

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF



ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA

FONDA, NEW YORK

*Welcome to
the National
Shrine of
St. Kateri*

*The Shrine
features a
simple
pastoral*



*setting along the Mohawk river
valley. It is on this sacred
ground that we enjoy a place of
peace and healing. Here amid
the trees, trails and quiet of the
land stand a few buildings that
serve the pilgrims who visit and
pray to their saint while taking
respite in the calm and peace.*

Jesus, I Love You!
Kateri's last words

The land is the gift of the creator and on it the Franciscan friars care for a chapel, museum, and a small prayer chapel where candles may be lighted and prayers offered for loved ones. Behind and back from the Chapel/Museum is a newly renovated hall. It is named after friar Thomas Grassmann who discovered the archaeological site and founded the Shrine.



Next to the hall is our Pavilion named after St. Maximilian Kolbe who, during the Second World War, gave his life that another might live. It is here that we celebrate Mass in the out-of-doors during the warm summer months.



To the side across from the Chapel/Museum is a gift shop where souvenirs and keepsakes may be purchased. Our property also has an old farm house which is now the residence for the friars who are the keepers of the sacred circle, the shrine. We also have a guest cottage that can be booked by pilgrims for several days for the express purpose of retreating and praying at the shrine.



Kateri's Biography

Kateri was born of an Algonquin mother and a Mohawk chief in the village of Ossernenon believed to be located in the vicinity of present day Auriesville, N.Y. During the years she lived there she reportedly was the only family member to survive a smallpox epidemic at the age of four. It left her with impaired sight and a scarred face. It was then that she was adopted by her Mohawk uncle and aunts.

After the epidemic the village was destroyed to rid them of the disease and the people moved settling in several places on that side of the river. In 1666 they crossed the Mohawk and settled at Caughnawaga Castle, the present site of the only archaeological excavated Mohawk village in existence.

Here she lived with her family and was instructed by the missionaries in the Catholic faith. She was baptised in the small chapel of St. Peter in this village on Easter Sunday April 5th 1676.

Not a great deal is known about Kateri as she grew and associated with the other members of the Longhouse settlement. The Jesuits kept diaries and it is from these we have acquired this information. Kateri was treated poorly by her contemporaries due to her conversion to Christianity and her deepening love of Jesus.

As time passed and Kateri grew deeper in her faith she wished to live a more Christian focused life which was not possible in the tradition of her community and so left Caughnawaga, her home on the Mohawk River, and headed north.

Here in the Catholic settlement of Kahnawake, the present day Mohawk reserve in Quebec, Canada, on the St. Lawrence river, Kateri lived the rest of her short life. She enjoyed the quiet peace and service to others and a deeper experience of Jesus and his Gospel to which she dedicated her life.

Kateri Tekakwitha died at age 24 and was recognized from that moment as a person given to love of neighbor and willing to suffer for her faith in God. This is the saint we honor and celebrate in this Shrine dedicated to her and her holy life. Kateri was canonized on October 21st, 2012.

Shrine Schedule

Open from May 1st until the end of October
The Candle Chapel is open all year 24 hours every day

Shrine Location

From the NY Thruway take Exit 28. At the intersection turn left. At the light, turn right over the bridges to the intersection of Route 5 and then turn left. The shrine is about 2 miles on Route 5. GPS setting 3636 State Hwy 5.

Contact Information

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