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

November 8TH, 2026 – 32ND Sunday In Ordinary Time

Service of Remembrance– November 19th, 2026

Each year in November, the Parish of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, which Includes St. Ann's Church in Bilijk and Holy Family in Fredericton, offers a **Remembrance Service** to remember those who have died in the past year and to prayerfully support their family and loved ones.

This note is to let you know that during this service a candle will be lit for each of these loved ones. This Service of Remembrance will be on November 19th, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Holy Family Church. You are welcome to attend this peaceful and comforting Service of Light, remembering the blessings of light that each person has brought to their families, community and world and the special light that they continue to be eternally.

If you are able to be present, you will be welcome to light the candle for your loved one during that part of our ceremony. If you are not able to attend, please know that we are continuing to keep them and you all in our thoughts and prayers as you seek the healing and hope so needed at this time.

Book of Remembrance

Starting the first weekend of November the ***"Book of Remembrance"*** will be placed on a podium in the doorway to the Sanctuary. The book is for Parishioners to enter names of family and friends who have died over the years, and who they wish to remember during the month of November. You are encouraged to write their names in the book and the book will be placed on the Altar at the start of each Mass, during the month of November.

Two upcoming opportunities to nurture your faith as adults.

First Opportunity: Two pre-Advent Prayer Sessions facilitated by Pam Breau and Fr. Bill. The first session will be held on **November 12th and the second on November 26th** both at 7pm at Holy Family Church. This will be an opportunity for prayer, reflection and small group discussion.

Second Opportunity: As Advent begins, we will also be offering each week an evening of prayer, reflection and small group discussions based on scriptures. This year's sessions will be based on the Book of Daily Devotions, "Advent with the Saints", prepared by Fr. Greg Friedman a Franciscan Friar, pilgrim guide and retreat presenter. Each day includes selected scripture readings, a reflection and a simple spiritual practice. Through these reflections we are invited to, 'slow down, pay attention and prepare our hearts.'

The first of the **Advent Sessions will be held on Thursday, December 3rd at 7pm at Holy Family Church.** If you are interested in taking part in these Advent sessions, **please sign up on the sheet located at the church entrance**. Judy Kelly will be facilitating these sessions. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy or email office@stkateri.ca

How do we learn more about joining the Catholic Church? Over the past few months several adults have asked about the possibility of joining the Catholic Church. To respond to this expressed desire, the Parish is offering an **'RCIA Process'** beginning in the New Year. This is for anyone who is interested in inquiring about becoming a Catholic and entering a journey of discernment about this. If you are interested, please contact Judy Kelly at office@stkateri.ca or call 506-444-6021 with your name and phone number and she will be in touch with you to provide additional information on what the process entails and to assist you with any information you need.

LAST WEEKEND for Collection of Warm Socks Drive for the Homeless. This will be our last weekend for collection of warm socks for the homeless for the **John Howard Society of Fredericton.** Socks are urgently needed to support local unhoused individuals this winter. As the cold weather quickly approaches, the demand for winter supplies is rising rapidly.



If you have not had a chance yet to drop off a pair of warm socks to support our neighbors in need, donation containers are still in place at the entrance of St. Ann's Church and Holy Family Church. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION

- **We are looking for a Grade 3 Catechist. If the Holy Spirit moves you to be a Catechist for our Youth, we would love to have you.**
- **YOUTH MASS- Our Youth Mass will occur <u>Saturday Nov 7 for students in Grade 8 and 9 and Sunday Nov 8 for students (K-7).</u> Come out and see our Youth welcome you, participate in the readings, collection and presentation of the gifts. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Youth, and one they look forward to every year.**
- **Contact Lesley Lawlor, Religious Education Coordinator at office@stkateri.ca or religiouseducationlawlor@gmail.com if you have any questions.**



Food Bank Christmas Hamper Donations Starting this weekend *and up to the weekend of*

December 5th-6th we will be collecting donations for the Food Bank for their Christmas hampers. Donations for the food hampers can include: gravy, canned vegetables, canned cranberry, stuffing, pie mixes, pancake mix and syrup. Or if you prefer you may make a monetary donation to the Food Bank for the purchase of turkeys. Special envelopes are available in the lobby of the church.

We want to thank you all for your continued generosity to help support those in need. 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!

November 11th Remembrance Day Ceremonies:
10:45am - Hanwell Place
5 Nature Park Drive
(you should arrive by 10:30am)

2pm - Wulastukw Wolokehkitimok Elementary School
712 Church Street, Kingsclear
Bilijk First Nation



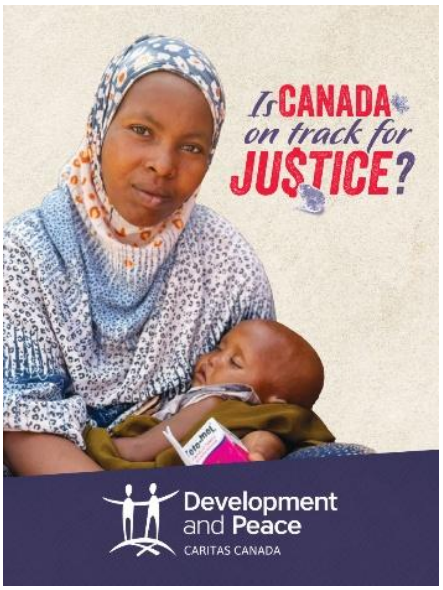
Annual Christmas Bazaar at St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Saturday, Nov 14th from 9am to 2pm. Local crafts, baking, preserves, books, puzzles, Cafe, etc. something for everyone." Please call Pauline with any questions at 506-452-1090.

<u>Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers Annual Wreath Sale</u>
Thank you to the Parishioners of St Kateri Tekakwitha for your continued yearly support of the GHG Wreath Campaign. Raised funds are sent to The Stephen Lewis Foundation and Help Lesotho, two Canadian organizations working at the grass roots level in sub -Saharan Africa offering vital support to grandmothers as they struggle to raise orphaned children.
We are <u>selling</u> fresh, 12 -inch, double- sided (undecorated) balsam fir wreaths for $17.00.
Please place orders no later than November 22nd.
Use the signup sheet in the foyer of Holy Family Church or contact Mary Waters @506-455-0574 or email: shaunmary89@gmail.com.
Pickup is Saturday, November 28th, 10am -12 noon in the foyer of Holy Family Church. Pay by cash or cheque.
Your support is much appreciated!

Pope's November Prayer Intention

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

2026-27 Sunday Missals now available at church entrance. Suggested donation $5.00, please drop in the basket provided. Thank you!



Development and Peace – Caritas Canada Building a World of Justice!

For Canadians to enjoy true safety and prosperity, Canada must work to create a more just world within and beyond its borders. **We have a role to play in ensuring that everyone can live in peace and dignity.**

"I joined Development and Peace – Caritas Canada to put my faith into practice. That, along with our partnership approach that puts people first and restores human dignity, keeps the spark of engagement alive for me." –Brenda Arakaza, Winnipeg, Manitoba

BE PART OF THE CHANGE! To achieve this, we need YOU! Become a member. Join our campaigns. Make a donation. To learn more, see **'Join the Movement'** brochure and **membership enrolment cards** in the lobby of the church or go to: devp.org/campaign.

We all have a role to play in ensuring that everyone can live in peace and dignity.

UNWRAPPED – Youth Event (Grades 8–12)

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish invites all youth in Grades 8–12 to join us for **UNWRAPPED** on **Friday, November 20th, from 6:30–8:30 PM**!

Take a break from school pressures and the hustle and bustle of the season to gather with friends for a fun evening of fellowship. Our theme, *Unwrapped*, reminds us that we already have a very special gift — Jesus, who is always with us!

Bring a friend and join us!

To register, please contact Sharon at religiouseducationswatts@gmail.com.

Readings for November 8th

1st: Wisdom 6:12-16
2nd: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
Psalm: My soul thirsts for you, O Lord my God.



BILIJK COMMUNITY BINGO

We hope to see you at the next Bingo night which is scheduled for:
Monday, November 9th
at St. Ann's Church
in collaboration with St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish.
Game prizes will be $80.00 per game!!
10 Regular Games and 2 Specials (Jackpot and Winner Take All)
Plus 50/50
Toonie Ball total to date is $474.00
9 up – 10 games - $15.00
3 up – 10 games - $5.00
Specials - $1.00 per card
(must be purchased at the door with regular cards). None will be sold on the floor.
There will be a canteen with light snacks and refreshments for purchase!! Doors will open at 5:00 pm and BINGO will start at 6:00 pm. CASH ONLY to purchase cards and Canteen!! All funds collected will be used to support Bilijk Elder Annual Ste. Anne de Beaupré Trip in June 2027.
18 Years and Older only and EVERYONE WELCOME!!

Summary of Support for Oct 31 & Nov 1

Regular/Loose	*$ 4,095.90*
PAD (wkly. average)	*2,298.46*
Building Fund	*10.00*
World Mission Sunday	*50.00*
St. Patrick's Cemetery	*15.00*
Christmas Outreach	*50.00*
TOTAL	*$ 6,519.36*

READERS AT ST. ANN'S

Nov 8th Stacey Chessie
Nov 15th Elaine Geldart
Nov 22nd Carolanne Doherty
Nov 29th Betty Colligan

Mass Intentions at St. Ann's

Nov 8th For The People
Nov 15th Raymond Francis
Nov 22nd Gordon and Yvonne Buggie
Nov 29th James Andrew McAllister

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Nov 7th Annette Belliveau / Jean Dufour
Nov 8th Louis & Frances O'Shea
Nov 14th Mary Theresa Valerie Donovan
Nov 15th Fred and Noreen Moar / Colombe Dube
Nov 21st Timmy Toner / Clair Gilmore
Nov 22nd Jake McMackin / Shane McGarrigle
Nov 28th For The People
Nov 29th Vetta Faulds / Richard Chouinard

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Nov 7th Leslie Carr / Colleen Hamilton
Nov 8th Rhadia Ange / Rhadissa Ange
Nov 14th Rita Maxwell / Harold DeCourcey
Nov 15th Sadie Cameron / Dorothy Blanchard

READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

Nov 7th Youth Mass (Readers from Rel. Ed.)
Nov 8th Youth Mass (Readers from Rel. Ed.)
Nov 14th Wiiliam Cormier/Mona LeBlanc
Nov 15th Patrick Burgoon/Carl Duivenvoorden/Marijke Hurkens

Our Sacred Stories

Seeking & Discovering the Reign of God

Our Gospel this weekend (Matt 25:1-13) is about **encounters** and **discovery**. The ten bridesmaids were waiting for the coming of the groom. He was late arriving and when he did come, some were prepared, some were not. Why does Matthew tell this parable of Jesus?

Like all the parables they are told first for the little communities of Christians to whom the Gospel writers belong. These early Christians of the first generation after the resurrection, expected Jesus to return in glory soon, even in their lifetime. As time went by, the return was delayed, like the groom's coming. Some were discouraged by this delay. Matthew's parable is to urge Christians to wait patiently and **be prepared** for the **encounter** when they would meet their risen Lord: "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Have you ever found yourself in unfamiliar territory? Perhaps you were hiking in the woods. Or possibly you were driving in a new city or a new province or even a different country. You got lost. I have often had that experience. When it happens, I prefer to think – I'm not lost, I just don't know where I am. This is my opportunity to discover something or some place new and unplanned.

Such experiences are common to all of us. They seem to be part of being human. We do not know everything and we often face new challenges with many questions. We are born to discover, ask questions, to learn new things and ways. Natural to us all is the drive to go on quests, searches and discoveries. That's why we like mystery novels, movies and stories. It is why we are attracted to things like puzzles and games which tax our energies and thinking. Even when we are very young children, one of our first instincts seems to be to ask questions. Why? How? What? In fact, every answer we receive seems to generate more questions.

Our Church, as a community of Christians has a long history. It should come as no surprise that over the 20 centuries of this history, we have often wandered with many questions. The root of this last word is "quest". We are like the bridesmaids in Matthew's story. For any number of reasons, we do not have all the answers. Our faith is marked by searching and our life is a constant quest.

Our baptism has made us part of a community of Christians. We are called to journey with one another. Our church is a global one, encompassing many cultures and languages. In 2021, our faith community was asked to begin a process of synod. In October 2023, after two years of preparation in local communities around the world, the first session of the synod took place in Rome. In October 2024, Session #2 of this synod took place. Essentially this synodal process was to consider more deeply who we are to be as Church in the 21st Century.

The word "synod" has a Greek root which means "to travel together". As local representatives met in Rome, they took us and what was considered locally in our church with them. We, in this way were traveling together with them. All of us, our whole Church were offered the opportunity to consider further who we are; to pray, to listen, to share our hopes and questions as a global church. As one commentator put it: ***Every synod is a call to the church to listen*: *to listen to the tradition, to the times, and to the Spirit. Listening and admitting mistakes is part of conversion.***

"Traveling together" as a global Church, listening together as a worldwide faith community helps us to recognize better the breadth and openness of God's loving call to all humanity. Listening allows the Spirit to lead us in our own Time. Sometimes, like the bridesmaids in Matthew's story, we may be "lost", but ultimately trusting and listening to the Spirit and one another, will help us to find our way.

The words of Vatican II, alluding to the words of Matthew's Gospel resonate well: '*Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your understanding, with all your strength. Love one another as Christ loves you.' These commands in Scripture are really an invitation to be holy. By our holy love, we nurture in the world a way of life that is gentler, more beautiful, more human* (Vatican II. "Constitution on the Church" 39).

The synodal structure for our faith community will become our way of listening to one another and to all others with openness and respect as the People of God. The synod involves us all, not just bishops, or only clergy, but women and men, laity and clergy from around the world, actively directing our faith community forward. By way of our shared baptism, we are all called to the same mission, bringing Good News to our world (cf.1 Cor. 12:12-13).