

July 14, 2021

Good Morning All,

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/071421.cfm>

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Another saint who died young is the first Native American saint. Kateri Tekakwitha (pronounced gaderi dega'gwita in Mohawk), was given the name Tekakwitha, baptized as Catherine and informally known as "Lily of the Mohawks".

3. Quote of the Day:

~ "St. Paul says, 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him.' The closer we approach the Divine Majesty, the less we need words, the more is our soul detached, the more recollected in the simple gaze and act of love of the Godhead. . . . 'Your life is hidden with Christ in God.' There you spend your energies in prayer and sacrificial love and obedience and abandonment. Your activity becomes the outward fruit of that inward union. All is the overflow of love of the Triune Godhead who has deigned to make you hear His voice, to take you into a closer union". Source: "Consecration of Virgins" - Fr. Paschal Botz, OSB

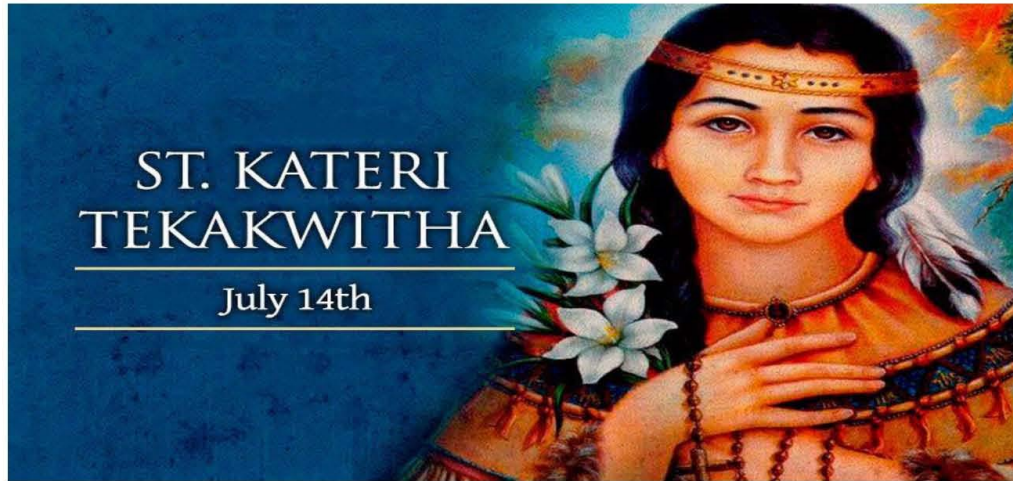
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Pray for Us!
St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Linda McCormick
St. Joseph Catholic Church & School
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341, ext. 102

Fax: (864) 225-6432



On July 14, the Church celebrates the feast day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American to be canonized. Known as the "Lily of the Mohawks," Kateri lived a life of holiness and virtue, despite obstacles and opposition within her tribe.

Kateri was born in Auriesville, New York, in 1656 to a Christian Algonquin woman and a pagan Mohawk chief. When she was a child, a smallpox epidemic attacked her tribe and both her parents died. She was left with permanent scars on her face and impaired eyesight. Her uncle, who had now become chief of the tribe, adopted her and her aunts began planning her marriage while she was still very young.

When three Jesuit fathers were visiting the tribe in 1667 and staying in the tent of her uncle, they spoke to her of Christ, and though she did not ask to be baptized, she believed in Jesus with an incredible intensity. She also realized that she was called into an intimate union with God as a consecrated virgin.

Kateri had to struggle to maintain her faith amidst the opposition of her tribe who ridiculed her for it and ostracized her for refusing the marriage that had been planned for her. When she was 18, Fr. Jacques de Lamberville returned to the Mohawk village, and she asked to be baptized.

The life of the Mohawk village had become violent and debauchery was commonplace. Realizing that this was proving too dangerous to her life and her call to perpetual virginity, Kateri escaped to the town of Caughnawaga in Quebec, near Montreal, where she grew in holiness and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

Parish Office Communication

Kateri lived out the last years of her short life here, practicing austere penance and constant prayer. She was said to have reached the highest levels of mystical union with God, and many miracles were attributed to her while she was still alive.

She died on April 17, 1680, at the age of 24. Witnesses reported that within minutes of her death, the scars from smallpox completely vanished and her face shone with radiant beauty.

Devotion to Kateri began immediately after her death and her body, enshrined in Caughnawaga, is visited by many pilgrims each year. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980, and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012.

Source: catholicnewsagency.com