

**The Relic of Saint Francis Xavier is coming to the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier and the Sanctuary of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.**



On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2018, the relic – forearm – of Saint Francis Xavier will be at the Mission in Kahnawake dedicated in His honour and that of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha from 9:30 am to 11: 00 am. However, the liturgy will begin with silent adoration from 8: 00 am. The Monstrance of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha which dates back to 1668 will be used for the Benediction.

Saint Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was a missionary in Asia – India. He was a cofounder of the company of the Jesuits together with Saint Ignatius of Loyola the founder. About 132 years after the death of Saint Francis Xavier, the Mission which was then in La Prairie was named after him. The relationship between Saint Francis' date of canonization and the Mission is even more interesting. Only 45 years after his canonization in 1622, he became the patron of the Church of the First Nations Mohawk peoples in 1667. The Kahnawake Mission maybe among the first churches named after Saint Francis Xavier in North America.

The liturgical ceremony will reflect the rites and traditions of the Indigenous Peoples. The rite of smudging (purification) and the veneration of both relics will be part of the Penitential Rite during the Mass and the “Our Father” will be prayed in Kanienkeha – The Mohawk Language.

The name of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was added to the Mission, following her Beatification by Pope John Paul II in 1980. Today, all of us can be a testimony to this historical moment, thanks to the Jesuit fathers who have built and preserved this Mission together with the Mohawk peoples over the centuries.

Welcome home Saint Francis Xavier; your sister in faith Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is pleased to welcome you and share her home with you. At last the relics of these two pioneering Saints will be side by side in Kahnawake. Together, they have modelled to us the way to salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We believe this spiritual and physical communion is a continued way embarked upon by the Catholic Church, to foster a deeper sense of healing and reconciliation between the First Nations People and non-indigenous peoples in North America.

**Mission of Saint Francis Xavier**  
**Sanctuary of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha**

**Tuesday, January 30<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

**8: 00 am– 11: 00am**

8: 00 am – 9: 00 am: Eucharistic Adoration with Saint Kateri's Monstrance of 1680

9: 00 am – 9: 30 am: Veneration of Relic of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

9: 30 am – 9: 35 am: Entry in procession with Relic of Saint Francis Xavier

9: 35 am – 9: 40 am: Saint Kateri's Relic placed next to that of Saint Francis Xavier (Spiritual Communion of the Saints; Mat. 18: 18)

9: 40 am – 9: 45 am: Blessing of Saint Francis Xavier's statue with his Relic

9: 50 am – 10: 30 am: Eucharistic Celebration

10: 35am – 10: 55 am: Veneration of Relic of Saint Francis Xavier

Closure: Litany of Saint Francis Xavier