more grey than black and white, often more challenging than it is comforting and frequently will have more questions than answers.

The Samaritan woman encounter with Jesus at that well turned her life upside down. It also spilled over into the people of her town. Living and adult faith has a capacity to do this. It should never be boring and it should never be static. It will call us to change every day and to see that we cannot keep it to ourselves, for it is for others as much as it is for ourselves.

Q/ Who has helped my faith to grow over the years? What experiences of my life have influenced my faith? Who are some persons that I have encountered and who have affected my faith?
Q/ How *adult* is my own faith?

Our Sacred Stories
Seeing the Light, in the Midst of the Darkness
(4th Sunday of Lent)

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world (John 9:5)

Winter in the north, it is often a challenge to our perseverance and our endurance. About this time of year, one wonders if it is ever going to give up on us. It always seems to go on for so long, lots of cold, lots of snow, lots of ice and lots of darkness. This Sunday we are presented with the contrast of the darkness and light in the story of the blind man found in John's Gospel (John 9:1-41).

Jesus encounters a man who has been blind from birth. He reaches out to the man and heals his blindness, restoring his sight. This is a wondrous act, a miracle. Suddenly, a person who could not see regains sight. But there is a bigger wonder, a greater miracle that is found in this story. The blind man gained his physical sight, but then gradually he came to a new kind of sight as well. He came to see with spiritual vision.

The spiritual sight gained by the blind man in John's Gospel is not easy. The blind man healed by Jesus found himself drawn into the realm of the spiritual. He got his physical sight quickly. But he did not quickly come to see the spiritual impact of what had happened. This came only gradually. First, he found himself being questioned by his neighbours about how he had been healed. His response was to describe what had taken place. Put simply "the man called Jesus" gave him his sight.

Next, the neighbours took the man to the Pharisees and again he simply described what had taken place. When the Pharisees asked him who Jesus was, the man's response revealed a growth in his awareness: "He is a Prophet." The Pharisees then indicated that they regarded the man as a disciple of Jesus.

To their resistance, the man expressed his belief that Jesus came from God. With this, the Pharisees drove him out of the synagogue.

Jesus found the man and the two spoke. The man began to express his faith that Jesus is the *Son of Man*, the active presence of God among us. For John such an assertion was an expression of the man coming to new sight, spiritual sight. It had been a difficult process and one that involved energy, time and a willingness to trust for the man. Spiritual sight was an awareness of God with him in the person of Jesus and a world that had changed with that presence.

How do we repeat the blind man's experience of faith moving to awareness? Perhaps it is a bit like our experience of spring. Sometimes spring comes for us only very gradually, after long days of warming, brightening and melting. Other times it seems to come upon us suddenly. We wake up to the sounds of birds and the appearance of leaves on the trees. And spring is here.

A disciple's faith is like that. Sometimes we are working away on faith that seeks to bring us to an awareness of God, ever-present in our world and our lives, and the gap seems so great. God seems so far from us. At other times, we have those occasions of awareness of this God among us and so close. The blind man's journey is one that took him to physical sight, from darkness to light. But it was also a journey that took him to a second vision of the ever-present God, touching our world. His faith had led him to awareness. How often we are this blind person. How often we are given this second vision. Do we pay attention to such a gift of new sight and the light that floods into our world?

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, March 20th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!