



North American Martyrs Church

July 16, 2023 | Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR

Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III

OFFICE STAFF

Susan Zammarelli, Secretary
Lisa Burkitt, Religious Ed. Director, Safe
Environment Coordinator

Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7 a.m. Saturday 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Vigil) Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office for assistance or visit <https://namartyrsauburn.org/baptism> for detailed information and to obtain the Godparent Baptismal Testimony Form.

MARRIAGE: Contact the parish office at least 1 year in advance of the wedding date to make arrangements.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If you have family members who are ill, anticipating surgery or weakened because of prolonged illness or advanced age, contact the parish office for assistance.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 3 - 3:45p.m. or by appointment in the church.

COMMUNION CALLS: Parishioners who are sick or disabled may call the parish office to arrange for the Holy Eucharist to be brought to them at home.

8 Wyoma Dr. Auburn, MA 01501 | www.namartyrsauburn.org | 508 - 798- 8779

~Mass Intentions~

SATURDAY July 15TH-SAINT BONAVENTURE

8:00a.m. Robert Ganley by Budzinski Family

4:30p.m. Frank Rizzuto by Lisa Burkitt

SUNDAY, JULY 16TH-FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30a.m. Peg and Joe Harney by their family

10:30a.m. Esther Fusco by her granddaughter

MONDAY, JULY 17TH-SAINT FRANCIS SOLANO

7:00a.m. Bernard Buteau by Buteau Family

TUESDAY, JULY 18TH- SAINT CAMILLUA de LELLIS

7:00a.m. John Sullo, 18th Anniversary by Gabriella and Lisa Burkitt

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19th-SAINT MARY MACKILLOP

7:00a.m. Albert Gallagher, 8th Anniversary by Family

FRIDAY, JULY 21ST-SAINT LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI

7:00a.m. Thomas M.C. Lawler, 1st Anniversary by Family

SATURDAY, JULY 22ND-SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

8:00a.m. Francis P. Falvey

4:30p.m. Siobhan Erin Dalton Dowd

SUNDAY, JULY 23rd -SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30a.m. Crista Piscitelli by Felix Piscitelli Sr.

10:30a.m. Parishioners of North American Martyrs Parish

~Let Us Pray For~

Mark Ashton, Ava Blazis, Kayla Bowes, Michele Burke-Pellegrini, Louie Costagna, Frank Cole, Dean Michael Collins, Shirley Connor, Ted Cook, John Cooney, Christine Cote, Gail Craig, Brianna Croteau, Patricia Darrah, Jacob DeCarolis, Ellie Devereaux, Kevin Dobson, Elaine Doherty, Sadie Dutton, Paul Dyke, David and Pat Faucher, Connie Flynn, Joan Fouhy, Bob Fuller, Suzanne Gird, Lori Girouard, Therese Gosselin, Deacon Jim Graves, Jim Groves, Ed Handlin, Mary Hannon, Melissa Hathaway, Robert Hehir, Elijah Johnson, Kim Johnson, Maureen Jones, Edward LaConto, Jean LaConto, Larry, Donna and Michael Langevin, Roger and Rosalie LaCroix, Alice Leduc, Peter Letourneau, Richard Levansavich, Sr., Audrey-Lynn Marron, Bill Martin, Michael McGrail, Max Mullen, Gary Nickerson, Mary Lou Paulli, Peggy Patenaude, Kaisse Pinard, John Power, Theresa Power, Anthony Real, Edward J. Rutkowski, Joseph Sbrogna, Raymond Scanlon, Scott Staruk, David Tatro, Jake Thibeault, David Toomey, Bonnie Turner, Michael Young and Lucille Zammarelli. For all the men and women serving in our country's military.

~Collections 7/9/2023~

Sunday Collections	\$4546.00
Monthly Reno	807.00
Bulletin Ads, Coffee Shop	575.00
Kateri's	1450.00
Mass Intentions	80.00
Peter's Pence	35.00
Ascension, Aid to Cen. Europe	34.00
VBS	40.00
Hall Rental	440.00
Funeral	200.00
Online Donations	1,164.00
Total:	\$9371.00



Are you or someone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Faith? RCIA classes are forming now for the fall. Do you know someone...

Who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?

Was baptized as a child, but has not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

Then RCIA is what they are looking for!

RCIA is for unbaptized adults who desire to become Catholic; Christian adults baptized in another faith who desires to become Catholic; adults baptized Catholic who have completed the sacraments of initiation and desire to learn more about their Catholic faith. For more information, please contact Lisa at lburkitt@namartyrsauburn.org

~Tuesdays with the Saints~

There will be no Tuesdays with the Saints on July 18th due to Vacation Bible School!

See you next week!

~Religious Education~

If you have not yet registered for Religious Education for 2023-2024, please contact

Lisa: lburkitt@namartyrsauburn.org

~Coffee after Mass!~

Join us for coffee after 8:30 Mass on Sundays!



Partner's in Charity

We have received \$34,410 of the \$52,300 goal from 124 donors. The total campaign has received 10,542 gifts totaling \$4,130,497 which is 83% of the Diocesan \$5 million goal. The campaign concludes in August.



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

"Kateri impresses us by the action of grace in her life in spite of the absence of external help and by the courage of her vocation, so unusual in her culture. In her, faith and culture enrich each other! May her example help us to live where we are, loving Jesus without denying who we are. Saint Kateri, Protectress of Canada and the first Native American saint, we entrust to you the renewal of the faith in the first nations and in all of North America! May God bless the first nations!"

~ Canonization homily, Pope Benedict XVI



Dear Parish Family,

On Friday, July 14th, the worldwide Church celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. As many of you are aware, this remarkable saint held a special place in the heart of our former pastor Father John Gee. Her beautiful statue adorns our parish grounds just left of the front entrance of North American Martyrs Church. There is little doubt that the blood spilt by the patrons of our beloved parish, helped to fuel the faith of this first Native American saint. As an aside, we have completed the invitation process of our second annual novena in honor of the North American Martyrs, which will take place during the second and third weeks of October. We have invited some outstanding speakers for this tradition, and we hope you will be able to join us! Mark your calendars for 6:30p.m. on the evenings of October 9th-13th, 16th-19th.

When Tekakwitha was four years old, smallpox ravaged her village, taking the lives of her parents and baby brother. The disease left Tekakwitha's face scarred and her vision blurred, making it difficult to see in sunlight. After her parents' death, she was adopted by her aunt and uncle.

Although Tekakwitha's Christian mother never had her baptized, she did learn about the Catholic faith and embraced it from an early age. Perhaps her mother's premature death prompted her to cherish the lessons she learned from her as a young child. Unfortunately, her aunt and uncle were not Christian, and encouraged her to abandon her beliefs. However, despite their insistence, she spent long periods of time alone in the woods where she practiced her faith, reflecting and praying the best she could, given her limited Christian formation. When Tekakwitha was around the age of thirteen, in accordance with tribal custom, her uncle arranged for her to be married to a young man her age. When informed of her engagement, she refused it. "I have consecrated myself entirely to Jesus, the Son of Mary, and He alone I have chosen as a husband, and He alone will take me for a wife."

Around the same time, the French settlers entered into a peace treaty with the Mohawk. As a result, Jesuits were permitted to enter the settlement and begin sharing the faith. One day, Tekakwitha met Father Jacques de Lamberville and announced to him, "My name is Tekakwitha, and I wish to become a Christian." Around the age of eighteen, Tekakwitha became a catechumen and diligently studied the Catholic faith. On Easter Sunday, 1676, at the age of twenty, she was baptized and took the name of Catherine, Kateri in Mohawk, after Saint Catherine of Siena.

After her baptism, Kateri was persecuted and ridiculed by others within her settlement. Because she would not work on Sundays, she was refused food on those days. Children taunted her and threw rocks at her in response to their parents' criticism. Many even threatened her with torture and death. A year after Kateri's baptism, Father de Lamberville encouraged her to secretly move two hundred miles north to their Catholic settlement near Montreal, the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier. He sent with her a letter to those at the mission in which he stated, "Guard well this treasure and you will soon discover the jewel that I have sent you." It took Kateri two months to travel through forests to reach the mission. Once she arrived, her evident devotion resulted in permission to make her First Holy Communion earlier than most converts, which took place on Christmas Day of that same year, surrounded by other faithful Catholics.

For the next two and a half years, Kateri embraced her faith with profound devotion. She attended Mass daily, often twice a day, and spent most of her free time in the chapel, praying on her knees. She entered into deep trances, and her spirit would be snatched up to Heaven for a time. When this happened, the countenance of her face would become lovely to behold. She not only prayed profoundly, she also inflicted severe penances upon herself, grew in virtue, was known for her exceptional kindness, and loved praying the rosary, which she wore around her neck. She often made crosses out of sticks and placed them in the forest so she would be reminded to pray every time she came upon one. Her personal motto was, "Who can tell me what is most pleasing to God that I may do it?" Though she could not read or write, she memorized many Bible stories and would tell others those stories with great delight and inspiration.

On March 25, 1679, with the assistance of her spiritual director, Kateri made a private vow of perpetual virginity. She had wanted to find a religious order for native girls but was prohibited from doing so because of her poor health. One year later, after her health continued to deteriorate, she died at the age of twenty-four. She had spent four years as a baptized Christian and one year as a consecrated virgin. As soon as she died, the scars on her face disappeared, and God made her face as beautiful as her soul. Word of her death spread rapidly from village to village, all across Canada and even to the Royal Court. "The saint has died!" they said. After her death, many miracles took place, especially for those who prayed at her tomb, including many deep conversions.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha has been given the affectionate name, "Lily of the Mohawks." A lily is a symbol of purity, which Kateri manifested in her life. Lilies bloom only for a short time, just as her life was short. Though her life was largely hidden, her virtues, prayer life, and deep union with God were on full display for all to see. She stood out for her wholehearted determination to please God in everything she did. Not only did she inspire other natives in her settlement, she even deeply inspired the Jesuit priests who ministered to her. It was they who wrote and told her story.

Dear friends, as we honor her memory this week, meditate on the calling God gives us all to become pure and holy, and to radiate that purity of heart in such a way that others take note. May we all in faith, embrace her motto this week: "Who can tell me what is most pleasing to God that I may do it?"

God Love You!

Father Fraini



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