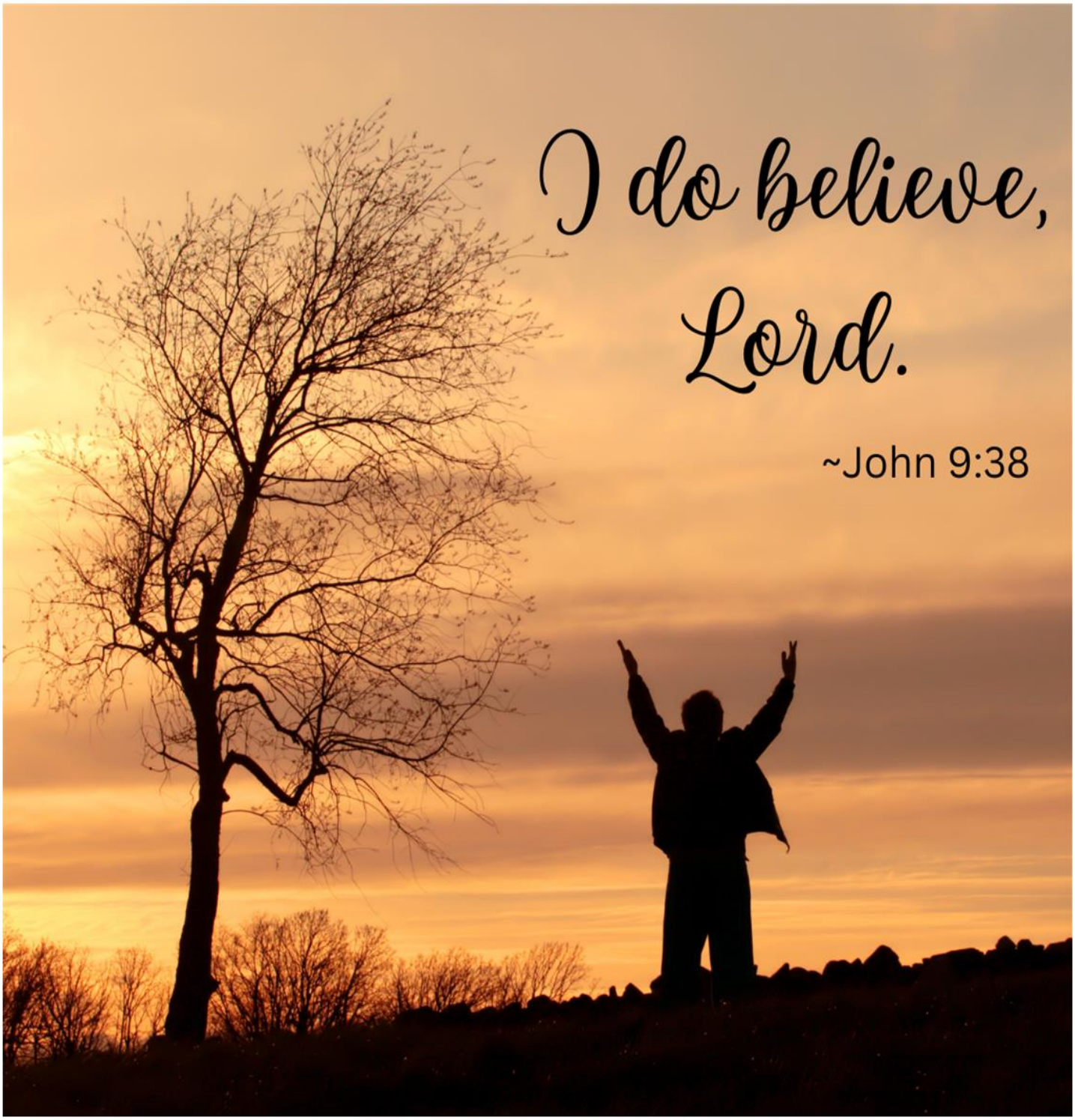
THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF
SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA

427 Stanhope Road, Sparta, New Jersey 07871

March 19, 2023
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 8:00 AM,
9:30 AM (Live stream and Zoom),
11:30 AM, & 6:00 PM
*****
Holy Day: Vigil 7:30 PM
Holy Day - 8:15 AM and 12:00 PM
****
Spanish Mass
7 PM every 1st and 4th Monday of the month
Confession 6:30 PM – 7 PM
****
Confessions: Every Saturday
4:00 PM – 4:45 PM.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Friday of the month from
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
* * *
https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintkaterispartanj

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

PARISH CENTER OFFICE
Mon. – Thurs.: 9 am to 3 pm
Phone: 973-729-1682
Email: office@saintkateri.org
Website: www.saintkateri.org

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
Wed. - Fri.: 9 am To 3 pm,
and by appointment.
Phone: 973-729-3021
Email:
cherylw@saintkateri.org

All Offices are closed for

PARISH STAFF

FR. VIDAL ROBERTO GONZALES, JR
PASTOR
frvgonzales@saintkateri.org
* * *
JENNIFER DOTTINGER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
jennd@saintkateri.org
* * *
TINA JURGAITIS
BOOKKEEPER
tinaj@saintkateri.org
* * *
CHERYL WALLACE
DRE AND PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
cherylw@saintkateri.org
* * *
DAWN GREEN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Youth Protection / Safe Environment
dawng@saintkateri.org
* * *
MARC G. DALIO
MUSIC DIRECTOR
marcd@saintkateri.org
* * *
MIKE SAWEY
MAINTENANCE
* * *
TIMOTHY DINAN
TRUSTEE

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism will be celebrated every 1st Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM. 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.

Parish Ministries/Contact Person

Abortion Alternative: 1st Way Hotline: 800-848-5683
Adopt a Family: Mary Beth Dowd mbdowd@gmail.com
Adoration Society: Jim Brocato jbroc55@aol.com
Altar Care: Pam Madzy pamelamadzy@gmail.com
Altar Servers: Ed Tirpack edtirpackdmd@gmail.com
Art & Environment (Church): Laura Tirpack ltirpack@gmail.com
Paige Fitzpatrick paige.fitzpatrick@yahoo.com
Blood Drive: Mary Stanek mary.d.stanek@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Pack #295: Ryan Dumpert Cubmaster.Sparta295@gmail.com
Eucharistic Ministers: Pat Kane patkane@embarqmail.com
Everyone Shops: Tina Jurgaitis tinaj@saintkateri.org
Family Promise of SC: (973) 579-1180
Feed the Working Poor: Janet and Stephen Goodwin goodwin@mckeown.org
Sparta Community Food Pantry:
Valerie Macchio foodpantry07871@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus: Greg Risco risco.g@gmail.com
Squires Circle: Nick Cutrone cutronekofc@gmail.com
Lectors: Dick Freiberger rnfrei@gmail.com
Migrant Ministries: Pam Madzy pamelamadzy@gmail.com
Hispanic Network Helpline: 973-863-7251
Music Director: Marc G. Dalio marcd@saintkateri.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry:
Sandy Cangemi skcangemi@yahoo.com
Prayer Team: Sue Weaver prayerteam@saintkateri.org
RCIA: office@saintkateri.org
Religious Education: Cheryl Wallace (973) 729-3021 cherylw@saintkateri.org
Respect Life: Joe DeLuca spartan5@ptd.net
Jim Brocato jbroc55@aol.com
Vocations to Priesthood or Religious Life:
Fr. Vidal Gonzales, Jr., Office: 973-729-1682
Wedding Coordinators:
Laura Luba Laurajune@rocketmail.com;
Cathy McCrossan catmack24@yahoo.com
Welcomers: Matt Piwko mpiwko014@gmail.com
Wine & Divine: Laura Tirpack LTirpack@gmail.com
Youth Ministry/Kateri Connections: Dominick Bartolomeo katericonnections@saintkateri.org
Youth Protection/Safe Environment Coordinator:
Dawn Green dawng@saintkateri.org

Saint Kateri's socials are a great way to stay connected!

Saint Kateri Roman Catholic Parish of Sparta, New Jersey

St Kateri Parish Sparta (@skparishsparta)

saintkateri.org

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

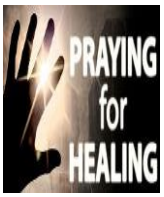
The precepts of the Church explain that: we need to belong to a parish (your parish is the Church in the City where you are domiciled) and to contribute to its support. (Canon 107).

Everyone should do this in order to identify 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).

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 3/18	5:00 pm	James Walsh
Sunday	8:00 am	Ryan Herrlich
Mar. 19th	9:30 am	Vidal Gonzales, Sr.
	11:30 am	Marian Ocampo
	6:00 pm	Intentions for Terese
Monday 3/20	8:15 am	Intentions for Lee Rosel and Sean Walter Smith
Tuesday 3/21	8:15 am	Scott Janco
Wednesday 3/22	8:15 am	Fred Brown
Thursday 3/23	8:15 am	Robert Hopkins
Friday 3/24	8:15 am	Paul Giordano and the deceased members of the Giordano, Giampetro, and Annucci Families
Saturday 3/25	5:00 pm	Martin and Marjorie Murphy
Sunday	8:00 am	People of the Parish
Mar. 26th	9:30 am	Barbara Medina
	11:30 am	Dr. Rey Villanueva
	6:00 pm	Intentions for Terese

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick:



Teresa Giovannone, Beth Ann & Bob Panzer, Shazam Khan, Brittany Johnson, Duane Perrelli, Catherine Cafiero, Katie Youngs, Luke Patrick Ford, Chris Auger, Donald Pavelko, Michelle Coleman, Donna Lee, Kathy Manzella, Maggie Jelly, Roseann Lehmann

If you would like a name added to our prayer list, please contact the parish office.
dawngoffice@saintkateri.org or 973-729-0489

Special Rememberance

The Sanctuary Lamp, which burns near the Tabernacle as a reminder of our Lord's presence in the Most Holy Eucharist, was given in loving memory of:

Irene Y. Feyti

Please pray for our Active Military:

Sean Schoch, Infantry 2Lt; SSgt Daniel Joseph (DJ) Duguay, US Air Force; James Schoch, Infantry 2Lt; Frank Cutrone, CPT US Army; Col Dan Murphy, US Marine Corps; Lt Katherine Garza, US Navy; Cpl Josh Jackson US Marine Corps; Jack Lubertazzi, 2Lt US Army

May God keep them safe and protect them from all harm.

If you would like a loved one's name added to the prayer list for the military, please call the Parish Center 973-729-0489.

Weekly Donations

March 12th
Third Sunday of Lent

Regular Collection	$5,645
Maintenance Collection	$ 288

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

WEEK AT A GLANCE

MON. 3/20	TUES. 3/21	Wed. 3/22	THURS. 3/23	FRI. 3/24	SATURDAY 3/25	SUNDAY 3/26
8:15 am Mass 9:00 am Bible Study 7-8:30 pm Welcome Home to Healing (Reconciliation) 7:30 pm Wine & Divine	8:15 am Mass and Rosary 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	8:15 am Mass and Rosary 7:00 pm Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible (Bible study)	8:15 am Mass and Rosary 7:00 pm Choir practice	8:15 am Mass and Rosary 1:00 – 4:30 pm Adoration 5:00 pm Children's Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper	4:00 pm Confession 5:00 pm Mass	8:00 am Mass 9:30 am Mass 11:30 am Mass 6:00 pm Mass 7:00 pm Kateri Connections **Game Night**

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

March 18 & 19	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Lector	Choir / Cantor
Sat. 5:00 PM	Sandy C / Cheryl W / Pat K(h)	Ed/**/**/**	Bob Cangemi	
Sun. 8:00 AM	Linda D / Ed T / Bob B (h)	Mark/Marty/**/**	Laura Tirpack	
9:30 AM	Bob M / Kathleen P / Jim B (h)	**/**/**/**	Bob Piwko	Choir
11:30 AM	Brenda K / Cathy M / ** (h)	Fred/John/Marianne/**	Patricia Carley	
6:00 PM	Sue W / ** / ** (h)	Mike/**/**/**	Lorraine Insley	Youth Choir
March 25 & 26				
Sat. 5:00 PM	Tom G / Pat K / Bruce E (h)	Nancy/**/**/**	Laura Entwistle	
Sun. 8:00 AM	Ed T / Laura T / Margaret L (h)	Marty/**/**/**	Carol Schubert	
9:30 AM	Kathleen P / Debbie Z / Jim B (h)	**/**/**/**	Ed Knapick	Choir
11:30 AM	** / ** / Cathy M (h)	Fred/Marianne/**/**	Patricia Carley	
6:00 PM	Lorraine I / ** / Sue W (h)	John/**/**/**	Dominick Bartolomeo	Youth Choir

Reflection

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. John 9:35–38

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith.

We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of Exodus 20:5–6 in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight.

The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story.

After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus.

The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others.

Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

Jesus, Light of the World, You came to dispel the darkness caused by original sin. You came to heal our blindness and open the eyes of our souls to Your true Light. Please open my eyes so that I may see, and give me the courage I need to profess my faith in You and worship You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Fifth Sunday of Lent: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Saint Kateri Happenings

Family Faith Formation Upcoming Events

March 24th
Children's Stations of the Cross, 5 pm
Followed by Soup Supper

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March 25th & 26th
Family Faith Session

Eucharistic Adoration

2 pm - 6:45 pm
March 17, 31
1 pm - 4:30 pm
March 10, 24
followed by Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper

SAVE THE DATE

Easter Family Fun & Egg Hunt

Saturday - April 1

Donations Needed:
mini toys + individually wrapped candy or treats

Volunteers needed for April 1st; please contact Tina:
tinaj@saintkateri.org
or call the office 973-729-1682.

Parish Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
7:00 PM

Do not fear
~Isaiah 41:10

March 29 – Rosary Prayer Service

On Wednesday, March 29, 2023, the Knights of Columbus will celebrate Founder's Day, marking the 141st anniversary of the reception of its charter from the state of Connecticut. Knights of Columbus councils throughout the world will be joining in this commemoration of 141 years of service, faith and fraternity.

In celebration of Founder's Day, St. Kateri Council is sponsoring the Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour at 7:00PM in the church. We invite all parishioners to join us in prayer that evening.

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Legion of Mary

Do something beautiful for Our Lady! Along with members in hundreds of countries, the Legion of Mary invites you to become a member. Under the guidance of our pastor, members pray the rosary and complete Our Lady's work. This consists of acts of spiritual mercy, which we do 2 by 2. Next week, Fr. Vidal has invited Legionaries to be available after the Mass to answer questions, in hopes of starting a new group here at St. Kateri. Will you answer Mary's call?

Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent

at 7:00 pm:
February 24
March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Special Stations of the Cross

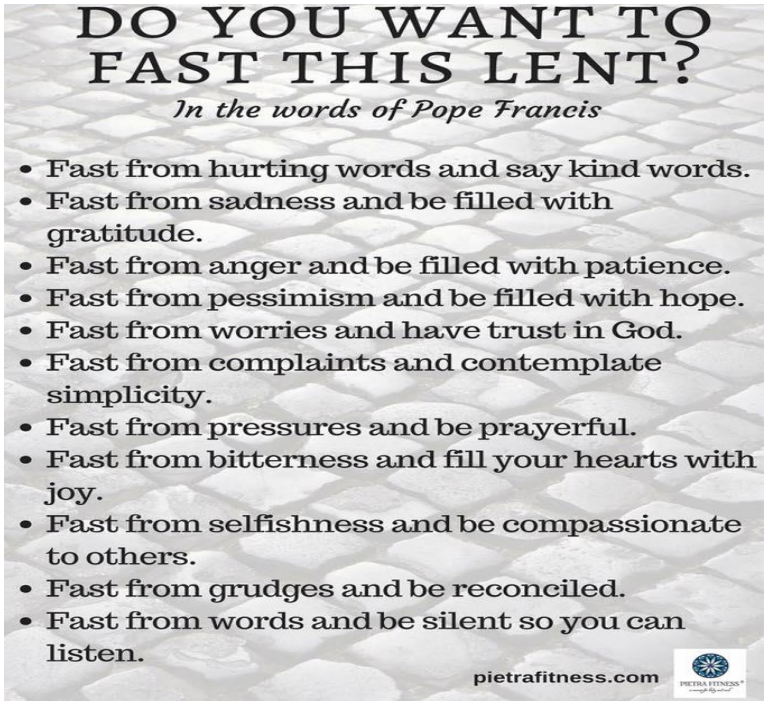
March 10 - Stations for Children at 5 pm
March 24 - Stations for Children at 5 pm

ALL Stations of the Cross sessions - including the Childrens Stations - will be followed by a Soup Supper.

To donate soup or help with suppers, please contact the office 973-729-1682.

A written guide about how to go to Confession, as well as an Examination of Conscience, will be provided in each Church.

For more information, visit www.WelcomeHomeToHealing.org
For information in Spanish, visit www.bienvenidoacasaalasanacion.org



Have You, or Someone You Know, Lost a Loved one during the Covid Pandemic?

Remembrance Ceremony
Sunday, April 2, 2023, 2:00 pm, St. Kateri Church
427 Stanhope Road, Sparta NJ 07871
Registration is Required

On this ***Second Annual Remembrance Day***, time will be set aside to honor and remember loved ones lost during the Covid pandemic.

The Sanchez family of Sparta raised the idea of a Remembrance Day after the loss their beloved wife and mother, Evelyn Gomez Sanchez, on April 5, 2020. Evelyn was possibly one of the first to pass in the Sparta area at the start of the pandemic. A Remembrance Day was held in April 2022.

Words of solace and healing will be offered by local leaders and area clergy during a 2023 Remembrance Day Ceremony. *The Sparta community and their families and friends are invited to attend this event.*

Time will be afforded a member of each family/group registered, to say a few words in their loved one's memory. A small, battery-operated lantern will be given to them for each life lost. Participants are encouraged to bring a framed photo or memorabilia of their loved one, which will be displayed.

Music will be provided during the event, and Refreshments will be served following the Ceremony.

Wish to participate? You must Register now.
Denise Sanchez, at 973-224-0515 or
Sanchezmdx@yahoo.com,
or family friend, Marjorie Strohsahl, at 973-943-2155 or
marjstro@earthlink.net.

Saint Kateri's Prayer Team Is Praying for YOU!

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." ~Phil 4:6

Saint Kateri's Prayer Team is a mighty ministry with a single focus: praying for the people of the parish. Its roster of 80 "prayer warriors"—as ministry members are affectionately known—includes parishioners, past parishioners and community members, all of whom pray whenever and wherever they can for everyday needs and special requests.

Ministry head Sue Weaver manages the Prayer Team completely through email. When prayer requests come in to PrayerTeam@saintkateri.org, usually several times each month, she notifies ministry members so they can join in praying for that special need. And from there, the power of prayer takes over.

"Even just submitting a prayer request can provide a person with a sense of comfort and support, knowing that the Saint Kateri community is praying for his or her need," Sue said. She believes that trust in the power of prayer inspires Prayer Team members to join the ministry as a way to become actively involved in helping others in need.

Sue occasionally receives follow-up emails letting her know that special prayers have been answered. But for her, the most rewarding aspect of her participation in the Prayer Team is being able to wholeheartedly contribute to a parish ministry even amid the business of everyday life.

"I invite everyone to consider joining our Prayer Team Ministry, which involves no meetings, only praying wherever and whenever you can," Sue said. It is a simple and beautiful way for anyone to experience the power of prayer.

Contact Prayer Team Ministry Head Sue Weaver at PrayerTeam@saintkateri.org to:

- Make a prayer request. It is not necessary to include the name of the person for whom you are asking prayers, although you may share his or her first name if you wish. Sue will share the request with the Prayer Team.
- Join the Prayer Team Ministry. New prayer warriors are always welcome!

< KID'S KORNER >

Gospel Today

Year A

Fourth Sunday of Lent | John 9:1-41 A man, born blind, was healed by Jesus. The blind beggar's eyes were opened to our world but also, more importantly to Jesus - the Light of the World. When the townspeople did not believe Jesus healed the blind man, Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" *John 9:35* The man replied, "I do **believe**, Lord", and he worshiped Him. *John 9:39*

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Believe... Jesus is the light of the world

He shines the light of His love on us so we don't live in darkness or sin.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.

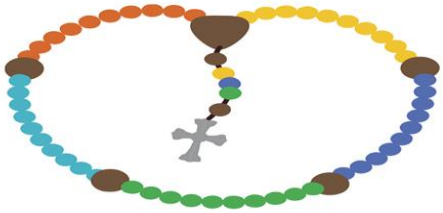
Life	Importantly
Heart	Jesus
Lent	Born
Love	Worshiped
Darkness	World
Believe	People
Man	Town
Light	Healed
Shine	Blind
Eyes	Lord

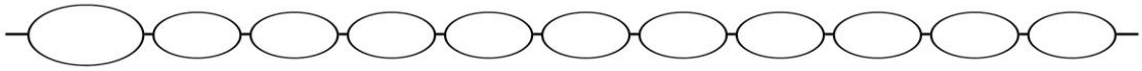
J	E	S	U	S	H	E	A	R	T	B	E	S
B	D	H	E	B	E	E	L	P	H	O	L	S
E	V	O	L	O	L	Y	S	R	G	R	W	E
L	R	A	W	P	L	M	E	B	I	N	O	N
I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	T	L	Y	E	K
E	S	E	R	L	M	N	I	D	E	I	P	R
V	P	S	L	Y	O	U	H	E	F	L	N	A
E	E	R	D	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	E	D
T	R	H	E	A	L	E	D	L	L	E	N	T

The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery - The Carrying of the Cross

Think about how Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry the cross.

The blind man is no longer living in the dark - he has new eyesight and in his heart a new life in Jesus, he says, "I do __ __ __ __ __ __ __, Lord".





Some people call struggles or difficult life situations a "cross to bear". Believe that Jesus, the Light of the World, will help you like he helped & healed the blind man. How can you be like Jesus & help others?

This week: Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with Glory Be to the Father.