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# St. Kateri Tekakwitha

*Feast Day: July 14*



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**"Look at this cross; oh! how beautiful it is! It has been my whole happiness during my life, and I advise you also to make it yours."- St. Kateri Tekakwitha**

**BORN: 1656 IN  
AURIESVILLE, NY  
DIED: APRIL 17, 1680  
IN QUEBEC, CANADA**

Patron Saint of ecologists,  
the environment, Native  
Americans, the loss of  
parents, people in exile,  
people ridiculed for their  
piety, and World Youth  
Day.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha

St. Kateri was born in 1656 in what is now Auriesville, NY. Her father was a Mohawk chief, and her mother was an Algonquin Catholic. When she was four years old, her village was plagued by small pox, which killed her parents and younger brother, and left her partially blind and her face scarred for the rest of her life. After that, she was cared for by her aunts and uncle as she grew up. Growing up, she would often go to the woods alone to speak with God and to listen to nature. Remembering the faith of her mother, she was baptized at 19 years old on Easter Sunday. Following her conversion, her family did not accept her new faith and began to treat her poorly as a result. She suffered many persecutions from her community, including threats of torture and death, and eventually she fled to the Catholic Mission in Canada for her safety. One there she was faithful to her life of prayer in adoration, praying the rosary, and became a catechist, teaching others about the faith. She also took a vow of perpetual virginity when she was just 23 years old. In part due to severe penances she took on, her health deteriorated and at only 24 years old she died, her last words were "Jesus, I love you." Minutes after her death, witnesses reported that the scars on her face were healed.

## Pray

St. Kateri would often go into the woods alone to speak with God and listen to nature. If you can, take a hike alone, or just spend time alone somewhere outdoors. As you walk or sit, notice your breath. When you inhale, pray, "Jesus" and on your exhale, pray, "I love you." These were the last words of St. Kateri before she died. As you are in outside, thank God for each and every thing that you see that is part of God's creation. Listen to his response to your gratitude. How are you moved to conversion as a result of gratitude?



## Learn

**Listen:** Claire from The Catholic Feminist podcast interviews Layna Maher from the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine about her life and legacy: <https://thecatholicfeministpodcast.libsyn.com/saint-spotlight-st-kateri-tekakwitha>

**Read:** *Lily of the Mohawks: The Story of St. Kateri* by Emily Cavins

**Watch:** St. Kateri's Canonization Mass  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEOCDM-iGv4>

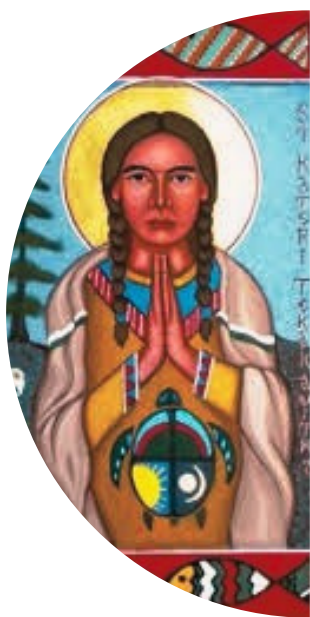


## Act

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the patron saint of ecologists and the environment.

- Transform your yard, garden, school, farm, or parish into a Saint Kateri Habitat. Find out how at [kateri.org](http://kateri.org).
- Attend the upcoming virtual Laudato Si and the US Catholic Church Conference July 13-15. Register at <https://www.creighton.edu/catholicclimate>
- Sign up for newsletter updates from the ArchIndy Creation Care Ministry at: <https://ourcommonhome.org/newsletters>
- St. Kateri would often make crosses out of sticks and place them throughout the woods to remind her to pray. Try this at home!





# ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA



**Born: 1656 Auriesville,  
New York**



**Died: April 17, 1680 in  
Quebec, Canada**

**Feast Day: July 14**



**Patron of Patron Saint of ecologists, the environment, Native Americans, the loss of parents, people in exile, people ridiculed for their piety, and World Youth Day.**



**She exemplifies the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Care for God's Creation**

**"With the work of my hands I shall always earn what is necessary and what is left over I'll give to my relatives and to the poor."**