

Born in 1656 in Ossernenon NY

Baptized April 18, 1676 St. Peter's Mission
in Caughnawaga NY

Received Her First Communion on Christmas Day 1677
St. Francis Mission in La Prairie Canada

Died Wednesday of Holy Week, April 17, 1680
in Kahnawaké Canada

Declared Venerable by Pope Pius XII on January 3, 1943

Declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II on June 22, 1980

Canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012

The Native Americans need a patron saint.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is that person.

She was born of a Catholic Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father.

She was influenced by the fervent Christianity of her mother and of the Black Robes to live a life of remarkable virtue, at heart not only a Christian - "a praying Indian" - but a Christian virgin.

She attained the most perfect union with her Creator in prayer.

Her extraordinary sanctity impressed not only her own people but the French and the Jesuit missionaries.

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Novena to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (Lily of the Mohawks) Flower of the Algonquin's



**Recited from: July 5 through July 13 (USA) Feast Day July 14
April 8 though 16 (Canada) Feast Day April 17**

Novena

The word Novena derives its name from the Latin word "novem" meaning "nine." A novena can be either a private or public devotion in the Catholic Church to obtain special graces.

Novena to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (Lily of the Mohawks)

Novena Thoughts

I Day - Prayer - Union with God

"The Prayer" was the Mohawk name for religion; "praying Indian" the name for a Christian Indian. All was open in an Indian Village, and the priests had to pray publicly. Their converts assembled in the chapel for prayer. Prayer is union with God, and what else is religion ?

When Tekakwitha saw the missionaries at prayer in her uncle's cabin, the sight irresistibly attracted her. It helped to unite her with God, until her life became an act of prayer, of union with God. (Mention your request here). Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

Saint Kateri, as you were drawn to God by the prayers of the black robes who came to your village, now help us to draw close to God through prayer as well.

You filled your day with prayer amidst many trials – help us also to see that prayer is our refuge for every difficulty that we face.

Prayer filled you with joy and peace, help us that we may find this same joy, this same peace, in our prayers as well. Amen.

IX Day - Invocation

O Saint Tekakwitha, I admire the virtues which adorned your soul: love of God and neighbor, humility, obedience, patience, purity and the spirit of sacrifice. Help me to imitate your example in my state of life. Through the goodness and mercy of God, Who has blessed you with so many graces which led you to the true faith and to a high degree of holiness, pray to God for me and help me. (Mention your request here).
Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

O Blessed Saint Kateri, you now know with great joy the happiness of heaven. Teach us how to open our hearts to be free to serve God and our neighbor. In our moments of weaknesses, fears and trials, help us to trust in the goodness and kindness of God. Amen.



VII Day - The Cross

Tekakwitha loved the image of the Cross. During the hunt she made an oratory in the woods by cutting a cross in the bark of a tree. The first picture of her, the only portrait of an Indian of that long ago, represents her venerating a small cross. It moved her to do penance in order to imitate Our Lord in His Passion. (Mention your request here). Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

O Blessed Saint Kateri, we need your patience and strength to continue to face the crosses we meet each day in our lives. Help us in times of spiritual dryness to know that God is preparing us for better times ahead. Amen.

VIII Day - The Blessed Virgin

The faithful Indian convert women of your village, would tell you about your affectionate heavenly mother. This helped you to grow closer to the Mother of Christ. The rosary and the Litany of Loreto were your favorite prayers to our Blessed Mother. More than once you walked or canoed ten miles from your Mohawk village in Caughnawaga to Tionontoguen, where a statue of Our Lady was venerated under the title, Virgin Most Faithful. (Mention your request here). Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

O Blessed Saint Kateri, help us to trust as you trusted. Help us to see light even in our present difficulties. Help us to know that God has not abandoned or moved away from us. Help us to know and to believe that God is with us. Amen.

II Day - Grace - A Child of God

Grace is the thought that comes with mention of Tekakwitha. Unbaptized until her twentieth year, through no fault of her parents or her own, she still was a child of grace, which means that she grew up in God's favor. She did all the good she could to retain God's favor. Kateri was a child of grace. May we, like Our Lord, grow in wisdom, age and grace! (Mention your request here). Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

Saint Kateri, your heart was opened to God's message, your spirit was receptive to God's voice, help us now to find this quiet space in our paths, for listening... to wait for direction in patience and to follow through with courage and firmness when the time is right. Amen.

III Day - Holiness - Heroic Virtues

Holy are those whose faith, hope and charity are extraordinary, who cultivate the virtues: prudence, justice, temperance, fortitude, and the good habits which grow out of these: prayer, humility, obedience, patience, resignation, penance. In all these Tekakwitha excelled. (Mention your request here). Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

Saint Kateri, you placed the practice of your faith above all other joys. Although the price was heavy, your heart was not sad for you held the joy of God within you. Strengthen our faith, deepen our convictions and pray that we too might act with boldness in following in the footsteps of Christ. Amen.

IV Day - Names of Kateri

All her names inspire admiration and affection.

Kateri, Iroquois form of Catherine, her baptismal name, means pure, and she was purity itself.

"Lily of the Mohawks." Lily is the emblem of purity.

She is known as "The Good Catherine", because so many have received favors by invoking her.

St. Genevieve had saved Paris of Old France; Kateri was named Genevieve of New France after she had saved the mission and the missionaries.

Tekakwitha means "putting things in order", or "moving before her". She put order among her people, and moves all by answers to prayer.

This flower of our American wildwood is now a canonized Saint of the Church! (Mention your request here). Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

Saint Kateri, you made the decision to move from one village to another in order to strengthen your desire to serve God. Help us to follow through with decisions we too need to make in our lives to serve God. Give us the courage to act boldly –the strength to do it, and the persistence to follow through each and every day. Amen.

V Day - Innocence

One who is innocent will harm nobody, nor see evil in others; will not shock, scandalize or grieve them, but give them edification, pleasure, and win their admiration and affection.

She remained innocent: thought no evil, harbored no suspicion, entertained no ill-will, as if she were not of this world. (Mention your request here). Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

Saint Kateri, so many times we have wonderful ideas on how we can offer ourselves to God, but many times, God's ways are not our ways. You gave yourself totally to God, you embraced the cross in whatever form it presented itself each day. Pray for us, that we might too say "yes" each day to the crosses placed before us. Amen.

VI Day - The Blessed Sacrament

Out from her Caughnawaga cabin at dawn and straight-way to the chapel to adore the Blessed Sacrament, hear every Mass; back again during the day to hear instruction, and at night for a last prayer or Benediction. Her neighbors sought to be near her when she received Holy Communion, as her manner excited devotion. (Mention your request here). Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Prayer

Saint Kateri, help us to live with a thankful heart. Help us to embrace our greatest weaknesses with confidence – knowing all can work for our salvation. Amen.