

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 24th, 2024 – Passion (Palm) Sunday



HOLY WEEK

Message from Fr. Bill:

This week we move into the celebration of Holy Week. This is considered the 'Greatest Week' of our liturgical year. It encompasses the end of Lent and the Easter Triduum. This week provides us with a graphic remembering of God's love for us in Jesus' total giving of himself in love through his dying and rising in glory. In our remembering, we are inspired by Jesus' presence in our world and personal lives. We are touched deeply by his unwavering commitment to be with us in the delights, ordinary moments and suffering experiences of our lives and bringing all of us into the glory of Easter with Him.

The Easter Triduum, which is the three days from Holy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday evening, is celebrated as one great feast. This is why we are strongly encouraged to participate in the three main celebrations: Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening, The Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening or Easter Sunday Mass.

I would invite you to see these three days as a retreat time for yourselves and your families by attending these liturgies and taking some reflective time between these celebrations to let them speak more deeply into your lives.

Special note about Holy Saturday and the 'Sacred Fire' connected to the Easter Vigil: The Easter Vigil always begins with lighting a new fire recognizing the gift of God's fire within the universe, the center of the earth, on the earth, within each of us and Christ as Light for the World. This year Wolastoqey Fire Keeper and Parishioner Mike Solomon will make and attend a 'Sacred Fire' in an area in front of Holy Family Church (parking area) for us to gather, be in a circle of community and prayer before the Vigil. The Fire will be there by 6 pm and the Easter Vigil begins at 8 pm with Fire being taken from this Sacred Fire to light our New Pascal Candle. You are invited to spend a bit or an extended period at the Sacred Fire during this time. Even if you gather there for a moment or two as you arrive for the Vigil will be a gift.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish
Easter Triduum Mass
All Masses will be livestreamed

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper (Mar 28)
7pm, Holy Family Church

Good Friday, Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
3pm, Holy Family Church (Mar 29)

Stations of the Cross led by The Youth Group @12 noon

Saturday, Easter Vigil, Resurrection of the Lord
8pm, Holy Family Church (**NO 4:30 Mass** on Holy Saturday)

Easter Sunday, Resurrection of the Lord
9:30am, St. Ann's Church
11am, Holy Family Church

Saint Padre Pio (1887-1968)

Patron of adolescents & spiritual healing

Saint Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione on May 25 1887 in Pietrelcina, in the province of Benevento, Italy. A son of very devout peasant farm laborers Grazio Mario Forgione and Maria Giuseppa Di Nunzio. They were very devoted to the saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was baptized in the nearby Santa Anna Chapel.

Around the age of five he had a desire to serve God and dedicated himself to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was able to communicate with his guardian angel and had visions of the Blessed Mother quite regularly. At the age of ten he met a travelling bearded Capuchin friar who was asking around the countryside for provisions and he decided he wanted to be just like the bearded friar.

His parents looked into the possibility. The friars agreed but said he would need a better education. His parents were poor and so his father left for America to earn money so he could get the proper education. At fifteen, Francesco entered the noviciate of the Capuchin Friars Minor and received the name Pio.

As a novice he learned structure and discipline. At the Friary they gathered for prayer seven times a day, studied for long hours, lived in a very small and simple cell, went barefoot, did manual labour and much fasting. In 1907, at age nineteen he made his final vows, and in 1910 he was ordained a priest.

He was most often in poor health but he was very devout in prayer to the point of being in ecstasy and sometimes levitating, and at times losing track of time and place. In 1916, then twenty-nine years old he was sent to Our Lady of Grace Capuchin Friary in San Giovanni Rotondo where he would remain until his death.

On September 20, 1918, while praying after mass he had a vision and suddenly, he received the stigmata where he received the wounds of Jesus in his hands, feet, his side and his shoulder. His wounds which caused him pain, bled daily and smelled of flowers. He had these wounds for fifty years and of the many doctors who examined these wounds could find no scientific explanation for this.

He became known as a mystic and his masses were very devout. He heard confessions for hours on end and gave spiritual counsel to many. Padre Pio showed bilocation and levitation, the charisms of healing, prophecy, numerous miracles. He could read what was in people's hearts and spent weeks at a time without eating, living only on the Holy Eucharist. He had a hospital built for those in need.

September 22, 1968, Padre Pio celebrated a solemn Mass to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his receiving of the stigmata. The next day, on September 23rd, at the age of 81 all his wounds disappeared with his death and hundreds of thousands of people attended his funeral. He was beatified May 2, 1999 and canonized June 16, 2002 by Pope John Paul II. His feast day is September 23rd.

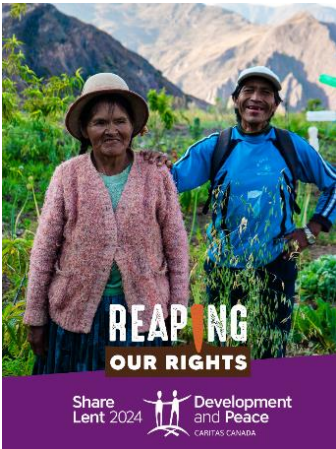
Prayer *Saint Padre Pio, you loved God with all your heart and bore the wounds of Christ on your body. Through you, many lives were converted, hearts healed, and sins forgiven. Please pray for me, that I will receive the healing I need so that I will more fully devote myself to the will of God and serve Him with all my might. Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Fasting Think of the small and simple cell each of the friars lived in. See if you can go without some of the comforts of home for the next week and try and live simply.

Almsgiving Take the time to call or talk to a sick friend or someone you know is going through a hard time. Even just listening may be helpful to them, so they know someone cares.

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.

Development and Peace: Thank you for giving from the heart to Share Lent 2024!



For decades many families in the Global South have been losing the ability to feed themselves adequately. Our sisters and brothers in the Global South need our solidarity more than ever.

If you have already

donated, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada thanks you for supporting the **Reaping our Rights** campaign with your Share Lent donation. If you have not yet had a chance to give, you can still place the Share Lent envelope in the offertory (envelopes are available in the lobby) or donate online at devp.org/give.

Thanks to your generosity, on Solidarity Sunday last weekend our Parish collected \$1923.15. This sum will help support our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

“And if, in the ashes that we are, the fire of the love of God burns, then we will discover that we have indeed been shaped by that love and called to love others in turn. To love our sisters and brothers all around us, to be considerate to others, to feel compassion, to show mercy, to share all that we are and all that we have with those in need.” —Pope Francis, February 2024

By sowing justice, we reap hope, peace, solidarity, and dignity. Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice.

Interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister? Over the next several weeks, I will be preparing a new schedule for Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister at Holy Family Church, please contact July Kelly (459-2781) by **April 14th** so you can be added to the new schedule.

A reminder to all our Eucharistic Ministers that masks are still required when distributing communion. A box of masks has been placed on the small table just off the altar. Thank you for serving in this vital Ministry that supports our Liturgy.

Summary of your Support for March 16/17

Regular/Loose	\$ 4,088.90
Solidarity Sunday (D&P)	\$ 1,923.15
PAD (wkly. average)	1,827.69
St. Patrick's Cemetery	10.00
Poor & Needy Fund	60.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,909.74

Thank you for your continued and generous support.

OPTIONS FOR OFFERTORY DONATIONS:

1. Pre-authorized Debit (PAD). Forms are at the entrance of the churches. Return to parish office.
2. Mail your envelopes St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, 1500 Hanwell Road, Fredericton NB E3C 1N3.
3. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) You may send your donations by Electronic Funds Transfer to office@stkateri.ca

Offertory Envelope User #218 (MacDonald). Please call and leave a message at the office with your full name and address (444-6021).

Your 2023 Donation Receipts are available to at the church entrances. Please call the parish office (506-444-6021) if you wish to have your receipt mailed. Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

Cookie Sunday Weekend: Next Cookie Sunday weekend is **March 30th and 31st**. In addition to cookies, we continue to collect the following items for the Foodbank: canned vegetables and tomato soup. Donations can be dropped off at Holy Family Church at the Saturday Mass at Holy Family Church or Sunday Mass at both St. Ann's Church and Holy Family Church. Thank you for your continued support!

Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers (GHG) Bridge Luncheon; April 25, 2024. GHG will be hosting a Bridge Luncheon on Thursday, April 25th at St. Theresa's Church Hall, 1 William St., Fredericton, from 12:00 to 3:00pm. \$60.00 per table. Proceeds to support the [Stephen Lewis Foundation and Help Lesotho](#). Please call **Mary Waters** at **506-455-0574** to reserve a table. (Please leave a message if no answer).

READINGS for March 24th

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 15:1 – 15:47

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Mar 24th Yvonne and Gordon Buggie

Mar 31st For the People

Apr 7th Charles W. Solomon

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Mar 24th Betty Culligan

Mar 31st Mike Solomon

Apr 7th

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Mar 23rd Alton Chessie

Mar 24th Chinonye Igwebike

Mar 30th For the People

Mar 31st Lucy Bourque

Apr 6th Peter & John Awit and Family

Apr 7th Lorna MacNeil

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

For Holy Week

Palm Sunday (March 23rd)

Colleen Hamilton/Judy Kelly

Palm Sunday (March 24th)

Patrick Burgoon/Ewart Kenney

Holy Thursday (March 28th)

Harold DeCoursey/Patrick Burgoon

Good Friday (March 29th)

Joan Sowers/Leslie Carr

Easter Vigil (March 30th)

Margie Snell/Dorothy Blanchard

Easter Sunday (March 31st)

Ewart Kenney/Verna McCloskey/Judy Kelly

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday (March 23rd)

1st Reading and Psalm – Mona LeBlanc

2nd Reading and Intentions – William Cormier

Passion Reading:

Narrator (N) – Anna Mae Snider

Jesus (J) – Fr. Brennan

Other Speakers (S) – Church Congregation

Palm Sunday (March 24th)

1st Reading and Psalm – Anita Allain

2nd Reading and Intentions – Genevieve Obi

Passion Reading:

Narrator (N) – Ray Allain

Jesus (J) – Fr. Brennan

Other Speakers (S) – Church Congregation

Holy Thursday (March 28th)

1st Reading and Psalm – Liz Solomon

2nd Reading – Margie Snell

Good Friday (March 29th)

1st Reading and Psalm – Noreen Bonnell

2nd Reading – Mike Solomon

Passion Reading:

Narrator (N) – Debbie Landau

Jesus (J) – Fr. Brennan

Other Speakers (S) – Church Congregation

Easter Vigil (March 30th)

1st Reading: Genesis 1:1-2, 2 – Mary Beth Gorey and
Roly McSorley

Psalm – Sung by Ryan Tapley

Prayer – Fr. Brennan

2nd Reading: Exodus 14:15-31; 15:20, 1 – James McGroarty

Psalm – Sung by Ryan Tapley

Prayer – Fr. Brennan

3rd Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11 – Anuli Ezoekafor

Psalm – Sung by Ryan Tapley

Prayer – Fr. Brennan

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11 – Patrick Burgoon

Prayers of the Faithful – Norma Downing

Easter Sunday (March 31st)

1st Reading and Psalm – Jane Buckley

2nd Reading and Intentions – Maurice Harquail

Our Sacred Stories

Passion Sunday: God and a Suffering Humanity (Fr. John Jennings)

One of the realities of our human existence is the presence of suffering in life. It is the personal suffering we might have in our own lives. It is also what touches us in the suffering of loved ones. Beyond what we experience in our own lives directly, we all know that we live in a global community that is constantly facing the challenge of a suffering in which we feel so helpless. War, poverty, natural disasters, injustice, inequalities, violence, these all bring suffering to our world and its people.

There is a question that is often asked in the light of this constant theme of suffering in our humanity. In the midst of the suffering that we face personally and that we see around us in the global community – where is God?

This weekend is Passion Sunday. As we do every year at the beginning of Holy Week, we listen to Mark's telling of the story of Jesus' passion and death. It is here perhaps that we discover something of a response to that question, "Where is God?" In the midst of the suffering we face personally and globally the answer we are seeking is often directed at how God will make things better – how God will intervene and heal our threatening illness or prevent the suffering of a loved one. We are asking why God did not intervene to avoid the destruction and death that came from a hurricane or a flood. We ask why God allows the injustice and the violence and inequalities that seem so prevalent in our world.

Listening to the story of the Passion of Jesus in Mark's Gospel one of the most poignant images we are given is Jesus, on the cross, looking to heaven and crying out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

On the cross, Jesus expresses the desolation he experiences through these words from the Old Testament Psalm 22. Of all the suffering that is part of the passion story the most painful is Jesus' sense of being forsaken by all, by his friends and disciples and even by his Father-God. In the passion story, Jesus faces the suffering totally alone.

Is this isolation the real pain of all of our human suffering? Are we ever really alone in our suffering? Perhaps the fuller story of the Good News of God is that in suffering we are never totally alone. God may not prevent or cure or take away our suffering or that of humanity. But the Incarnation, our faith that God in Jesus joins and shares our humanity, is the response to the question: "Where is God?" On the cross, the Father-God remains with Jesus and the story of the passion reveals this in the resurrection.

In the midst of suffering, "Where is God? Through the Incarnation God sends the Son to live among us, to share our humanity, to be like us in all things, even our suffering. God does not intervene, but God does stand with us, all of us, in all suffering. We are never alone. God does not abandon us. In the presence of Jesus, even sharing our suffering humanity, God stands in solidarity with every human being. St. Paul grasped this wonder of God's love constantly with us to comfort and to console. He expressed it to the little community of Christians in the town of Philippi so many centuries ago:

*Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, **being born in human likeness**. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8).*

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF TRIAL

(By Hadrien Gayap, Youth Ambassador in New Brunswick)

Palm Sunday marks the final stretch before Easter, which celebrates the Resurrection of Christ, the central element of the Christian faith. Today's readings remind us of several important points for nurturing our relationship with God, as well as our relationship with our sisters and brothers.

The first reading reminds us that the success of our lives depends, among other things, on **the quality of our relationships with our sisters and brothers**. We must think of those who are exhausted and crushed under the weight of life. We must be attentive to the smallest and the poorest. This is what the prophet Isaiah underlines: "The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught."

These attitudes are reflected in the work of Development and Peace's partner, the Observatoire Tunisien de l'Économie (OTE), which, despite obstacles, promotes **economic justice** and **democratic participation** in Tunisia. OTE's economic policy analyses equip Tunisians to better defend their economic rights, especially in unfavorable circumstances. Their work is a real source of hope and helps mobilize thousands of citizens, agricultural experts, members of civil society, parliamentarians, civil servants and journalists every year. This is a concrete example of listening to and supporting local communities.

Palm Sunday also calls us to **humility**. "The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward," says Prophet Isaiah.

"Though he was in the form of God," Jesus Christ, "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness," says Saint Paul in his letter to the Philippians. "**Humility goes before honour.**" (Proverbs 15:33) Following the example of the humbled, triumphant Jesus Christ, we can give new meaning to a world that is losing its identity and bearings. Humility leads us to say to our sisters or brothers that we seek their forgiveness and to be quick to offer them forgiveness.

Humility helps us to take a step towards others, to see others as our neighbours and to love them. In the Gospel, St. Mark's account of the **Passion** can be seen as a **symbol of deep commitment and sacrifice**. *It reminds us that true love takes on its full meaning in the gift of self to others.*

In this last week of Lent, let us stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world who are showing resilience in the face of hardship. As we make our way towards Easter, let us walk together along paths of solidarity and sharing that allow us to grow closer to God and our neighbours!