



St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
"Lily of the Mohawks."
The first Native American Saint.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, was born in 1656 to a Mohawk father and a Christian Algonquin mother in what is now upstate, near Albany (NY). While a young girl, Kateri contracted smallpox. Although she survived the disease, she was left with poor eyesight and scars on her face and eyes. When she was 8 years old, her foster family arranged for Kateri to be betrothed, as per Iroquois tradition. Kateri refused to marry, stating that she wanted to dedicate her life to God. At the age of 18, she started to learn more about the Christian faith through Jesuit missionary. Kateri began incorporating aboriginal concepts into her understanding of Christianity, such as the presence of God in nature.

At the age of 21, Kateri was baptized and received First Holy Communion on Christmas Day in 1677. After being rejected by her community for her conversion, she walked to the St. Francis Xavier Mission near Montreal, Canada, to join a community of Native American women who had also converted to Christianity. Kateri, who attributed her name to Catherine of Siena at the time of her baptism, died on April 17th, 1680. Kateri bravely stayed firm to her belief in Christ when she was pressured to reject her faith in Christ. She was canonized on October 21st, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. Her memorial is on July 14th. She has been named the Protectress of Canada and patroness of the environment, Native Americans, and several dioceses. Kateri blended her faith in Christ with a respect for nature. She maintained a deep devotion to nature and its beauty. She inspires us to take action to protect the environment. As we pass down our faith from generation to generation, so do we also pass down our responsibility towards this Earth. It can be hard to keep in mind that this is the same Earth that Jesus Christ walked on. Kateri, "Lily of the Mohawks," combines love of nature and love of Christ. May we be inspired by this young Saint.

Please remember St. Andrew's Parish in your will and when you think about memorial donations! Thank you.

Weekend Confession Time

Saturday 4:15pm - 4:45pm

Sunday 10:10am - 10:40am

Weekday Evening Confessions (Please see front page for exceptions)

Tuesday to Friday 8:00 - 9:00pm