

From the Pastors of St. Columba, St. Denis and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Our common origins and close proximity to each other has allowed our parishes to do something that parishes across the country are now considering and being urged to do; namely, to combine resources and talents to offer joint services. We have been doing this with St. Denis-St. Columba School, which is the parochial school for all three parishes. Our Altar Rosary Society and Saint Vincent DePaul Societies have been strengthened by the joint efforts of all three parishes. Over the years this cooperative effort has benefited all the parishes and strengthened the bond between our parishes.

In looking at the needs of the Catholic population in our section of Dutchess County, we feel that this type of cooperation between the parishes ultimately benefits everybody and can be extended. As pastors, we have met and discussed possible ways this cooperation between our parishes can be to the benefit of all. After discussing this with the three parish councils, we have come up with the following areas of cooperation.

First - Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions): We have decided to publish each other's schedule in the parish bulletins, and to offer more times to make this sacrament available. Saint Columba has confession available on Saturday from 8:30-9am, and 4-5pm. Saint Denis has confession available on Saturday from 9:30-10:30am, and 3:30-4:30pm. Blessed Kateri has confessions available on Mondays from 7:30-8:30pm, Wednesdays from 9:30-10am, and Saturday from 4:00-4:45pm.

Second - Youth and Young Adult Ministry: It was decided that St. Denis will conduct a program for all the Junior High School students of the three parishes, Blessed Kateri for the High School Students, and St. Columba will start a Young Adult Program.

Third - Holy Week Tenebrae Service (Solemn Morning Prayer at 9am): St. Denis will host the Tenebrae service on Holy Thursday, St. Columba on Good Friday, and Blessed Kateri on Holy Saturday.

Fourth - The Weekend Mass Schedule: This is the most difficult issue to address, and the one that affects the most people. We did take into account that there is a decreased availability of priests for Sunday to assist in the area, a situation that can worsen as time goes by and that Blessed Kateri now has a church that seats over three times the capacity of the old church. Considering the three parishes together, it was obvious that not all three parishes needed to offer a 7:30am Sunday Mass. The numbers also indicated that one Sunday evening Mass would be ample to accommodate the needs of those wishing to attend on Sunday evening, as long as it was in a larger church. Finally we discussed the Saturday evening Mass schedule and realized that many preferred an earlier time. After reviewing these with the three parish councils, and aware that ongoing dialogue is beneficial and will be needed to address the diminishing number of priests, we have decided on the following Mass schedules to take effect as of February 1st.

Saint Columba: Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am and 12 noon

Note - St. Columba will no longer have a Sunday evening Mass.

Saint Denis: Saturday 5pm
Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am and 12 noon

Note - St. Denis schedule will not change at present.

Blessed Kateri: Saturday 5pm
Sunday 9am, 10:30am, 12:15pm and 5:30pm

Note - Blessed Kateri will change the Saturday evening Mass from 5:30pm to 5pm and discontinue the 7:30am Sunday Mass.

If, on occasion, a parishioner of one parish attends Mass at one of the other two parishes, their contribution envelope will be sent to the proper parish, or they can simply mail their donation to their parish during the week.

We realize that any Mass schedule change affects our parishioners, but we believe this schedule offers ample Mass times to the people of our area and takes into account the issues mentioned above. We do want to thank all the parishioners of our three parishes, and you should be aware that the vibrancy of our parishes and our ability to cooperate with each other is envied by many other parishes. We owe this to your faithfulness and dedication.

Your Pastors in Christ,

Msgr. Gerardo Colacicco
Saint Columba Parish

Rev. Stephen P. Norton
Saint Denis Parish

Msgr. Desmond O'Connor
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The bulletins for the past two Sundays had to be submitted Christmas week, so I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the parishioners for your generosity during the Christmas Season. The number of people attending our Masses during the Christmas Season was at least double what they were last year. I know many attended because of your personal invitations and expressions of pride in our new beautiful church. I want to thank all of you for your active participation in our services.

I especially want to say "thank you" to all those who greatly enhanced the beauty of our Christmas by serving as lectors, sacristans, altar servers, ministers of the Eucharist, church decorators, church cleaners, ushers, and our excellent music ministry. We all owe you a debt of gratitude for the wonderful service you perform for the parishioners of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

While thanking those involved in the liturgical ministries, I feel we should also say thank you to all those that volunteer their time and service to build up our parish. This includes our many catechists (children and adolescent faith formation, Bible Study, R.C.I.A., Baptismal program), parish council, counters, Teen Club adults, Knights of Columbus, and numerous other committees and individuals who do so much for our parish.

All these are supported by our small, but extremely dedicated and capable parish staff and Deacons. I always hope they realize how much they are appreciated.

I do want to express my sincere gratitude for the extremely generous Christmas collection. It is greatly needed with the expenses of our new facility, but I know it comes at a difficult time financially for many. Your continued generosity and financial sacrifices have made this wonderful new facility possible – Thank You!

Finally, on behalf of Father Perez and myself, let me say thank you to all those who sent cards expressing such wonderful love, the many gifts, and all the food sent to the rectory. While we do not have to cook for a while, we will have to exercise to work off all the extra pounds. Thank You.

May the Lord bless all those in our parish in 2009.

2008 Christmas Collection - \$34,719

2007 Christmas Collection - \$29,568

Last Week's Collection - \$10,903

Last Year's Collection - \$11,625

BKT - TEEN GROUP - BKT

There will be a General Meeting of the Teen Club tonight, Sunday January 11th, at 6:30pm following the 5:30 Mass. All high school students are invited to attend. The topic of the meeting is Baptism. We will also discuss the activities and dates for this New Year. Please attend and bring a friend. Teen Club members are asked to provide "parish community service" by assisting in the parish office move next Saturday, January 17th, from 9am to 12noon. *Please save the date of our Teen and Family Ski Trip - Friday, February 13th.*

FAREWELL TO FR. O'HARE

The farewell reception for Fr. O'Hare has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 25th, after the 10:30am Mass. Let us pray that the weather will cooperate with us!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

The January Parent Newsletter is now posted online and may be accessed through our parish website, www.blessedkateriparish.com. Please take the time now to review the snow cancellation policies online or in the Parent Handbook distributed at the first week of class.

Thanks and welcome to Mrs. Angela Barone, who has graciously volunteered to be our 8th grade catechist on Wednesday evenings!

A parent is still needed to serve as a Wednesday 4:30-6 pm hall monitor. Please call Mrs. Biasotti, 223-3767, to volunteer.

R.C.I.A.

Our next R.C.I.A. session will be on Thursday, January 15th; the topic will be the Baptism of the Lord and Anointing of the Sick. These instructional sessions are open to all from 7 to 9pm in classroom two.

OUR NEW PARISH OFFICES

We expect the new parish offices to be completed the weekend of January 17-19th, and to be officially opening on Tuesday, January 20th. This means all parish business will be conducted at the new location, adjacent to the Faith Formation building. The new address for all Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha correspondence will be 1925 Route 82, LaGrangeville, NY 12540. The phone number for all parish business will be 845-227-1710; this includes the Parish Offices, Faith Formation Offices, and the Rectory. With the new telephone system, you will be able to contact a priest at all times.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Saturday, January 17th, volunteers are needed to help move the office furniture from the old rectory building (1810 Route 82) to our new parish offices, and to put away all the Christmas decorations in the church. We will be working from 9am until 12 noon. Anyone interested in helping is asked to leave his or her name at the rectory (227-1710).

POINSETTIA DONATIONS

We received additional donations after our January 4th bulletin was submitted for printing. Donations were made in honor of the following people:

John and Lillian Jordan

The Sawicki Family

B. James Fortunato

Julietta Marin and Stephanie Murphy

Joseph Ostachowsky

Benza and Cross Families

Melanie A. Kotes

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Church

LaGrangeville, New York

A VERY SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE

On Tuesday, December 30th, 56 precious pints of blood were collected here at Blessed Kateri. Christmas is a crisis time of the year for Hudson Valley Blood Services, so this turnout is much appreciated. Thank you to our patient parishioners who waited until we found a place warm enough to take their blood.

This drive could not have been a success without the help of Ed Hogarty. Let us not forget our Confirmation candidates from our Faith Formation program who volunteered as helpers.

But most thanks are extended to all the generous donors who came and shared their precious gift of life.

ADOPT-A-NIGHT PROGRAM

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish is participating in the Adopt-A-Night program facilitated by the Dutchess County Coalition for the Homeless. Hillcrest House, located in Poughkeepsie, is the only walk-in shelter in Dutchess County for homeless adults. It depends on volunteers to prepare meals for homeless adults each night of the week. Our Parish has offered to provide meals when there is a fifth Saturday in a month. Those dates for the year 2009 are: January 31st, May 30th, August 29th, and October 31st. Volunteers are needed to prepare a simple meal for up to sixty adults. The prepared meals are then taken to Hillcrest House by four adult volunteers who will serve the meal. The team of four adults will arrive at Hillcrest House by 8pm to serve the meal by 9pm. If you are interested, please contact Vivian LaColla at 223-5001.

BLESSED KATERI PRAYER NETWORK

If you have intentions or requests that you would like our Prayer Network to pray for, please call Nancy Vaughn at 226-4053, or Betty Paraggio at 223-5674.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

This week the items needed by the SVDP food pantry are dish detergent, mayonnaise and instant mashed potatoes. Please leave your items in the **new church** narthex (vestibule). For those in need of assistance, the SVDP hotline number is 227-7863.

PETITION OF THE WEEK

As we recognize our Baptism into Christ, we pray for all parents preparing to have their children Baptized.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	January 12
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Tuesday	January 13
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Wednesday	January 14
9am	For All Parishioners
Thursday	January 15
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Friday	January 16
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Saturday	January 17
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Sunday	January 18
5:30pm Sat.	Paul and Anthony Gauci by Antonia Gauci
7:30am	For All Parishioners
9:00am	Don Castle by Mr. and Mrs. Schleicher
10:30am	Theresa and Frederick Searles by Lillian Lowery
12:15pm	For All Parishioners
5:30pm	For All Parishioners

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

If you are sick, homebound, or in the hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion or would like a pastoral visit, please contact Deacon John by leaving a detailed message at 223-8410 or calling the rectory at 227-1710. If you prefer, you may e-mail Deacon John at JBarone49@gmail.com.

Please pray for those who are ill

Jackie and Joe DePalma--Marion Carney--Billy Jacobs
Marie Gauci--Johnny Romano--Amanda Jones
Fred Matthews--Victor Thomas--Wendy Sullivan
Raymond Trangalli--Caitlin Ann Martin--Rick Cole
Maria Sorrentino--Susan Lancellata--Concetta Liccione
Mary Griego--Bob Wilson--Joseph Liccione
William Grafer--Deneé DeVizio--Mark Kearney
Richard DeLeo, Sr.

Liturgical Ministers for January 18th

	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5:30pm Sat Msgr. O'Connor	Mary Beth Schmidt	Andrea Cirone, Tara Izzo Geraldine Natale	James Hagen Timothy and Julianne Desjardins
7:30am Fr. Perez	Mary Biasotti	Margaret De Sa, Virginia Fisher	Christopher and Clare Whitton
9:00am Msgr. O'Connor	Diana Schopen	Beverly Austin, Cathy Varano Sally Mastreani	Sabrina Perry, Lauren Kirchner Carolyn Newhard
10:30am Fr. Perez	Joe Mackey	Rose Morse, Suzanne Power Lorraine Travia	Victoria Scalise, Emily Silva Amber Hammerschlag
12:15pm Msgr. O'Connor	John Morgan	Carol Reilly, Ruth Recchia Rosemary Archer	Jacqueline Rooney Brandon and Brittany Tobin
5:30pm Sun Fr. Perez	Teen	John McCormack	Teen Group

