

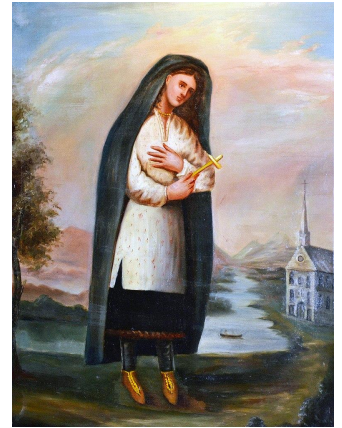
Sainthood Saturday: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Who is she?

At a very young age, Tekakwitha and her family became ill with smallpox. Although she survived, it left her scarred. It also gave her difficulty seeing clearly, and so she would walk into lots of things. Those around her called her Tekakwitha, "She who bumps into things."

Tekakwitha belonged to a Mohak tribe in New York. After French invaders attacked their village, the tribe was forced to move north. Their new settlement was located by a Jesuit missionary, and Kateri was able to learn more about Christianity. The older she grew, the more she desired to enter the Catholic Church. She even refused to marry, taking a personal vow of celibacy to God. When she was eighteen, she secretly met with one of the Jesuit priests for catechism classes. She chose the name Kateri when she was baptized, in honor of St. Catherine of Siena. After she was baptized, some of the people in the village demanded she leave. Soon after, she joined the Jesuit mission.

Not long after joining the mission, she became ill. Right before she died she said, "Jesus, Mary, I love you." When she passed away, the smallpox scars disappeared from her face. After she died, she appeared three times to people who knew her. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012.



All kinds of Saints

Many of our saints were popes, clergy, nuns, and founders of missions, but some saints, like Kateri, were lay people. The thing all our saints have in common was their commitment to Christ. Kateri is a great model for us as we love and serve Christ with our whole hearts.

Want to learn more?

Saint Kateri National Shrine: <https://www.katerishrine.com/st-kateri>

Biography: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-kateri-tekakwitha>

"I am not my own; I have given myself to Jesus. He must be my only love. The state of helpless poverty that may befall me if I do not marry does not frighten me. All I need is a little food and a few pieces of clothing. 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. If I should become sick and unable to work, then I shall be like the Lord on the cross. He will have mercy on me and help me. I am sure."