



St. Kateri Tekakwitha

April 17

Who was St. Kateri Tekakwitha?

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, also known as Lily of the Mohawks, was an Indigenous woman born around 1656 in the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, located in present-day New York. She was the daughter of a Mohawk chief and an Algonquin Christian mother who had been captured by the Mohawks.

Kateri faced significant challenges in her life, particularly after her parents and younger brother died during a smallpox epidemic that also left her with impaired vision. Despite her difficult circumstances, she was drawn to Christianity through the influence of Jesuit missionaries in the region. She converted to Catholicism, facing resistance and persecution from her tribe, and chose to live a life of chastity and devotion to God.

Kateri Tekakwitha is important in the history of Christianity as she is recognized as the first Indigenous woman to be canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church. Her significance lies in her unwavering faith, commitment to living a virtuous life and her role as a bridge between Indigenous spirituality and Christianity.

St. Kateri is celebrated on her feast day, which falls on July 14th. Her feast day is an occasion to honour her life, virtues and spiritual journey. Devotees may attend Mass, pray and reflect on Kateri's example of faith amid adversity. Many indigenous communities also celebrate her feast day with cultural events that integrate both Christian and Indigenous traditions.

In her honour, pilgrimages to sites associated with St. Kateri, such as the National Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine in Fonda, New York, are organized. Pilgrims seek inspiration from her story and offer prayers for intercession. St. Kateri Tekakwitha serves as a symbol of courage, faith and cultural resilience, and her canonization reflects the Catholic Church's acknowledgment of the diverse paths to holiness.

An interesting fact about St. Kateri is that her canonization on October 21, 2012, was a historic moment, recognizing the sanctity of an Indigenous woman who lived in the 17th century. Her life continues to inspire people around the world, emphasizing the universal call to holiness and the ability of individuals from diverse backgrounds to embody the Christian faith.

[St. Kateri Tekakwitha CES Website](#) [Blessed Frederic Ozanam Roman Catholic Parish Website](#)



Quotes by St. Kateri Tekakwitha

"I am not my own; I have given myself to Jesus. He must be my only love."

"I will not offend my God by doing anything without reflecting whether it is pleasing to Him, and I will call upon Him in all my actions, that He may help me to conduct them aright."

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks,

You who embraced the Christian faith with unwavering devotion,
In the face of adversity and persecution,
Guide us with your courage and steadfastness.

As you found solace in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Help us to deepen our own relationship with Him so
That we may draw strength from His grace in times of trial.

Lily of purity, teach us the beauty of chastity and virtue,
That our hearts may be pure, our intentions noble
And our lives pleasing in the sight of God.

Intercede for us, dear St. Kateri,
In our moments of doubt, pain and darkness,
That we may be filled with the light of Christ's love.

May your example inspire us to live fully for God's glory,
To love our neighbours with compassion
And to walk the path of holiness with joy.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us,
That we may follow Christ faithfully on our journey of faith.

Amen.

Patron Saint of:

Ecology and the
Environment

First Nations
Peoples

People in Exile

People Suffering
from Illness

Catholic Laity





York Catholic District School Board

FEAST DAY:
April 17

SCHOOL LOCATION:
Markham, ON



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Tekakwitha**

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