

# SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA INTERPRETIVE CENTER



*W'at'kwanonhwerá:ton*  
Welcome

*Saint*  
**Kateri**  
Interpretive Centre

I was born in the mid 17th century, and lived for most of my brief life in the Mohawk Valley of what is now up-state New York, U.S.A. These were indeed very interesting times for my Mohawk people, being neighbours to several First Nations. Some were allies and friends, others quite hostile adversaries. Warfare and territorial disputes were common occurrences.

Epidemics of smallpox ravaged our defenceless villages, taking many of our families or leaving us with permanent conditions of diminished health. Me included.

The aggressions of the colonizing nations brought continuous tension and turmoil, and First Nations almost always became embroiled in these conflicts.

However, the peace of 1666, which followed the devastating invasion of the French forces, did allow for the peaceful, if somewhat unwanted, presence of the Jesuit missionaries in my village of Caughnawaga. This is when I encountered the Black Robes and eventually embraced the teaching of Catholicism.

My community life was made difficult because of my Christian fervour, and caused me to flee to the enclave of Christian Natives of the St. Francis Xavier Mission near Montreal. Here, I was allowed to deepen my faith, and with my compassionate companions, to minister and care for our catholic community.

A particularly severe bout of ill health took my earthly life on Holy Wednesday, April 17th, 1680, when I was just about 24 years old. My spiritual life continues, though. Throughout the centuries, and by the graces received from Jesus, I am able to continue to help all peoples of the world.

I was canonized by the Catholic Church on October 21st, 2012. Please come in and relive some of the key elements of my life story.

May Our Saviour give you blessings and love