

# St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish

**Office: 1500 Hanwell Road, Fredericton NB E3C 1N3 Phone (506) 444-6021**

**Father Bill Brennan, Parish Priest Website: [stkateri.ca](http://stkateri.ca) Email: [office@stkateri.ca](mailto:office@stkateri.ca)**

**Mass Schedule: St. Ann's Sunday @ 9:30 am/Holy Family Saturday @ 4:30 pm and Sunday @ 11:00 am**

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Pentecost Sunday**

## **Pentecost Happened At A Meeting by Fr. Ron Rolheiser:**

"If you're someone who's at all concerned about community, family, church, justice, education, culture, or civic issues, you will, no doubt, find yourself at a lot of meetings. A colleague of mine likes to quip: "When they write our history, they'll simply say, 'They met a lot!'"

Indeed, we do. We meet a lot. There are an endless variety of issues that call for our participation in group discussion and community discernment: church issues, education issues, justice issues, moral issues, political issues, social issues, economic issues, and cultural issues. It's a bottomless well and all those meetings can seem like a huge waste of time and energy, a distraction to real work. Moreover, at a point, we can't help wondering too: "Are all these meetings changing anything? Would life be any different (other than more leisured and pleasant) if we stopped having all these meetings?" It's easy to grow tired, discouraged, and cynical about all the meetings we're asked to attend.

But we should keep something in mind: Pentecost happened at a meeting! One of the central events that shaped Christian history and history in general, happened not to an individual off praying alone or to a monk on a mountain-top or to a solitary Buddha meditating under a tree. None of these. Pentecost happened at meeting, and it happened to a community, to a church congregation assembled for prayer, to a family of faith gathered to wait for God's guidance. Moreover, it happened in a common room, a meeting room, in one of those humble, church-basement, type of rooms. It can be helpful to remember that. Our search for God should take us not just into private places of quiet and contemplation but, equally, into meeting rooms.

Where Christianity is different from most other world religions is partly on this very point. In Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Taoism, spirit and revelation break into the world very much through an individual, particularly an individual who is deeply immersed in private prayer. God speaks deeply to those who pray deeply.

Christian spirituality and Judaism have no argument with that. We agree. There's a privileged experience of God that can be had only in private, alone, in silence. To find God, to receive God's spirit, it's important that, at times, we pull away from the group, that we set off to the desert,

to the chapel, to the lonely place, the quiet, to be alone with God. We see Jesus do exactly that. Mark's gospel tells us that when his ministry was most intense, when it was "too busy even to eat", Jesus pulled away, to be alone for a while. There are times that call for withdrawal and silence. Meister Eckhart once wrote: "There is nothing in the world that resembles God as much as silence." All good spirituality shares this view.

However, where Christianity and Judaism differ somewhat from some of the other world religions is in our belief that there is an equally privileged experience of God that can be had only in a group, in community, in family, at a meeting. We don't just meet God in the desert or in the deep quiet parts of our souls. We meet God there, surely, but we also meet God in the group, the community, the family, at the church gathering, at the meeting: "For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them!" In Christian and Jewish spirituality there are two non-negotiable places where we meet God, alone and in the family. These are not in opposition, but complementary, relying on each other to keep our experience of God both deep and pure.

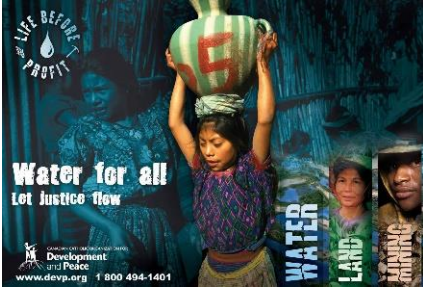
Pentecost, it is important to note, happened to a group at a meeting, not to an individual alone in the desert. That can be helpful to keep in mind when we tire of meetings, despair of their effectiveness, or resent that they pull us away from important private endeavours. The fact that Pentecost happened at a meeting can also be helpful in keeping us focused on why we are going to all these meetings in the first place.

Peter Maurin, Dorothy Day's initial mentor, used to say: "When you don't know what else to do, keep going to meetings!" Sound advice! Meetings are the "Upper room", the place where we wait for Pentecost. And what are we waiting for? Why are we in the upper room, at a meeting? Because we are waiting there, with others, for God to do something in us and through us that we can't do all by ourselves, namely, create community with each other and bring justice, love, peace, and joy to our world.

And so, we need to go to continue to go to meetings. We need to spend time together waiting for God, waiting for a new outflow of heavenly fire that will give us the courage, language, and power we need to make happen in the world what our faith and love envision.

See you at the meeting!"

## Development and Peace - Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity of the Human Person



“A just society can become a reality only when it is based on the respect of the transcendent dignity of the human person. The

person represents the ultimate end of society....The social order and its development must invariably work to the benefit of the human person...not the other way around.” — *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 132*

**Dignity cannot be earned or erased**, but it is often denied. When people are excluded, marginalized, or forced to live in unsafe, unhealthy conditions, they are being treated as though they have no dignity. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada and our partners work for a world that affirms the dignity of everyone, no matter who they are.

From an unequal economy to discrimination against particular groups, peoples’ dignity is denied in many deeply structural ways. Through projects focused on things like community organizing, training on housing rights and education for women, **our partners’ help people come together to recognize, defend and promote each other’s dignity**, transforming our world in the process.

When a disaster like an earthquake or typhoon strikes, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada works with local organizations to provide emergency supplies like bedding, food and shelter. Our partners also address affected people’s emotional needs through psycho-social and post-trauma counselling services. Dignity-centered emergency relief also makes communities more resilient to future disasters by addressing the root causes of poverty that make some communities so vulnerable in the first place.

We are building a **world where all people are treated with the dignity** they deserve and have the means to lead a dignified life.

**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:** Every Thursday morning at 10:30am at Holy Family Church. During the Easter Season we will be reciting the Glorious Mysteries. Everyone is welcome!

### Summary of your Support for May 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

<b>Regular/Loose</b>	<b>\$ 2,726.15</b>
<b>PAD (wkly. average)</b>	<b>1,827.69</b>
<b>Pope’s Pastoral Works</b>	<b>110.00</b>
<b>St. Patrick’s Cemetery</b>	<b>45.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,738.84</b>

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](mailto:office@stkateri.ca)

**New Envelope User #195** please call the office 506-444-6021 and leave your name and address.

**Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Family Church:** A new schedule is available in the entrance of the church for the period May 18<sup>th</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Eucharistic Ministers are required to wear a mask when serving communion. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Kelly. Thank you for serving in this vital Ministry that supports our Liturgy.

## **READINGS for May 19<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

**Responsorial Psalm: Lord, send forth your Spirit,  
and renew the face of the earth.**

## **Mass Intentions at St. Ann's**

May 19<sup>th</sup> Joan Polchies

May 26<sup>th</sup> The Sabattis Family

## **READERS AT ST. ANN'S**

May 19<sup>th</sup> Mike Solomon

May 26<sup>th</sup> Lawrence Cameron

## **Mass Intentions at Holy Family**

May 18<sup>th</sup> Tyler Messer

May 19<sup>th</sup> Nafla and Vicky Anderson

May 25<sup>th</sup> John & Edna Saad

May 26<sup>th</sup> Carla Agnesi

## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY**

May 18<sup>th</sup> Joan Sowers / Harold DeCoursey

May 19<sup>th</sup> Sadie Cameron / Dorothy Blanchard

May 25<sup>th</sup> Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton

May 26<sup>th</sup> Patrick Burgoon / Ewart Kenney

## **READERS AT HOLY FAMILY**

May 18<sup>th</sup> Paula Ryan/Margie Snell/Beth Wright

May 19<sup>th</sup> Norma Downing/Linda Hubbard/Debbie  
Landau

May 25<sup>th</sup> Mona LeBlanc / William Cormier

May 26<sup>th</sup> Anuli & Ebuka Ezeokafor / Laura McCarron

**FOCUS ON LIFE – Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – at  
Brunswick St. Baptist Church. Prayer Service  
beginning at 9:45 am. Followed by Mass at 10  
am at St. Dunstan's Church with Bishop  
Christian Riesbeck. 11 am Groups are  
welcome to Legislature building to gather for  
prayer.**

**Cookie Sunday Weekend:** Next Cookie Sunday weekend is **May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**. In addition to cookies, the Food Bank is in need of canned items ie. soup, vegetables, pasta, or meat.

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.

Thank you for your continued support of our Outreach Ministry!

**CORPUS CHRISTI COLLECTION:** The third annual collection for the Cathedral Restoration will be taken up in the parishes on the weekend of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), this year on June 1-2, 2024. You may use the envelopes in your box sets or loose envelopes provided for this purpose in the pews or go to our website <https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/donations> to donate. Gifts of either a one-time donation, securities, bequests, or other planned gifts are a tremendous blessing and will aid significantly to the success of this restoration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our finance department at [khudson@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto:khudson@dioceseofsaintjohn.org) or 506 653-6814. Copies of letter from Bishop Riesbeck available in the lobby of each church.

## **Steubenville Atlantic 2024 Youth Conference**

Youth aged 14-18 are invited to participate in this event held at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, NS from July 5-7. If you are between 18 and 21, you can attend as a peer leader. Before registering please talk to your parish priest or RE coordinator about registration. Conference information can be found on the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth website under Steubenville Atlantic. Transportation to NS is included in the registration fee of \$300.00. Pick up locations will be from Fredericton, Saint John, and Moncton. For more information please contact Patricia at 506-627-6465 or email [catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto:catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org). The Parish will assist with financing.

**Our Sacred Stories**  
**Ascension: A Story of Leaving Yet Remaining**  
**(Fr. John Jennings)**

Some 45 years ago I met Jim and Pauline. Jim was with the OPP and Pauline worked in a Catholic school in Barrie. At the time I was on sabbatical researching. I lived and assisted in a parish in the north of Toronto. The three of us worked together in a marriage enrichment program. Over the course of the year we became good friends. Then I left to return to Fredericton.

One of the remarkable things is that the departure did not end the friendship. For more than 45 years we have maintained the friendship through letters, emails and phone calls. It was not always easy to maintain the contact but it did happen. Though we left each other's physical presence we had not really left one another. Somehow, there was a presence that continued. We continued to be with one another in our friendship. There was a sense of being apart and together, of "leaving yet remaining" with one another.

When the Scriptures speak of the Ascension, it may seem that Jesus is somehow leaving his disciples. But when we look more closely at the Gospel accounts, it is evident they speak of Jesus still being present among them.

The classic image of the ascension of Jesus is captured in the story that we find in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:1-11). The writer of Acts tells the story of the earliest Christian communities after the resurrection of Jesus. Acts begins the story with the account of Jesus leaving the disciples and ascending to heaven, or put another way with the return of Jesus to the Father. It is a story of "leaving yet remaining."

The disciples have been given two important pieces of their call as followers of Jesus. They have been promised the gift and power Holy Spirit, and they have been told that they are to be *witnesses* to all that Jesus has proclaimed. In some way, the ascension is the end of the appearances of the risen Jesus. He leaves them yet remains among them through the continuing power of the *Spirit* that they will receive. Thus, they are to be the ongoing presence of the risen Jesus for our world.

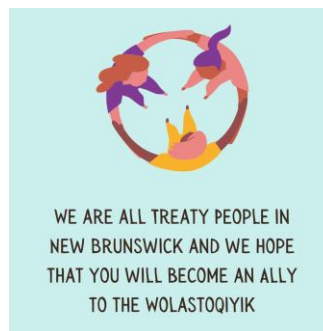
Jesus might have left, but remains among us. The Incarnation continues with us, for we are the face of Jesus for our world. The final verses of Mark's Gospel present us with this mission. We are called to: "Go out into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15).

With Jesus among us, and marked by the Spirit we are to be *people of the Good News*.

The last major Constitution of the Second Vatican Council closed the council in December 1965. This was the *Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*. Its title and opening words declared its principal vision:

*The joy and the hope, the grief and the anxiety of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted; this is the joy and hope, the grief and the anxiety, of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. The Christian community is, after all, a community of women and men truly linked with humankind and its history, bearing a message of salvation [good news] intended for all peoples.* (*Gaudium et Spes*, preface 1, Huebsch, trans. 1997)

**Truly, Good News for all.**



**Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB) Ally Toolkit.** As noted on the Truth and Reconciliation website: "for Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples to coexist peacefully, a relationship must be built on understanding and respect.

That understanding can be a first step to better relations on a range of issues including environmental, spiritual, societal, and justice matters." The link below provided by the WNNB is a great resource on what it means to become an ally and how we can best accomplish this as individuals and within our Parish.

Woliwon- Thank you.

<https://wnnb.wolastoqey.ca/toolkit/>

**Open Space, Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice.**

The Jesuit Forum brings small groups together to reflect, share, and speak openly to help discern pathways to a more socially just and spiritually fulfilling world. The April 2024 issue, entitled "*Discerning...The Confession of Genocide for Truth and Reconciliation*", is being provided as another opportunity to learn and educate us on our journey to becoming better allies. The link is always available on our website.

<https://jesuitforum.ca/resources/open-space/>

**Rummage & Bake Sale at Sainte Anne de Pays Bas on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> from 8 am til noon. Proceeds will go towards Parish activities.**