



TEKAKWITHA NEWS

Winter 2025

Hello, everyone! Although we are in the midst of winter, have you noticed that the days are getting longer? That Brother Sun is smiling on us a little later into the day? It is a comfort and also a reminder that even in this time of cold and quiet, the wheel of the seasons is turning, and spring is on its way.

At Saint Kateri's Shrine, the winter season is a time to reflect on how we've served our community in the past year. Have we done a good job of making all people feel welcome? Have we let folks know about the many different gifts that Saint Kateri's home offers them?

Our doors are always open, and you are welcome on these sacred grounds no matter the season. We have been slowly growing our "cold weather" offerings on site, and we were happy to see so many of you in November and December. Our Mass of Remembrance was a lovely opportunity to start the reflection at the root of this time of year. And our Advent wreath making workshop and Candles & Carols service were gatherings of community that brought light and the reminder of hope. This year, we also continued our online fundraiser auction — it's an important opportunity for members of the community who aren't able to visit in person to get involved and lend their support to the work we do here.

[OVER]



All people of good faith are invited to join us!



Our late fall and early winter on-site programs included November's Mass of Remembrance (photo upper right), our Advent wreath making workshop (photo lower left), and our Franciscan-inspired Advent service, Candles & Carols (photo lower right).

This ministry's mission statement asks us to offer "the natural, cultural, and spiritual resources at this sacred site." Our Summer Calendar of Events will be included in next month's mailing, and we're excited by the opportunities in 2025 to share some of the history and culture of these grounds in new ways.

Most of you know that this site is home to the remains of a 1600s Mohawk Village, as well as Saint Kateri's baptismal spring. These grounds were also significant during the fight for independence from Britain and in the early years of New York's statehood. Our NYS Path Through History talks during 2023 and 2024 highlighted important events that took place here. In May 2025, with the help of our friends at the Montgomery County Archives and County Tourism, we'll be hosting a reenactment of the raising of the Liberty Pole that occurred on these grounds. It will be the countywide kick-off for events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War in the Mohawk Valley. If you're interested in attending, please hold onto the save-the-date postcard in this mailing.

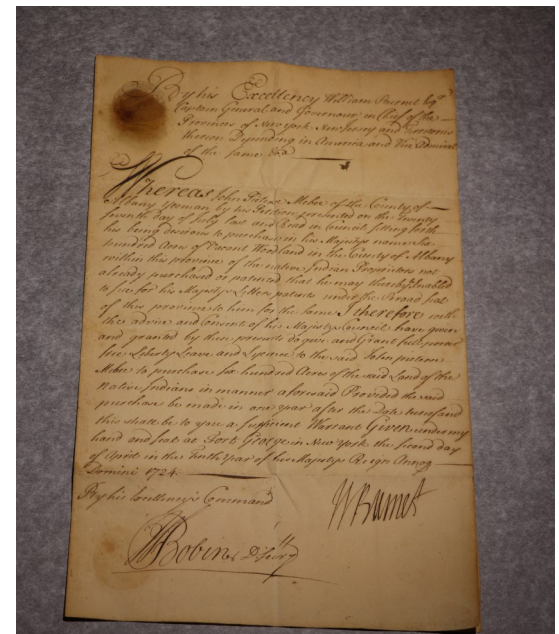
To share the many ways in which this site is important, we've also been doing work in our museum this winter. Our colleague Elisabeth Mallin, director of our Province's historic site Carrollton Hall, is helping us as we add information about both the land-history documents and the pottery in our collection. If you can't make it to the Liberty Pole raising, there will still be new things to learn when you visit our museum!

In our 2025 Summer Season, we will also continue events such as a Lenten reflection and hosting the ecumenical Easter sunrise service, the Three Sisters Festival, the Interfaith Prayer Service for World Peace and Prayer Day, and a Eucharistic procession for the feast of Corpus Christi. As always, Saint Kateri's feast day in July will be the highlight of our summer, and we will hold weekend Masses May through October.

All of these offerings will be here before you know it! We hope that you have a chance to visit Saint Kateri's home this year, whether it's for an event or just for some reflection time in Creation. Wishing you peace and all good things.



The historic marker by the Candle Chapel gives basic information about the Liberty Pole raising that occurred on site. To learn more, come to the reenactment this May!



A document from 1724 in the Shrine's collection: a "license" from Governor William Burnett, Esq., of the Province of New York giving John Pieterse Mebee permission to buy six hundred acres of land [from] the "Native American proprietors."



Elisabeth Mallin, Director of Carrollton Hall (left), and Melissa Miscovic Bramble, our Director of Operations (right), working on the Native South-west pottery in the Shrine's museum.

**WANT TO HELP?
OUR MINISTRY RUNS ON VOLUNTEERS!**

Whether you'd like to lector during Mass, help weed gardens, or chat with fellow community members while stuffing envelopes for our monthly fundraiser mailing, we'd love for you to get involved! For more information, visit <https://www.katerishrine.org/get-involved>

Can't volunteer? Please pray for our ministry.