



Orden Franciscana de la Divina Compasión



SAINT
NOVENA
Kateri

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

R. Amen.

| First Day |

Love of Jesus

Commentator: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656 near present day Auriesville, New York. Kateri's mother, who was Algonquin and a Catholic, had been captured by the Mohawks. Her father, a Mohawk chief, was attracted to her kindness and diligence and took her for his wife. The Mohawks did not like the Church but tolerated it. Kateri's mother quietly taught little Kateri Catholic prayers. This awakened in her a longing for union with Jesus Christ, as Savior and Prince of Peace. Kateri would wait from the age of four until she was nineteen for the opportunity to be baptized in the "living waters" and to receive Holy Eucharist. The peace she received through her love of Jesus and her devotion to prayer inspired and calmed her. It strengthened her endurance and preserved her dignity through much personal hardship until she could be free to follow her calling. The last words St. Kateri's spoke before she passed from this life were, "Jesus, I love you."

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who willed the Virgin Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to flower in a life of innocence among the Native peoples of North America, grant, through her intercession, that all gathered in your Church from every nation, tribe and tongue, may glorify you in a single canticle of praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Concluding Prayer

Kateri, favored child and Lily of the Mohawks, I come to seek your intercession in my present need: (mention it).

I admire the virtues which adorned your soul: love of God and neighbor, humility, obedience, patience, purity and the spirit of sacrifice. Help me to imitate your example in my state of life. Through the goodness and mercy of God, who has blessed you with so many graces which led you to the true faith and to a high degree of holiness, pray to God for me and help me. Obtain for me a very fervent devotion to the Holy Eucharist so that I may love Holy Mass as you did and receive Holy Communion as often as I can. Teach me also to be devoted to my crucified Savior as you were, that I may cheerfully bear my daily crosses for love of Him who suffered so much for love of me. Most of all I beg you to pray for me that I may avoid sin, lead a holy life and save my soul.

V. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

R. Amen.

| Second Day |

Love of the Cross

Commentator: Saint Kateri, had many crosses to bear in her life. At four years of age, a smallpox epidemic devastated her village, taking her parents and baby brother. She was left alone, an orphan with scars on her face and weakened eyesight. The sign and significance of the cross spoke to her. She carved a cross in the trunk of a tree in the woods where she would quietly go to pray. The relatives who raised her were not fond of the Church. She made crosses out of sticks she gathered to express her devotion to Jesus as she waited and hoped for the day she could join others in worship. After smallpox weakened her eyesight, she was given the name Tekakwitha which means one who pushes with her hands, for she used her hands to help feel her way. Tekakwitha also means to push through. With patience, true courage and true fortitude, she was able to push through the rejection and cruel harassment from those who attacked her human dignity because of how she looked and moved. Following the example of Christ's Mercy, she forgave them to lighten the burden of darkness for all. The deep and quiet fire of her passion and her willingness to sacrifice for others opened the way for her to follow her God-given purpose.

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| Third Day |

Love of the Holy Sacraments and the Eucharist

Commentator: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, Servant of Jesus Christ and devoted Daughter of the Church, lived her life full of gratitude for the Love of Jesus Christ and the life-giving nourishment of Holy Eucharist. She found great strength and joy in the celebration of the Mass, in extended prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and in the frequent reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Her baptismal name was Katherine (after Katherine of Sienna) which was translated as Kateri in her language. St. Kateri was overjoyed to receive the "living waters of baptism." In the Mohawk language, the word for water is Ohné:ka (Oh-nay-ga) which means precious or holy. Mni Wiconi (Lakota) = Water is Life!

"The first ancestor came down from the heavens—from the sky as water and was named Slaum. The name for rain is slaumo. These [waters] we protect, these [waters] that we work for—this is who we are. We protect the water that flows in our children's and grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's veins, and the blood that flows in our veins is from our ancestors."

—Paul Cheoketen Wagner (Swinomish)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

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Fourth Day

Love of Humility

Commentator: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, Servant of Jesus Christ and devoted Daughter of the Church, followed the example of Jesus and of His Blessed Mother in embracing sincerest humility. She did not seek preeminence for herself but rather surrendered her will to live God's Will with all her heart. Her family did not approve of her growing devotion to Christ and when she refused to work on the sabbath, they called her lazy and would not feed her on that day. They gave her extra work as a punishment and encouraged other children to taunt. She did not resist but accepted the abuse with humility. She prayed for all those who persecuted her. At age 13, during a period of inter-tribal violence, she helped tend all who were wounded and dying no matter what tribe they were from, because they were all children of God who needed help.

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Fifth Day

Love of Purity and Integrity

Commentator: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, Servant of Jesus Christ and devoted Daughter of the Church in the purity of her love and complete devotion to Jesus, embraced the virtue of chastity and consecrated her life to her Divine Spouse. This choice both puzzled and angered her community. They could not understand why Kateri would choose to sacrifice the security and protection of marriage to “serve a higher purpose.” They also had no use for the Catholic Church.

St. Kateri learned from the Jesuits about agape—the highest form of Christian love. Christ teaches us to love (even our enemies) with this compassionate love—a totally selfless and empathetic love, which seeks not to further one’s personal advantage or retaliate, but to forgive and give to the beloved without judgment or expectation of a reward. St. Kateri united her soul and eternal spirit with Jesus and vowed to serve Him with purity of intention and integrity in action.

St. Kateri had to call on the virtues of prudence and temperance in living her vocation. By practicing her faith, she suffered suspicion, rejection, bullying, cruelty, and betrayal by family members. She held fast to the clear mindedness of prudence and the firm self-discipline of temperance and was shielded by the grace of God’s love. Ultimately, St. Kateri had to flee from her village. She made her way by canoe and on foot to the St. Francis Xavier Mission du Sault-Saint Louis—a two-month, 200-mile journey over the mountains.

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

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Sixth Day

Love of Charity

Commentator: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, Servant of Jesus Christ and devoted Daughter of the Church, was full of love for Jesus and for God's creation. She practiced charity: generosity and helpfulness toward all—especially toward those who needed help. Born into cruel and violent conflicts between tribes, Kateri hungered for peace, harmony, and healing between peoples. She was known for kindness, generosity, and compassion in serving the needy and the sick. As Kateri lay on her deathbed at the young age of 24, she told those gathered around her not to mourn. She was happy to be joining our Lord and would be able to do much more to help them from the next world, and she died with a smile on her lips. Within moments of her death, the smallpox scars disappeared, and her face glowed with a remarkable radiant beauty. Following her death, there were many reports of people praying for her intercession and receiving healing.

In 2006, Jake Finkbonner, a young Lummi boy from Sandy Point, Washington, injured his face while playing basketball. A flesh-eating bacterial infection set in. Many prayed for a healing over several months and multiple surgeries, but the infection kept advancing. At last, the doctors gave up all hope of saving Jake's life and called his family into his hospital room to say goodbye. His parents turned to Kateri Tekakwitha. A holy relic was brought to the boy, and Sister Kateri (a nun and friend of the family) joined his parents in prayer at his bedside. His parents surrendered their son to the Lord. The next morning, the infection had stopped. Jake's life had been saved, and the doctors could give no medical explanation. The healing was called miraculous by the Church and on October 21, 2012, St. Kateri Tekakwitha was canonized.

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

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R. Amen.

| Seventh Day |

Love of the Church

Commentator: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, Servant of God, daughter of the Church, united with Jesus to help build the kingdom of justice and peace, as proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount. In her love for Jesus, she showed others the beauty of the Church, the true Bride of Christ. She was eager to learn the faith of the Church, to pray for the ministers, and to seek guidance and counsel from the Church. She longed to share with others the joy that she experienced. When she was at St. Francis Xavier du Sault Mission, she dreamed of founding an order of nuns dedicated to providing for the sick, poor, and elderly. This dream was unrealized due to her early death.

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

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R. Amen.

| Eighth Day |

Love of Creation

Commentator: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, Servant of Jesus Christ and devoted Daughter of the Church found solace, joy, and hope as she prayed and meditated in the forest. We, too, are creatures in God's creation and connecting with our fellow creatures, nurtures and lifts us with hope.

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Let Us Pray

O God, who willed the virgin Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to flower in a life of innocence among the Native peoples of North America, grant, through her intercession, that all gathered in your Church from every nation, tribe and tongue, may glorify you in a single canticle of praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

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R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
R. Amen.

| Ninth Day |

Love of Heaven

Commentator: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, Servant of God, daughter of the Church, hoped to be united with the Jesus, Savior and Prince of Peace, who inspired her to walk the path of goodness on the way to Heaven. She prayed with infinite trust that she would reach eternal happiness with God's help, even when she could not clearly see the way. Her constant hope and endless faith in God inspired others to step up to help her find the way to her new life. Fully received into the Church and nourished by the Holy Eucharist, she could dedicate her life to serving those in need.

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

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O God, who willed the virgin Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to flower in a life of innocence among the Native peoples of North America, grant, through her intercession, that all gathered in your Church from every nation, tribe and tongue, may glorify you in a single canticle of praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

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V. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Litany of Kateri Tekakwitha

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the World have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Kateri, lily of purity, pray for us.
Kateri, consoler of the heart of Jesus, pray for us.
Kateri, bright light for all indigenous, pray for us.
Kateri, courage of the afflicted, pray for us.
Kateri, lover of the cross of Jesus, pray for us.
Kateri, flower of fortitude for the persecuted, pray for us.
Kateri, unshakeable in temptations, pray for us.
Kateri, full of patience in suffering, pray for us.
Kateri, keeper of your virginity in persecutions, pray for us.
Kateri, leader of many indigenous to the true faith through your love for Mary, pray for us.
Kateri, who loved Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, pray for us.
Kateri, lover of penance, pray for us.
Kateri, who traveled many miles to learn the faith, pray for us.
Kateri, steadfast in all prayer, pray for us.
Kateri, who loved to pray the rosary for all people, pray for us.
Kateri, example to your people in all virtues, pray for us.
Kateri, humble servant to the sick, pray for us.
Kateri, who by your love of humility, gave joy to the angels, pray for us.
Kateri, your holy death gave strength to all indigenous to love Jesus and Mary, pray for us.
Kateri, whose scarred face in life became beautiful after death, pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

LET US PRAY

O Jesus, who gave Kateri to the indigenous as an example of purity, teach all men to love purity, and to console your immaculate Mother Mary through the lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, and your Holy Cross, Amen.

Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us.

NOVENA

SAINT
Katerí

