



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

EMAIL: 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**

The Feast Of The Holy Family



SUNDAY DECEMBER 26th, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

OF THE WEEK

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES WILL NOT BE
CELEBRATED THIS WEEK**

SATURDAY JANUARY 1st ~ 10 AM ~ SHARON
The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Parishioners of Saint Kateri

SATURDAY JANUARY 1st
SUNDAY JANUARY 2nd
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4 PM ~ CORNWALL BRIDGE

Sr. Mary Renilda C.S.S.F.

8 AM ~ SHARON

Rev. Joseph A. Dilion

10 AM ~ KENT

Jane Bly ~ First Anniversary



On this Feast of the Holy Family, be a family that is welcoming, warm, embracing, safe and where love abounds. Be a religious family and give praise and worship to God. But even more, strive to be a holy family that acts in accord with the will of God. It is tough stuff. But holiness is the pathway to eternal life in the Family of God—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Our second collection next weekend is the January Monthly Collection.



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
4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND
OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY WILL BE
POSTED NEXT WEEKEND DUE TO AN
EARLY PUBLICATION DATE.**

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

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's Gospel contains this truth about parenting: "but his parents did not know." One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don't tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?



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 families who are struggling and in crisis this Christmas season. 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].

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.

**PRIESTS, BROTHERS, NUNS.
THEY NEED US.
WE NEED THEM.**

from *How the Holybody's Business*

Mary and Joseph raised their child in a family of love and faith. They directed Jesus to follow God's will for His life. Each of us must assist and allow our children to follow God's will in their lives. This is true even if God calls your child to serve Him as a Priest, or Religious Sister or Brother. For information contact Father

Michael Casey, Director of Vocations email: vocations@aohct.org or visit the website at www.hartfordpriest.com, or call 860-761-7456,

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

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.

"God, to Whom the angels are subject: Whom principalities and powers obey: was subject to Mary; and not alone to Mary, but to Joseph also, because of Mary. Admire and revere both the one and the other, and choose which you admire the more: the most sweet condescension of the Son, or the sublime dignity of the Mother. For that God should obey a woman is humility without compare; and that a woman should have rule over God dignity without equal." -St. Bernard

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Prayer
is the road
to Heaven
but Faith opens
the DOOR

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

THE STORY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence, he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few.

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity. This Tuesday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

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



MEDITATING ON OUR GOSPEL TODAY

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too!

LIFE HAS MANY CHOICES ETERNITY HAS TWO WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?



God made several covenants throughout the Bible. One was with Noah, another with Moses. In the book of Genesis it tells us of God's covenant with Abraham. A covenant is a commitment made between two parties. It is different than a contract or a financial arrangement. It is personal and sometimes it's hard to fulfill. Jesus' covenant with His Father had its difficult moments: the temptation in the desert, the crucifixion. In the former, it is said that angels helped Him. Angels, in the Hebrew way of thinking, meant "the presence of God".

When you became part of the Church you weren't just accepting a body of beliefs, a system of percepts. You sealed a covenant with God, through Jesus Christ. But sometimes it's more difficult to have a covenant than a philosophical belief. Sometimes it is easier to believe there is a God than to believe that Jesus Christ is God, that Jesus was born and became man, that Jesus gave His life for me, and that Jesus lives.

That's why we have to be an "angel" to each other. Experiencing the presence of God can make a big difference in seeing us through a difficult moment in fulfilling a covenant. Has someone been that kind of an angel to you. Have you been an angel to others?



THE STORY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the *fruit of your womb*. And how does this happen to me,

that the *mother of my Lord* should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.

Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Some theologians also insist that Mary's motherhood of Jesus is an important element in God's creative plan. God's "first" thought in creating was Jesus. Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the one who could give God perfect love and worship on behalf of all creation. As Jesus was "first" in God's mind, Mary was "second" insofar as she was chosen from all eternity to be His mother.

The precise title "Mother of God" goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form *Theotokos* (God-bearer), it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin *Theotokos*. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: "Praised be the *Theotokos*!" The tradition reaches to our own day. In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

THE HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

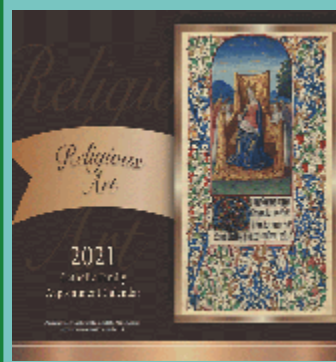
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God January 1st

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1: 26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed the *fruit of your womb*. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary's role as the mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan for all of us. Mass for this Holy Day will be celebrated at Saint Bernard Church at 10 AM Saturday, January 1st.



**OUR 2022 PARISH
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CALENDARS ARE NOW
AVAILABLE
COMPLIMENTS OF
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HOME**

**PLEASE BRING A
CALENDAR HOME FOR
YOUR FAMILY
TODAY**

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE HOLY FAMILY

If your family is beset with any challenges, do not come to the conclusion that your family cannot be holy. Indeed, holiness is not found in the circumstances of our lives, but in our relationships. God was very close to Mary and Joseph through all their troubles. And God is very close to us in our family troubles. Do you believe that? Can you see where God is present even in the moments that have us yelling or crying? Once we truly encounter God in the broken, awkward moments, then we get a special power. The power is not only that we can overcome moments of distress, but that we are able to reach out beyond our own troubles and bless others with heartfelt words of encouragement and acts of kindness.

As we know, families come in all shapes and sizes. However your family is configured, know that God wants to make a home with you. Make a place for the Lord in your family's life by coming to church each week and by praying for and with each other during the week. Happy feast day!



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