



**THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF
SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA**

427 Stanhope Road Sparta New Jersey 07871

www.saintkateri.org

email: office@saintkateri.org

Parish office: 973-729-1682

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

**CELEBRATION OF THE
EUCHARIST**

Daily Mass at 8:15 AM. (Monday to Friday)

Sat. 5:00 PM– Parking Lot - Bring a lawn chair

Sun. at 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:30AM, & 12 Nn.

Our live streaming of Mass and Zoom Mass will continue during weekend Masses at 9:30am.

Confessions: Every Saturday from 4:00pm. – 4:45pm. Please call the office or email Fr. Vidal for an appointment. Wear facemask and observe social distancing.

**ADORATION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Every Wednesday from 2:00 – 4:00PM.

(Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00PM)

(Novena to our Mother perpetual Help at 3:45)

Every First Friday of the month from 2 - 7 PM.

We will continue to keep you updated through our website, E-mails, Flocknotes and Facebook. To join Flocknotes (text message app) text "stkateri" to 84576.

www.facebook.com/groups/saintkaterispartani



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

WELCOME:

New parishioners are asked to register by calling or visiting the parish office or by speaking to one of the parish staff.

You can also visit our website and register.

WHY A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE A REGISTERED PARISHIONER

The precepts of the Church explained that: we need to belong to a parish (your parish is the Church in the City where you are domiciled) and to contribute to its support. Everyone should do this (Canon 107).

To identify yourself with a worshipping community of faith. Salvation comes to us by God in community. Religion is not meant to be individualistic. Membership in a parish community is the norm.

To allow the priest of the parish to know you so that Letters of Recommendation can be given when needed. (Sponsorship/certificates)



Christmas Eve Vigil

3:00 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM Zoom and Facebook & 9:00 PM

Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM, 11 AM (Zoom and Facebook) & 12:30 PM

PARISH STAFF

FR. VIDAL ROBERTO GONZALES, JR.
PASTOR

frvgonzales@saintkateri.org

DEACON DREW CALANDRIELLO
DEACON GLEN MURPHY
DEACON BRUCE OLSEN

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Youth Protection / Safe Environment
dawng@saintkateri.org

MARC G. DALIO
MUSIC DIRECTOR
marcd@saintkateri.org

MIKE SAWEY
CARLOS GOMEZ
MAINTENANCE

CATHY PIVOWAR
ROBERT MEDINA
TRUSTEES

Sacrament of Baptism: Baptism will be celebrated every 1st Sunday & 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Please call eight weeks in advance of the date of baptism or email: jennd@saintkateri.org.

Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangement should be made one year in advance of the marriage date. Please call the office.

Eucahristic Adoration: Every first Friday of the month from 2:00pm. Ending with evening prayer, prayer novena to St. Kateri and benediction at 7:00pm.

Spanish Mass: Every 1st and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00pm. A hospitality dinner to follow the Mass on the 4th Monday of the Month. Sacrament of Reconcilliation is celebrated before and after Mass. **(For further notice due to covid)**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Dec. 12, – Sat. 5:00	+Charles Treanor
Dec. 13, - Sunday 7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 nn	3rd Sun. Advent +Mike Olenowski +Henry Shubert Parishioners & Friends of St. Kateri Parish +Angie Harrison
Dec. 14, – Mon. 8:15 am	+Victor Andres Dianco
Dec. 15, – Tue. 8:15 am	+Vidal Gonzales, Sr. – Death Anniv.
Dec. 16, – Wed. 8:15 am	+Juliana Andres Santos
Dec. 17, – Thu. 8:15 am	Rev. Fr. Brando Ibarra – Special Intention
Dec. 18, – Fri. 8:15 am	+Nena Talusan Sebastian
Dec. 19, - Sat. 5:00 pm	
Dec. 20, - Sunday 7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 nn	4 th Sun. Advent +Ed Gallagher +David Perrelli +People of the Parish +Donald Stage and Deacon Joe Cote

ACTIVE MILITARY LIST



Please pray for our Active Military: Sean Schoch, Infantry Second Lieutenant, SSGt Daniel Joseph (DJ) Duguay, US Air Force; James Schoch, Infantry Second Lieutenant; Frank Cutrone, First Lieutenant, US Army; LtCol Dan Murphy, US Marine Corps; LTJG Katherine Garza, US Navy; LTJG David Garza, US Navy; LCpl Josh Jackson US Marine Corps.

May God keep them safe and protect them from all harm. If you would like a love ones name added to the prayer list for the military, please call the parish center, 873-729-1682.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS
THOSE WHO ARE SICK

We pray for: Taylor Donnelly, Pat Kane, Kathy Hartwick, Rob McGuirren, Brian Naccarelli, Bill McCrossan, Carol Mohr, Graydon McVicker, Edward Wallace, MaryAnn Eifler, Christopher Robak, Margie Frazier, Al Saveriano, Henry Schubert, Patrick Dillsworth, Chris Auger, Margaret Brennan, Brittany Johnson, Lanita Ramos, Anita Sarong, Michael Cordero.

WEEKLY OFFERING

We are grateful to all those who have signed up for Electronic Giving and those who continue to mail in or drop off weekly donations. We truly appreciate your ongoing support and want to let you know we're here for you. You are a valued members of our church family. Thank you for all the notes we receive in with your offerings that carry messages of kindness and hope. Your Sunday offering Even though our church is quiet, facility utilities do not go away. Needs of our community, ministry, and families still remain as well. We cannot meet such needs without your help. As we are not able to serve in large groups or in person, our gifts of prayer and treasure are ever so important, even crucial to get us through this difficult time. If you haven't already, please consider setting up a recurring gift online. It takes two simple steps and the rest is seamless, automatic, and very flexible. Please visit our donation page at: www.saintkateri.org/electronic-giving You can also continue to mail your gifts and envelopes to the parish at: 427 Stanhope Rd, Sparta, NJ 07871.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

	Weekly	Month of Dec.
Regular Collections		\$10, 114
Week Ending 12/06/2020		
Regular Collection	10,114	
Maintenance	198	
Snow Removal	278	
=====		
Budget Monthly Expenses (including Loan Payments)		\$50,000

Month Net Income/(Expense) as of 11/29/2020		- \$39,886

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today is called "**Gaudete Sunday**" because today's Mass (in its Latin, pre-Vatican II form), began with the opening antiphon: "**Gaudete in Domino semper**" -- "**Rejoice in the Lord always.**" In the past, when Advent was a season of penance, the celebrant of the liturgy used to wear vestments with the penitential color of purple or violet. In order to remind the people that they were preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, the celebrant wore rose-colored vestments on the third Sunday. (By the way, we have a similar break--**Laetare Sunday**-- during the Lenten season). Today we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus, our Savior. The primary common theme running through today's readings is that of encouraging joy as we meet our need for the preparation required of us who await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. The second common theme is that of bearing witness. The prophet Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptizer all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for His people. The readings for the third Sunday of Advent remind us that the coming of Jesus, past, present and future, is the reason for our rejoicing. **The first reading** tells us that we should rejoice because the promised Messiah is coming as our Savior and liberator, saving us by liberating us from our bondages. **The Responsorial Psalm** of the day is taken from Mary's *Magnificat*, in which she exclaims: "*My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my Savior.*" Paul, in the **second reading**, advises us to "*rejoice always*" by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ is faithful to his promise that he will

come again to reward us. **Today's Gospel** tells us that John the Baptizer came as a witness to testify to the Light, i.e., Jesus. The coming of Jesus, the Light, into the world is cause for rejoicing as he removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoice also because, like John the Baptizer, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. We are to reflect Jesus' Light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us. The joyful message of today's liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with rejoicing will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly, not the rich and powerful.

ADVENT CHALLENGE

Make a plan NOW to do something to develop your spiritual life AFTER the New Year begins. Allow Advent to become the start of something greater all year long.

REFLECTION: Third Sunday of Advent



Purification by the Fire of God (Third Sunday of Advent)

JOHN ANSWERED THEM ALL, SAYING, "I AM BAPTIZING YOU WITH WATER, BUT ONE MIGHTIER THAN I IS COMING. I AM NOT WORTHY TO LOOSEN THE THONGS OF HIS SANDALS. HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE. HIS WINNOWING FAN IS IN HIS HAND TO CLEAR HIS THRESHING FLOOR AND TO GATHER THE WHEAT INTO HIS BARN, BUT THE CHAFF HE WILL BURN WITH UNQUENCHABLE FIRE." LUKE 3:16-17

AGAIN, THIS SUNDAY, WE ARE GIVEN THE GLORIOUS WITNESS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST. THIS PASSAGE ABOVE IS FROM YEAR C OF THE LITURGICAL CYCLE, BUT YEAR A & B ALSO PRESENT US WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST.

IN THIS SERMON OF JOHN, HE SAYS THAT JESUS WILL COME AND BAPTIZE "WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE." THE IMAGE OF BEING BAPTIZED "WITH FIRE" IS A GOOD ONE TO REFLECT UPON. IT ESPECIALLY REVEALS TO US THE DEEP PURIFICATION JESUS DESIRES FOR OUR SOULS.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PURIFIED? FOR ONE THING, PURIFICATION OF OUR SOUL HURTS. BUT IT HURTS IN A SWEET SORT OF WAY. TURNING FROM SIN AND GROWING CLOSER TO GOD REQUIRES GREAT SACRIFICE AND SURRENDER. AND IT REQUIRES THAT WE ALLOW GOD TO DO POWERFUL THINGS WITHIN US. AND THE MOST POWERFUL THING GOD WANTS TO DO IS PURIFY US.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH REVEALS TO US THE REALITY OF PURGATORY AFTER WE DIE. PURGATORY IS SAID TO BE A PLACE OF MUCH SPIRITUAL PAIN, BUT AGAIN, IN A SWEET SORT OF WAY. IT'S PAINFUL IN THE SENSE THAT WE ARE STRIPPED OF ALL THAT WE HOLD ON TO THAT GOD WANTS US TO LET GO OF. IT'S PAINFUL IN THE SENSE THAT WE ENDURE A COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION OF WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE LOVE. WE LEARN TO LOVE GOD AND GOD ALONE. AND IN THE EMBRACE OF OUR LOVE OF GOD, WE COME TO LOVE ALL PEOPLE.

IT'S ALSO SWEET BECAUSE, AS WE ARE PURIFIED, WE GROW INFINITELY CLOSER TO GOD AND GROW IN HOLINESS. THIS LIFTS THE BURDEN OF SIN AND FREES US TO LOVE AS WE OUGHT.

BUT OUR PURIFICATION OUGHT NOT START ONLY IN PURGATORY. WE ARE ALL CALLED TO ENTER INTO THAT PROCESS OF PURIFICATION HERE AND NOW. WE ARE CALLED TO HEED THE WORDS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST TODAY AND REPENT OF ALL THAT KEEPS US FROM HOLINESS OF LIFE.

REFLECT, TODAY, UPON THE PURIFICATION TO WHICH GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU HOLD ON TO THAT HE WANTS YOU FREE OF? COMMIT YOURSELF TO THE PURIFYING FIRE OF GOD'S LOVE AND LET THAT LOVE CLEANSE YOU IN THIS ADVENT SEASON.

LORD, I DO LONG TO HAVE MY SOUL PURIFIED BY YOU. I DO DESIRE HOLINESS OF LIFE. HELP ME TO BEGIN THIS PROCESS HERE AND NOW SO THAT I CAN BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY AND FREEDOM YOU HAVE IN STORE FOR ME. JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY



During Mass on Saturday, December 26 and Sunday, December 27 the Knights of Columbus invite each family in the parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family and to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary & Joseph. Prayer cards will be distributed prior to each mass.





Saint Kateri Faith Formation – Advent 2020

The soft purple color of Advent reminds us that this is a *penitential** time of the year. We should prepare for the birth of Jesus by praying and contemplating the prior year and the ways we can do better in the year to come. That is why the Catholic Church teaches that we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance during Advent--as we await the birth of Jesus.

**Penitential* comes from the same root word as “penance”.

For this reason, our parish has an Advent Penance Service and our First Communicants have their *very First Penance* during Advent.

First Communion Parents have received information about the opportunities for their children to receive their First Reconciliation or First Penance in a socially-distant manner. Please read the Faith Formation emails and respond to the Flocknote Sign-Up for the First Reconciliation time you choose.

Our Family/Home Mass & Bible Lessons continue:

- All registered SK Faith Formation families attend any (Sat/Sun) Mass each weekend, and then,
- All registered Faith Formation Families visit our SK Faith Formation of Sparta, NJ Facebook Page, and our website, for the Family/Home Mass Lesson each week.

Additionally:

- Those enrolled in Sacramental Preparation (1st and 2nd Grade Communion Prep, and 7th and 8th Confirmation Prep): 1st and 2nd Graders complete sacramental assignments in their grade-specific workbooks. 7th and 8th (and above) Grades must follow the links on our SK FFormation Facebook Page for materials and instructional videos (from Father Vidal and our catechetical team) specific to their preparation.

*****Please make sure to pick up your Magnifikid! Mass booklet pamphlets for the month of December! It will help your children to be more engaged in Mass, and it will help your family to practice the proper Mass responses.**

It has been great seeing you--and “seeing” you--at Mass each weekend!

God bless you and your families as we end this liturgical year!

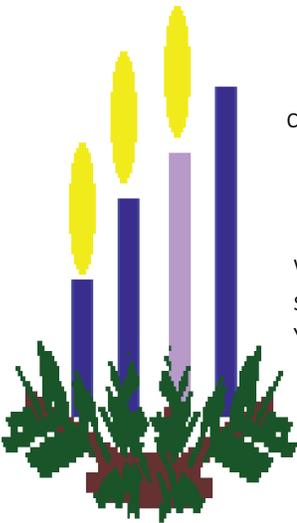
Cheryl Wallace - Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Associate, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, 427 Stanhope Road Sparta, NJ 07871 cherylw@saintkateri.org (973) 729-3021

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

John's disciples said to Jesus, "Are you 'He who is to come' or do we look for another?"
In reply, Jesus said: "Tell John what you hear and see: the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, and the poor have good news preached to them..."

O Jesus, I rejoice at the signs that say you are near. Your power is everywhere if I could see it. Yet my eyes often see only darkness and what has yet to be done. I believe in you, yet when I look around evil seems so strong and goodness so weak. If you have come, why is there still so much suffering and why do the poor still despair? Where are your miracles today? Your grace, O Lord, is more fruitful in my world than I imagine. I know your power is everywhere around me, if I could only see it. Show me today where the blind see and cripples walk.

*Make my vision sharper than it is.
Prepare our hearts
and remove the sadness
that hinders us from feeling
the joy and hope which his presence
will bestow.*



**PREPARING THE WAY:
RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT**

Do not fear. (Lk 4:13)

”There are people who are afraid to go to confession, forgetting that they will not encounter a severe judge there, but the immensely merciful Father.”

PIRE FRANCIS

Every year the Church celebrates Advent as a time that we may prepare our souls for the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. Traditionally, before every major feast, time was taken by the faithful to prepare their hearts, through prayer, fasting, and penance. Christ came to us at His birth to reconcile the world to Himself and this Advent we have the opportunity to reconcile our hearts to His.

To prepare ourselves for the coming Christ, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered here in our parish at St. Kateri on **18, Friday, from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm.**

Please take a moment out of your busy Christmas preparations and receive the Lord's gracious forgiveness. There is certainly no better way to prepare for the coming of the Lord than by celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation! Invited priests will be coming to help.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created blood shortages for NJ hospital systems. Donated blood is essential for trauma and surgery patients in need.

URGENT NEED

YOU CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE DONATE BLOOD BE THE DIFFERENCE

PLEASE **Be a Blood Donor**

St. Kateri Parish
427 Stanhope Road, Sparta

DECEMBER 19th
7:45 am to 1:45 pm

To remain in compliance with the federal guidelines for social distancing

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED
Walk-ins welcome if drive capacity permits

DONORS PRESENTING:

- Must wear a mask or face covering
- Will have their temperature taken
- Must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID-19
- May **NOT** donate if they have had a positive diagnostic test or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- May **NOT** donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions

To schedule an appointment visit Smarturl.it/NJBS_Drive
Sponsor Code 15978

'Tis the season to Give Hope. The true joy of the holidays is not what you get, but what you give. Join us on **December 19th** from 7:45am to 1:45pm and be a holiday hero to patients - be a Blood Donor. We invite all eligible blood donors to schedule their appointment: Smarturl.it/NJBS_Drive, Sponsor Code 15978.

To remain in compliance with the federal guidelines for social distancing **APPOINTMENTS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**. Donors presenting must wear a mask ■ will have their temperature taken ■ must be 14 days symptom free from COVID19 ■ may not donate if that have had a positive diagnostic test or experienced COVID19 symptoms in the last 14 days ■ may not donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions. Call Mary Stanek at 973-349-9191 for more information.

*Thank you to November's blood donors: we collected **81 units of blood.**
God Bless You~*

The Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry annual Christmas Giveaway (December 16-19) requests your help--this year more than ever:

Volunteers are needed to deliver, sort, bag, and distribute the food. Donations of food (frozen turkeys and hams, stuffing, boxed potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, applesauce, apple juice) are needed. Monetary gifts are especially helpful. Drop off food during normal pantry hours (Wednesdays 9am-3pm and 4-6pm, Fridays in December 9am to 1pm) through December 9th. Checks made out to the "Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry" can be dropped off at or mailed to the church office.

Please contact Valerie Macchio at 201-306-6148 or 862-266-0563 (Valerie@cornerstonemkt.com) if you have any questions about volunteering or donating.

The food pantry board, on behalf of the thousands of clients who've depended on your generosity during this unprecedented year of deprivation for so many, thank you to all who have donated so much time, money, and food, and to all who will continue to do so.

Best wishes
Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry Board



As the year comes quickly to

an end, and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests' and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Diocesan ministries Appeal – as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission – and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gift can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at www.2020appeal.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st. Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11: Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ. He compares the plants which spring from a garden to the justice that will spring from all nations.

2nd. Reading: 1 Thess. 5:16-24: Paul reminds the Thessalonians to constantly ready themselves for Christ's arrival. He tells them to "avoid any semblance of evil" so that they may be found irreproachable when Jesus does arrive.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28: John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for one more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the one so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

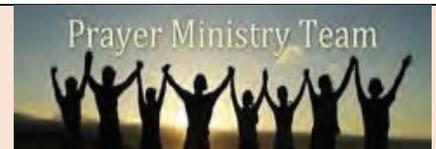
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25



Bereavement Ministry
Contact: Laura Entwistle
973-726-8978



Wrap yourself in a prayer shawl drenched in prayers and made with love.
Contact:
Sandy Cangemi 973-726-3549



Do you or a loved one need private prayers?
Contact: Sue Weaver
prayerteam@saintkateri.org

Are you In need of help? Someone you know in need of help?

A delivering of food, a cooked meal, picking up a prescription. Maybe you know of someone who could use a phone call just to say "hello". Are you out of work? Call and leave a message or e-mail for anyone of the staff members. We are here and want to help. God Bless You.

Adopt a Family Gift Program

Contact: Parish Office 973-729-1682
office@saintkateri.org

Center for Prevention & Counseling

Phone: (973)-383-4787
61 Spring Street, Newton NJ 07860
<https://centerforprevention.org>

Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry

32 Main Street, Sparta, NJ 07871
862-266-0563
Sign up for the Holiday Food Basket by calling St. Kateri – 973-729-1682

Sussex County Division of Social Services

83 Spring Street Suite 203
Newton, NJ 07860 Tel: [973-383-3600](tel:973-383-3600)
Visit: <https://www.sussex.nj>

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson

Has over 70 programs to help individuals throughout the Diocese of Paterson.
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A list of food pantries in the area is available.

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