



## Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish Member Churches

*Sacred Heart ~ 17 Bridge Street ~ Kent*

*Saint Bernard ~ 52 New Street ~ Sharon*

*Saint Bridget ~ 7 River Road ~ Cornwall Bridge*

*Monsignor Vittorio Guerrera ~ Pastor*

*Parish Trustees*

*Mr. Jerry Tobin Mrs. Stephanie Plunkett*

### MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
and First Friday

9 AM

SACRED HEART CHURCH

### SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM

SAINT BRIDGET CHURCH

### SUNDAY 8 AM

SAINT BERNARD CHURCH

### SUNDAY 10 AM

SACRED HEART CHURCH

PLEASE CONSULT THE BULLETIN  
FOR HOLY DAY MASSES

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Before Mass or by appointment.

### PARISH OFFICE

Mrs. Sandy Papsin ~ Parish Secretary  
Monday, Thursday & Friday 9 AM - 4:30 PM  
860-927-3003

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 186 Kent, CT 06757

WEBSITE: [saintkaterict.org](http://saintkaterict.org)

EMAIL: [office.stkaterict@gmail.com](mailto:office.stkaterict@gmail.com)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATORS

Kathleen Lindenmayer & Gwynne Seufert

### LITURGICAL MUSIC

Michael Brown

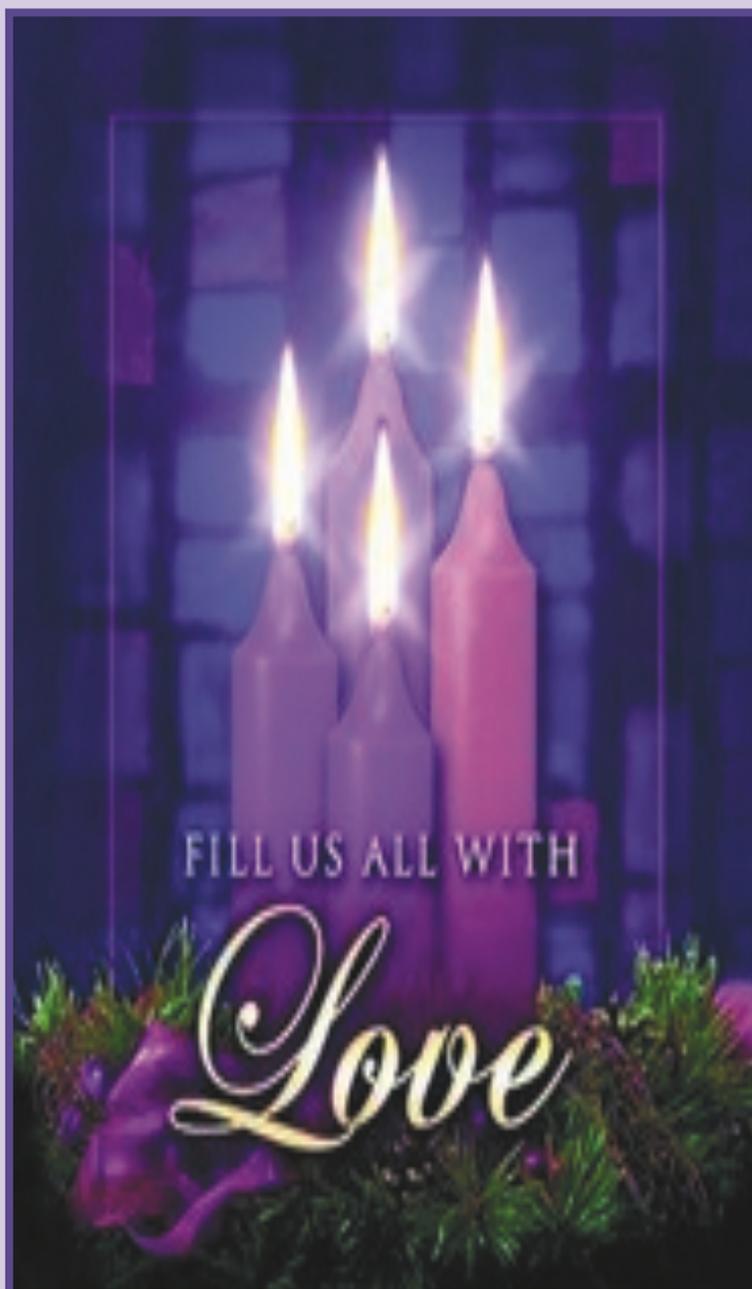
Joseph McDonough

### BAPTISM & MARRIAGE

Registered parishioners are asked  
to make arrangements by calling the  
Parish office



ALL THREE PARISH  
WORSHIP SITES



# SUNDAY DECEMBER 19th, 2021

## MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH**  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 19TH**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

4 PM ~ CORNWALL BRIDGE

Frank Tansey ~ Requested by Karen Tansey

8 AM ~ SHARON

Deceased Members of the Saint Bernard Senior Group  
Requested by parishioners.

10 AM ~ KENT

Raymond McCarthy Sr.  
Requested by Ellen and John Genovese

**MONDAY DECEMBER 20th ~ 9 AM ~ KENT**  
**Saint Dominic of Silos**  
Maria Romanelli

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 21st ~ 9 AM ~ KENT**  
**Saint Peter Canisius**  
Domenic Toscani

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22nd ~ 9 AM ~ KENT**  
**Blessed Jacopone da Todi**  
Germaine Aldrich ~ Requested by Sharon Szczerba

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 24th ~ CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Confessions at Sacred Heart 10-11 AM**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 24th CHRISTMAS EVE ~ 4 PM**

Saint Bernard  
Saint Bridget  
Sacred Heart

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 25th CHRISTMAS DAY ~ 10 AM**  
Sacred Heart

PLEASE NOTE...THERE IS NO AFTERNOON  
MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 26th**  
**THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

8 AM ~ SHARON

John J. O'Connell III ~ Requested by his wife

10 AM ~ KENT

Vitantonio Polletta



### CATHOLICS COME HOME

If you have been away from the Catholic Church, we invite you to take another look. Discover the history, beauty, spirituality and accomplishments of the Catholic Church, founded by Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago. We are Catholic. Welcome Home.

Visit: [CatholicsComeHome.org](http://CatholicsComeHome.org)



### PRAY THE ROSARY

The Rosary prayed to Mary is a powerful prayer as Mary intercedes for each of us. Her Son never denies His mother. This Tuesday, the Rosary is prayed at Sacred Heart following the 9 AM Mass. The intention this week is for hospitalized and terminally ill children and their families. Spend just twenty minutes praying the rosary. Your prayers will always be heard.

## Mass Intentions

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most precious gift that one can offer for another person as it is the offering of the sacrifice of Jesus Himself on the cross. The Eucharist is "the source and sharing of the Christian life"[CCC# 1324].

The Saint Kateri Parish Mass Intention Book for 2022 is open for those wishing to schedule Mass Intentions for family members, loved ones, or special intentions. Mass offerings are \$20 for a Sunday Mass and \$15 for a weekday Mass.

If you would like to schedule a Mass Intention, please give Sandy a call at the Parish Office.



Thank you for remembering those in our parish family and local communities who are sick, hospitalized, and elderly in your daily prayers. Your simple acts of kindness do not go unappreciated, especially as the effects of the pandemic continue to affect many. A phone call to check in, a note with heartfelt thoughts really make a difference, so thank you!

### GIVE YOUR GIFTS ONLINE



We are so very grateful for your continued support of Saint Kateri Parish.

**ON LINE GIVING** allows you to make contributions without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. This site:

[stkateriparishkent.weshareonline.org](http://stkateriparishkent.weshareonline.org) allows you to set up automatic contributions and to change the timing and/or amount of your gift at any time.



Lectors

We are seeking parishioners to come forward who are willing to serve as Lectors at Mass. You may serve at the church that you usually attend. If you are interested, please call the parish office or speak with Monsignor after Mass.



The Sanctuary Lamp signifies the Eucharistic presence of the Lord Jesus in the Tabernacle and burns for seven days. You may have the Sanctuary Lamp memorialized for a sick person, a deceased family member or friend, or as a special intention. The weekly donation for this is \$25. Sanctuary Lamps can be memorialized in each of the three churches of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. If you would like to reserve a week in any of our churches, please contact Sandy at the parish office.



### SACRIFICIAL GIVING FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WEEKLY ENVELOPES: \$ 2,731.00

ON LINE GIVING: \$ 2,718.33.

RETIRED RELIGIOUS: \$ 989.70

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: \$ 424.00

Thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Parish. May God bless you and your families.



### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Envelopes may be found in the vestibules for anyone wishing to make donations in memory of loved ones and to decorate our sanctuaries for Christmas. Thank you.

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

In the midst of all our current challenges and concerns, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will!" We recognize that true peace on earth comes from our acknowledgement and praise of God in our lives.

Christmas has a way of bringing to church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits and begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church community. I extend to all of you an open invitation to celebrate together God's presence in our lives and His dominion over all things of this world.

May our Lord Jesus Christ born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones during this holy time of hope and grace. And may Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our parish of St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

*Monsignor Vittorio Guerrera*



On this Sunday just before Christmas, we listen to the Gospel of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. Mary shows us that being comes before doing, and to leave the doing to God in order to be truly as God wants us.

It is God who works so many marvels in us. Mary is receptive, but not passive. Because, on the physical level, she receives the power of the Holy Spirit and then gives flesh and blood to the Son of God who forms within her. Thus, on the spiritual level, she accepts the grace and corresponds to it with faith. As Mary was greeted by Elizabeth as "blessed among women," so too we have always been blessed, that is loved. Regarding this love, regarding this mercy, the divine grace poured into our hearts, one single thing is asked in return: unreserved giving.

Not one of us can buy salvation! Salvation is a free gift of the Lord, a free gift of God that comes within us and dwells in us. As we have received freely, so are we called to give freely. Imitating Mary, who immediately upon receiving the Angel's announcement, went to share the gift of her fruitfulness with her relative Elizabeth. In visiting her, Mary brought her only material help but she also brought Jesus, who was already alive in her womb.



The Sacrament of Penance can absolve you of your sins, and put you in a better frame of mind and a state of Grace. Confessions will be heard at Sacred Heart this Friday, Christmas Eve, from 10—11 AM.

### DATE OF CHRISTMAS

In the early Church, March 25 was generally used as the date of Our Lord's conception, although some in the East decided on April 6. Thus, the holy birth was celebrated nine months later, either on December 25 or January 6. A sermon of St. John Chrysostom indicates that Christmas was first celebrated in his native Antioch on December 25, 386 and the custom spread to Alexandria around 432 and Jerusalem about a hundred years later. Only the Armenians did not adopt the dating, and they still celebrate Christ's birth, epiphany, and baptism together on January 6. By the end of the fourth century, Rome was celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 which became the customary occasion for gift-giving. The joyful western celebration of the visitation of the Magi ending the Christmas season with "Twelfth Night," is surpassed in the East where Epiphany celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord, which was the public manifestation that Christ is the incarnate Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity. As such, in the Eastern churches Epiphany outranks Christmas and is second only to Easter.

The earliest recorded mention of the word "Christmas" dates back to 1038 A.D.



The legend is that in the late 1800's a candy maker in Indiana wanted to express the holy meaning of Christmas through a symbol made of candy. He took white peppermint sticks and bent them to suggest both the shepherd's staff carried by the adoring shepherds, and the letter "J" for Jesus. He let the color white symbolize the purity and sinless nature of Jesus, but added the color red to represent His Blood. The three small stripes symbolize the stripes of His scourging, and that there are three of them represents the Holy Trinity; the bold stripe represents the Blood Jesus shed for mankind.



The prickly leaves and red berries of holly (*Ilex opaca*) represent the Crown of Thorns with Christ's Blood, a reminder to us that the Holy Infant was born on this night only to redeem us with His Blood. Earlier symbolism associates holly with the burning thorn bush that Moses saw.




The Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*) is a Christmas tradition that springs from Germany. A legend surrounds it that is similar to that of the poinsettia: a humble shepherdess felt that anything she gave to Baby Jesus couldn't compare with what the Magi gave. As she sat weeping, an angel came and swept the snow away from around her feet, and lovely cup-shaped white blooms sprang up. The angel said to her, "Nor myrrh, nor frankincense, nor gold is offering more meet for the Christ Child than these pure Christmas Roses." This lovely flower can bloom all Winter long.



## THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

On this day, the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God become man who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. We need no other special saint today to lead us to Christ in the manger, although His mother Mary and Joseph, caring for His foster-son, help round out the scene.

But if we were to select a patron for today, perhaps it might be appropriate for us to imagine an anonymous shepherd, summoned to the birthplace by a wondrous and even disturbing vision in the night, a summons from an angelic choir, promising peace and goodwill. A shepherd willing to seek out something that might just be too unbelievable to chase after, and yet compelling enough to leave behind the flocks in the field and search for a mystery.

On the day of the Lord's birth, let's allow an unnamed, "non-celebrity" at the edge of the crowd model for us the way to discover Christ in our own hearts—somewhere between skepticism and wonder, between mystery and faith. And like Mary and the shepherds, let's treasure that discovery in our hearts.

If a doctor offers us medicine, and we refuse to take it, there are consequences for our physical health; and if a psychologist offers us counsel, and we refuse to cooperate, there again are consequences for our mental and emotional health. Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world to offer us eternal life. At each Mass that is celebrated, He comes again with the same offer. We can accept that offer, or refuse it. The consequences for our spiritual health are eternal.

This Christmas, and in the coming year, let's welcome the Prince of Peace into our lives and offer the world our witness to the peace we receive from following Him.

**THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS** is celebrated from Christmas day to January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Church recognizes that the days of the Christmas Octave are the same as the solemnity of Christmas for eight days, concluding on a high note with another solemnity that echoes the solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Octave means an eight-day celebration, that is, the prolongation of a feast to the eighth day (*dies octava*) inclusive. The feast itself is considered the first day, and it is followed by six days called "days within the octave." The eighth or octave day is kept with greater solemnity than the "days within the octave"

*"With Christ Through the Year," Bernard Strasser, 1947, p. 39*

## READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

# CONFIRMATION

CLASS TAKES PLACE THIS SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 19th BEGINNING AT 8:30 AM IN SACRED  
HEART CHURCH HALL FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.



THANK YOU TO THOSE  
WHO HAVE WORKED ON OUR  
TRADITIONAL PARISH PRO-  
JECT, AND ALSO TO THOSE  
WHO DONATED TO MAKE  
THIS A BLESSED AND MERRY  
CHRISTMAS FOR MANY FAMI-  
LIES. GOD LOVES YOU!



*Christmas Eve Mass ~ 4 PM*  
*Saint Bridget*  
*Saint Bernard*  
*Sacred Heart*



*Christmas Day Mass*  
*10 AM Sacred Heart*



*The Parish Office*  
*will be open on*  
*Monday and Thursday*  
*this week*  
*Closed on Christmas Eve.*  
*Merry Christmas!!!*



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