



Saint Katharine's CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter Volume IV, #4 November 2017



Happenings at the Shrine:

SKD Tea - October 26, 2017



Gathering to Celebrate "**Saint Katharine's Birthday**" (a little early since her Birthday is on November 26), all enjoyed a luncheon prepared by the many volunteers who assist us at the Mission Center. Sr. Mary Roger, SBS, was our guest speaker. Sister has been the Director of the SBS Evangelization Center for many years. Sister Roger's gift in her sharing is always to motivate listeners through **story telling**. Her devotion to the legacy of Saint Katharine is based on her belief in following Jesus' command to love God and to show that love of God by loving our neighbor and doing something to show that love in a very personal way. Her challenge to participants: Our words must be matched by our actions.

Even though the Shrine is closing as of Dec. 31st, we are working on maintaining the SKD connection via the CIRCLE.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, the **NAACP Bucks County Branch #2253** acknowledged St. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament with the **Pioneer Award** for 2017 for being "one who goes before, showing others the way to follow" and for the many distinguished contributions made throughout the years. Sr. Jane Nesmith received the Award in the name of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Special congratulations to Joyce Hadley, ASBS who was one of the Community Service Award Honorees. Joyce has a lengthy history of service throughout Bucks County and is a Life Member of the NAACP. Joyce is the Assistant Director of the Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (ASBS), serves on the Social Justice Committee for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS). (photo and story credit Cheri Wenger)



St. Katharine Drexel & the SBS receive Pioneer Award and ASBS Assistant Director, Joyce Hadley, receives Community Service Award from NAACP Bucks County at the 66th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Oct 21, 2017.

Gala 2017 was a grand success!

The choice to have a Sunday afternoon Gala on September 10th was a blessed decision since all the guests enjoyed seeing the beautiful venue in the daylight. Sitting outside in the warm September sun, seeing the Delaware and enjoying a relaxing conversation with friends proved to be a perfect choice. Once dinner was served and enjoyed, those who love to dance did so for the next two hours. The generosity of those who gave to this year's Gala allowed us to realize a \$40,000 profit and continue the Legacy of Saint Katharine Drexel in our Ministry as Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and assist in the care of our Retired Sisters.



We are looking forward to Gala 2018! Look for more details in the future.

By Sr. Pat Downs, SBS

“PROJECT NAVAJO”....

**New Mexico/Arizona
assisting the Navajo people on the reservation ~**

For the past six years, the **Parish of St Katharine Drexel in Alton, NH** has sent a monthly donation to Navajo, NM to assist **Sr. Maria M Studer, SC** in ministering to the Navajo people of **St Berard Parish** and the area. Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and Sisters of Charity have long worked together in this part of our country to bring the love of God and education to the Navajo. Sister Maria has retired after a life-long dedication to the many assignments in her religious life. It is a privilege to have been a small part in support of the work she has accomplished. Sister has made a great difference in the lives of those to whom she has ministered and brought the teachings and love of God into their daily lives.

Sister Zoe Brenner, SBS, who has worked for several years with Sister Maria, resides in Ft Defiance, AZ, about 30 minutes from Navajo, and is part of **Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish** on the reservation.



Sister Mary, who also worked with the Navajo and Sr. Zoe, has retired as well. This leaves Sr. Zoe as one of the few religious working in this area of the reservation. Our parish will continue to provide monthly financial donations along with our equally important prayer support of the work Sister Zoe remains there to do.

Thank you to all of the Sisters who have and are still working with the Navajo people to bring the love of God into their lives. It was the mission begun particularly by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Franciscans and continues today through the unselfish dedication of these Sisters and Associates. Please consider any type of support you may be able to provide.



Blessings to all,

Martha Horton, St Katharine Drexel Parish, Alton, NH



In Memoriam



Sr. Mary John Soulliard, SBS (Apr. 21, 1922 – Sep. 1, 2017)

Entered in Aug. 1940 and took her final vows Jul. 1955. Celebrated her 70th Jubilee in July 2010.

Sr. Catherine Bardsley, SBS (Dec. 30, 1930 – Oct. 3, 2017)

Entered in Aug. 1948 and took her final vows July 1956. Celebrated her 60th Jubilee in July 2008.



Sr. Patricia Lynch, SBS (Feb. 4, 1928 – Oct. 7, 2017)

Entered in Sep. 1950 and took her final vows Aug. 1958. Celebrated her 60th Jubilee in 2013.

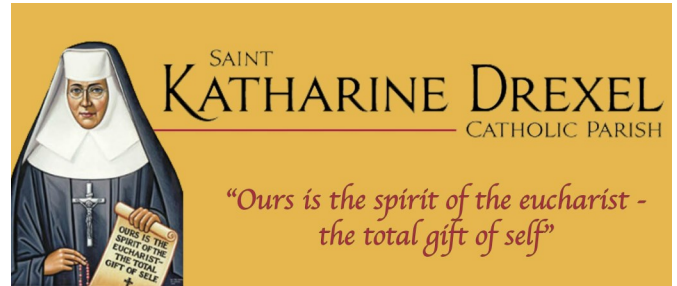
Our Featured Parish.....

SKD Parish—Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA



The New Saint Katharine Drexel Parish

On January 8th, 2017, Epiphany Sunday, Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh established the new *Saint Katharine Drexel Parish*, uniting as one, five parishes in southwestern Pennsylvania. The five former communities had progressed through a nearly year-long study and process to make a recommendation to the bishop for the collaboration.

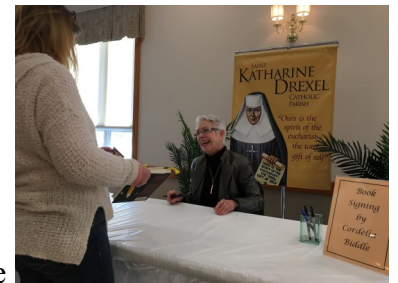


The impact of the life and ministry of Saint Katharine Drexel was immediately perceived among parishioners when the new parish was established. As the pastoral staff highlighted her life's ministry and work, parishioners and staff alike were humbled to have Saint Katharine as their new patroness. The significance of this faithful and contemporary saint, a model of authentic discipleship, was felt throughout the new community.



Parish Renewal

The newly formed parish was additionally blessed when ***Cordelia Biddle****, relative and biographer of Saint Katharine, traveled to the parish for a Lenten Renewal in March of 2017. The renewal theme, *Lent Through the Heart of Saint Katharine Drexel*, highlighted not only Saint Katharine's life, but her spiritual writings as well, as the parish conducted a nine



day novena in her honor leading up to the three day renewal. ***Ms. Biddle*** offered a keynote presentation on the evening of March 7th to share her rich knowledge and deep insight of Saint Katharine and she also offered reflections at a morning Mass on March 8th followed by a Meet & Greet and book signing in Drexel Hall. Ms. Biddle's biography, *Saint Katharine: The Life of Katharine Drexel*, was available for purchase. It was indeed a rare opportunity and great gift to the parish to have a living relative of a canonized saint come to visit!

Cordelia Frances Biddle is an independent scholar and novelist, and a direct descendent of Francis Martin Drexel, grandfather of Saint Katharine Drexel. Her biography of Saint Katharine Drexel, **Saint Katharine: the Life of Katharine Drexel, allowed her to explore a remarkable woman's mission and ministry."*
(<http://www.cordeliafrancesbiddle.com/page3/index.html>).

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Parish Pilgrimage: A Formative Experience for the New Parish

On June 26 & 27, 2017, parishioners of the newly formed St. Katharine Drexel joined Fr. Sam Esposito Diocesan Vicar, and Father Edward Yuhas, Administrator of the new parish, on a parish pilgrimage to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and the National Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel in Bensalem, PA. The visitors were greeted by Sr. Pat Downs who

provided a tour of the grounds, the Motherhouse and the Shrine. Dr. Stephanie Morris, former archivist for the Sisters and the Shrine, provided a PowerPoint presentation to outline the rich history of St. Katharine Drexel's life and ministry. Once again, Cordelia Biddle was present to share the day with the parishioners.

Drexel Charities

The newly formed Saint Katharine Drexel Parish is committed to continuing the mission of their new patroness. The parish has established **Drexel Charities** to support the ongoing educational efforts of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as well as the overall mission of Saint Katharine to those most marginalized and those most in need in our society. Monetary contributions have already been sent to Saint Michael Indian School in Arizona and to schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh whose focus is on ethnic diversity and need. Additionally, **Drexel Charities** has been established to provide support for programs that provide assistance and treatment to address the current crisis of opioid addiction in the area. Monetary contributions have been sent to Project Refuge, a partnership of faith-related organizations that provide support for addiction recovery.

Article contributed by Kathy Heino, Pastoral Associate, SKD Parish, Western PA.

Gift Shop Specials!

Katharine Drexel
Special Price until December 20th!
Get two biographies— one low price!
(Plus shipping & handling)

"Katharine Drexel: a Biography"
by Sister Consuela Duffy, SBS
AND
"Saint Katharine Drexel: Apostle to the Oppressed"
by Lou Baldwin
Makes a great gift!

Two books for just \$5.00 !!!

A PHILADELPHIA STORY

Buy a Photo Necklace and get 2 booklets FREE!
Only \$10.00!

ONLY \$10.00!

"Share the Bread"
Cookbook ~
makes a great gift!



Check our website for other specials and a Christmas Raffle
www.KatharineDrexel.org

Contact Joanne 215-244-9900 x324 or order online
<http://www.saintkatharinedrexelgiftshop.org/>
(shipping & handling charges will apply)

November 26, 1858

Birthdate of Katharine Mary Drexel



By Martha Horton

There are so many words, ideas and concepts that may accurately describe or may have influenced the young child that we know as Katharine Drexel. They all played a part in forming her life as the “total gift” to God. Some of them reflect her nature, beliefs, family life, things that were part of the world at that time and teachings that were bestowed on Katharine as she grew....some of them you will recognize in and around her life and all are part of the foundation and core of the child who grew up and became the saint we love so much. We recognize all of these concepts today as well.

Faith

Philanthropy

Kindness

Education

Daily Prayer

Wealth

Love of the Eucharist

Responsibility

Education

Travel

Sacrifice

Spirit of Poverty

Bigotry

Love into Practice

Writing

Family

Loss

Oppression

Celebrate the gift of Saint Katharine Drexel in your parish, school community and your own family on her birthday. It falls quite close to Thanksgiving and that is so appropriate.

Listed on the next page are some suggestions to celebrate the anniversary of her birth and feel free to use your own imaginations to add to this list!!

We might CELEBRATE Katharine Drexel in any number of ways ~

- ** Celebrate with Mass ** Spend time in Adoration***
- ** St Katharine Drexel Prayer***
- ** Show a DVD depicting her life***
(or access videos online at <http://www.katharinedrexel.org/videos/>)
- ** Read a book about her life ~ share with others***
- ** Breakfast/lunch in her honor and donations collected to be sent to one of her missions or like charities***
- ** Pray to St Katharine for her guidance and help to live by putting others first***
- ** Have parishioners or students list one quality they are thankful that St Katharine lived by and that they will try to do the same to the best of their ability.***
- ** Send cards of appreciation to the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for their lives of dedication to her values.***
Mail in care of: Sister Pat Downs Apt 230
Paul's Run Retirement Community
9896 Bustleton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19115
- ** Add any ideas that you may think of and share them with your Church leaders or School leaders.***

Saint Katharine Drexel's spirit and life's work will only be kept really alive by all of us living and passing on these values through our daily actions.

PRAYER

Saint Katharine, there is so much I can learn from you. Even though many people today act as if money is the most important thing in the world, you show me that it isn't. It is people who are more important than anything else. You teach me how to treat them with care, compassion and love, as Jesus would. I want to become unselfish as you were, St Katharine. It's not always easy, so I need your help. Ask Jesus to show me how I can use the gift of my own life to make the world a better place for everyone. Thank you, Saint Katharine. Amen.

Contributors to this edition:

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