

From the Pastor's Desk

Farewell to Fr. O'Hare - Our parish has been truly blessed over the past several years by the presence of Father Joseph O'Hare, S.J. He has traveled from Manhattan each Sunday to celebrate two masses for us, and his homilies have been enjoyed by all our parishioners. His quick wit, dry sense of humor and team preferences was his trademark. Unfortunately, Father O'Hare has indicated that the trip seems longer and more burdensome as the years go on, and has asked to have his final weekend on December 21st. The people of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha will surely miss him, and I will surely miss him. There will be a farewell reception for him following the 10:30am Mass on December 21st. I want him to realize that he is always welcome to visit, and assure him of our prayers.

Construction Update - While our dedication was a spectacular event, you will notice that work continues on our church building. The stonework on the front of the building is expected to be completed by next week. There are also two beams in the rear of the church that have to be covered by pre-cast and stonework. They estimate this will take two weeks, weather permitting. Caulking is also underway on many sections of the exterior of the church.

On the church interior we are, thankfully, getting down to only punch-list items. The locks will be placed on all the doors, the security systems have been activated, and we now have the daunting task of learning how to operate and control many of the church systems. The one noticeable item that is still a work-in-progress is our Baptismal Font. It was hastily done so it would be here for the dedication, but further work has to be done on it.

The chapel will be open each weekday from 7am until 7pm, along with the narthex and hallway areas. The usual way to gain entrance will be through the steel doors off the handicap parking area. This will allow people to come in and pray in the chapel during the day. We will start to lower the heat in the main church and lock it up during the week. This is for conservation, maintenance, and security reasons. At present we still have construction workers, and many visitors, stopping in to the church.

You will also notice an office in the narthex adjacent to the interior church doors. This enables us to meet briefly with individuals between masses. We will also have the sacristan available to give out mass cards in this office in the New Year. Hopefully this will provide a useful service that we could not provide previously.

The Parish Offices are scheduled to be completed around the New Year. They will contain a main parish office, a Pastor's office, an Associate's office, and an office for the Deacons. In the Faith Formation Building the offices will be upstairs. After everything is completed, we will have an "open house" so everyone can see all the changes in the "Old Church" and the new Parish Office building.

A couple of items that will have to wait until warmer weather are the final blacktopping of the parking lot, and the installation of the stained glass windows. We hope to have the windows behind the altar installed by Easter, and the remaining windows installed by July.

Dedication Mass - I want to say thank you to everyone involved in the Dedication Mass, and to the whole parish for the wonderful response to this special event. Everyone present expressed how wonderful this celebration was, and many people have indicated they saw parts of it on line. The Cardinal is still telling people how wonderful our parish is, and what an elegant church we have. None of this could have taken place without the effort and countless hours of work by a host of parishioners. I am fearful that if I start mentioning names, I could forget someone, so I will mention all the major categories.

The first area is the Liturgy: Thank you to Nina Ricci, our Music Director, Peter Kraus, our Organist, and all our combined choirs: Adult Choir, Children's Choir, 10:30am Mass Music Group and the special musicians and vocalists. They started working on this many months ago, and their efforts were truly noticed in the music provided for the Dedication Ceremony. It was truly spectacular, and noticed by all our guests. I want to thank Father Perez for being the Master of Ceremonies for the Liturgy and preparing the booklet. The altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters, gift bearers and relic bearers were all flawless in their roles. Our Deacons assisted greatly in this. I also thank the decorating committee.

Preparation and Reception: The parish council, led by the president, Anthony Cirone, coordinated the reception, the ushers, the publicity, and the parking. I want to thank all those who assisted in any of these roles. I know several people volunteered endless hours to create the wonderful event we experienced. Thanks also to Beverly Austin for arranging for the gifts and a photographer. We will have pictures available to the parish for this historic event.

I do have to say thank you to the Poughkeepsie Journal. Many people, from all over, were able to view the ceremony on line.

The parish staff joins me in expressing our sincere gratitude for the work done by so many to create the wonderful event our Dedication truly was. I must also say thank you to the parish staff. They always do such a wonderful job, and really showed their dedication and expertise in all they did for this event.

I do want to say thank you for the gift presented to me, but I must say the real thanks goes out to all of you involved in any way. The ceremony was superb because of your dedication. And none of this could be possible if we did not have a faith filled, dynamic and inviting parish community here at Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

THANK YOU, and may we always show that Christ is alive in our good works!

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Church

Second Sunday of Advent

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

This weekend is Inscription Sunday. Our 8th grade students have written letters to Msgr. Desmond expressing interest in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next May. At the Masses this weekend, these students will stand and be formally enrolled as candidates. They also ask for your prayers. To this end, cards with each individual candidate's name are available in the narthex. Our parishioners are invited to select a card and pray for that particular candidate during the months of preparation for this very special sacrament. Thank you!

All of our Monday classes will attend Mass on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The 4:30 students should report to their classrooms as usual, walk over to the new church as a class at 5 pm for Mass and then be dismissed directly from church after Mass. The 7pm students should report directly to the narthex of the church, sit with their classes for the 7 pm Mass, walk over to the Faith Formation Center with their class after Mass and be dismissed from there as usual at 8:30 pm.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

This week the items needed by the SVDP food pantry are ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, vegetable oil and salad dressing. Please leave your items in the **new church** narthex (vestibule). For those in need of assistance, the SVDP hotline number is 227-7863.

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER

Join in praying for the sanctity of all human life on the National Night of Prayer for Life, Dec. 8th at 9pm to Dec.9th at 1am in St. Mary's Church, Poughkeepsie. There will be 4 hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, rosary and other vocal prayer, silent meditation, and Benediction to end the evening. All parishes are invited to attend. For further information please contact Rich Van Slambrouck at 845 297-7930.

INTRODUCING MORNING PRAYER

Beginning this week, we will have Morning Prayer at 8:45am on Monday through Friday. For those who are not familiar with Morning Prayer, this is a brief, formal prayer for each day of the week. There's no better way to start the day!

IN SEARCH OF ANGELS

If you would like to donate an angel that will decorate the two Christmas trees to be placed in the narthex, please bring your angel to church the week of December 13th and 14th. These angels will be used every year; they can be new, old, handmade, store bought, with your family name or without. Place your angel in the bin in the narthex and be a part of our angel family!

FAREWELL TO FR. O'HARE

Our beloved Fr. O'Hare will celebrate his last Mass at Blessed Kateri on December 21st at 10:30am. After the 10:30am Mass we will gather in the meeting room to bid him farewell. Please contact the rectory at 227-1710 if you are interested in planning this bittersweet celebration. *Read Monsignor O'Connor's message about Fr. O'Hare on the preceding page.*

BETHLEHEM HANDICRAFTS

Representatives from Bethlehem Handicrafts will be at our church next weekend with handmade olivewood religious articles carved by Christian carvers in Bethlehem. These religious articles will be displayed and available for purchase after all Masses.

BKT - TEEN GROUP - BKT

Today, December 7th, after the 10:30am Mass, the teens will hold our **first ever pancake breakfast** at Blessed Kateri. Bring your families for some delicious pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, and coffee at a reasonable price of \$5 per adult and \$4 for children under 12.

On December 14th after the 5:30pm Mass, the teens will have their Christmas party. All teens are welcome to join in the tree decorating and holiday cheer.

Friday, February 13th is our 2nd annual ski trip. This is a holiday for Arlington Schools; save the date.

THE GIVING TREE

Once again, the **BKT Teen Group** Giving Tree is turning out to be a tremendous success. Last weekend 450 angels were taken from the tree. Many local families that receive your gifts will appreciate the generosity of this parish.

Your gifts and printed angels are to be returned to the church lobby on December 13th and 14th and placed in the designated bins. **Please be sure to tape your labeled angel to the unwrapped gift.**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to contribute a poinsettia plant that will adorn our sanctuary this Christmas, please complete the following form, place it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket with your \$15 donation. All names will be listed in our bulletin after Christmas.



CHRISTMAS 2008
Poinsettia Donation



In Memory Of: _____

Please enclose your \$15 donation

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Even though the Celebration of the Immaculate Conception occurs back-to-back with a Sunday, it remains a Holy Day of Obligation because Our Lady, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States. We will celebrate Masses at Blessed Kateri at 9am, 5pm, and 7pm on this day.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET APPEAL

Christmas is approaching and it is time once again to ask for Holiday Baskets for our less fortunate families. If you would like to donate a holiday basket, or would like more information about this program, please call Linda at 227-7863. Baskets are to be dropped off on December 21st between 10am and 12 noon at St. Columba. Basket pick-up is also on December 21st at 1:30pm, following the blessing.

If you can't do a complete basket, feel free to donate one or more of the following needed items: milk, eggs, canned vegetables, salad mix, turkey, ham, white and sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, rolls, fruit, beverages, dessert, coffee, tea and aluminum pans.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK FOR ELDERLY RELIGIOUS

The annual collection for the retirement needs of the elderly Sisters and Brothers of the Archdiocese will be taken up today. Taking proper care of their elderly and retired members is a major financial concern for all religious communities. Although each community has set up its own retirement fund, their money often falls far short of meeting all the retirement costs. The number of retired sick and elderly in each congregation is quite considerable, and the number is continually growing.

Many of our lives have been touched in one way or another by the ministries of our Religious Brothers and Sisters. We should want to thank the men and women Religious who dedicated their lives to serving us in so many ways. Please be as generous as your means will permit to this important collection.

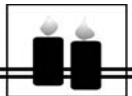
R.C.I.A.

Join our R.C.I.A. program on December 11th as we have an *Instructional Mass*. The Mass will be held in our church at 7pm.

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

Boy Scout Troop 40 will be selling Christmas wreaths at all Masses this weekend, December 6th and 7th. The beautifully decorated wreaths are 16-18 inches in width on a 12 inch frame; the cost is \$17.

Prepare the way of the Lord



Liturgical Ministers for December 14th

	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5:30pm Sat	Kelly McMann	John Crowe, Carol Reilly James Werber	Julianne and Timothy Desjardins Amanda D'Angelo
7:30am	Frank Bergman	Rosealice D'Avanzo Peggy Peterson	Samantha Campos, Joseph Wiley
9:00am	Anne Whitton	Christine Ryan, Virginia Fisher Cathy Anderson	Alex Rodriguez, Emily Holtman Lauren Kirchner
10:30am	John McCormack	Carolyn Criscione, Pat Mackey Keith McCartney	Hunter Criscione, Brad Fisher Zack Reale
12:15pm	Norma Kraus	Beverly Austin, Rita Rogers Rosemary Archer	Jansen Kantor, Amber Hammerschlag Jacqueline Rooney
5:30pm Sun	Teen	Vivian LaColla	Teen Group

PARISH INCOME REPORT

Last Week's Collection - \$9,646
Last Year's Collection - \$9,143

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	December 8
9:00am	For All Parishioners
5:00pm	For All Parishioners
7:00pm	Walter Kraus (L) by the Kraus family
Tuesday	December 9
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Wednesday	December 10
9:00am	Thomas Galvin by the Galvin family
Thursday	December 11
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Friday	December 12
9:00am	For All Parishioners
Saturday	December 13
9:00am	For All Parishioners
5:30pm	Lucy White by the Maddox family
Sunday	December 14
7:30am	Robert Flanigan by the Flanigan family
9:00am	Patricia P. Hunt by the Hogan family
10:30am	Thomas Lowery by Lillianne Lowery
12:15pm	Joe and Cesare Tenuta by Antonia Tenuta
5:30pm	Elizabeth Fay by the Muller family

Please pray for those who are ill

Jackie and Joe DePalma--Marion Carney--Billy Jacobs
Marie Gauci--Johnny Romano--John Iacurri
Fred Matthews--Victor Thomas--Wendy Sullivan
Raymond Trangalli--Caitlin Ann Martin--Rick Cole
Maria Sorrentino--Susan Lancelli--Concetta Liccione
Mary Griego--Bob Wilson--Joseph Liccione
William Grafer--Deneé DeVizio--Mark Kearney

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.

