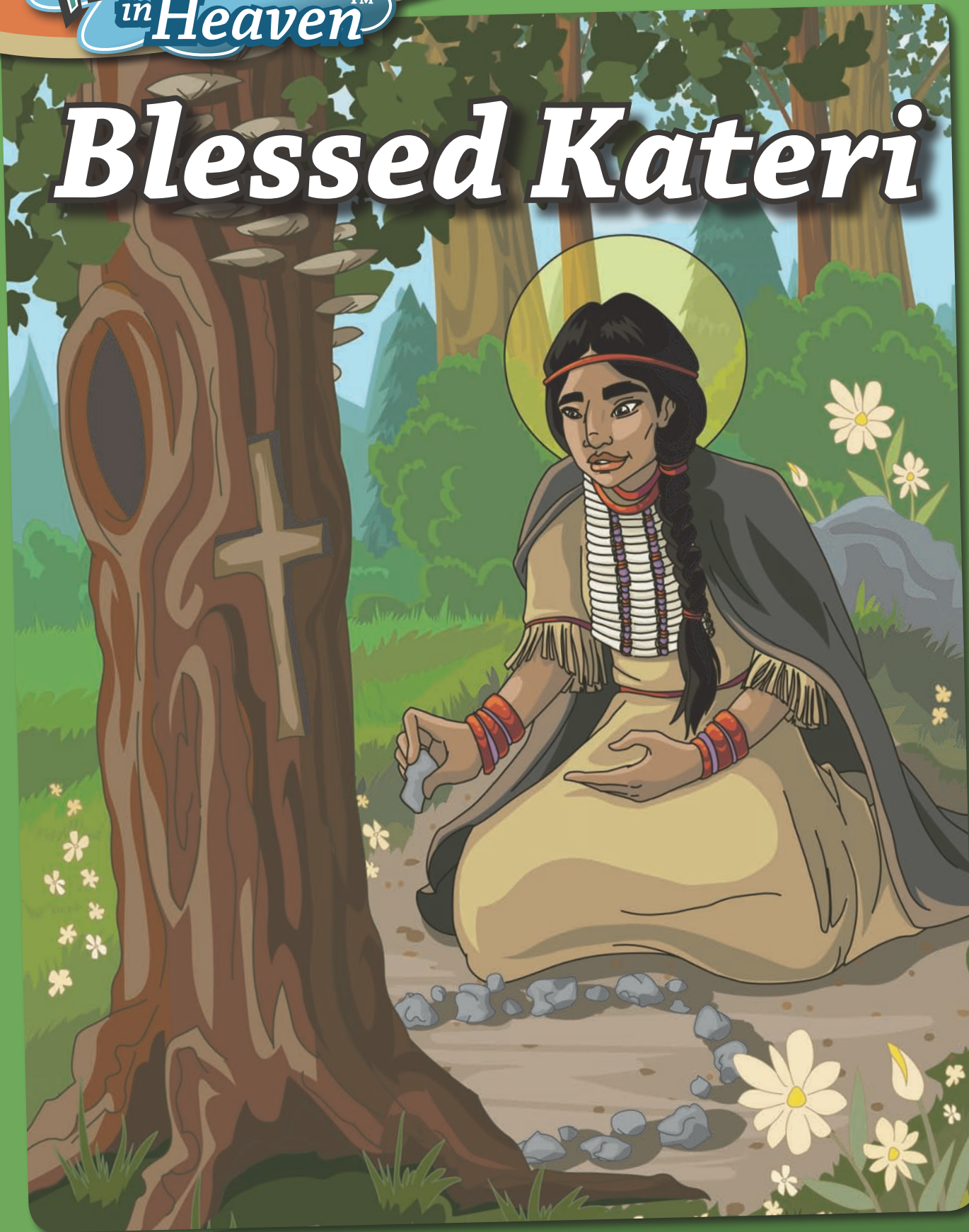




A Catholic Vacation  
Bible School Program  
by Tammy Gabrelcik

# Blessed Kateri





# ***Blessed Kateri***

***A Catholic Vacation Bible School Program***

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***Blessed Kateri***

# Lesson Plan

## Supplies

- Native American Indian Costume (adult size)
- blanket
- Native American props (rattles, animal skins, etc...)
- recorded music of Native American style

## Directions

1. Enlist a volunteer male or female to dress in Native American clothing.
2. Gather a blanket, and other Native American Indian props, such as a turtle shell rattle, animal skins, etc...
3. Find an isolated spot outside if possible. If in a rural area build a small camp fire. Use a smoke machine with an artificial campfire made of paper and cardboard. Be creative and set the area up for an historical Native American story teller to tell about the life of Blessed Kateri.
4. The story teller will need to memorize the story and speak it as if he or she knew Blessed Kateri. As the children arrive the story teller can be waiting on the blanket or arrive after the children are seated around the area. Rural parishes may find it quite dramatic to have the story teller walking with a walking stick and arrive as if just passing through on a trip.
5. Play the music softly in the background and begin the story.

## Story

Kateri had a Christian mother and a Mohawk father and one little brother. They all became sick with the small pox sickness. Kateri survived, but her face was scarred and her eyes were almost blind.

She had to live with her aunt and uncle. She carefully did her chores and pounded the corn and made the soup for the family.

Kateri's aunts wanted her to get married. But she did not want to take a husband. When she refused, her people became angry and treated her like a slave.

Kateri remained patient and gentle.

When she was nineteen years old, she told the man of God that she wanted to be baptized and become a praying Indian.

She began to go to morning and evening prayer at the chapel. She was baptized on Easter Sunday in 1676. The Great Spirit filled her soul and made her so happy.

## Lesson Plan (Continued)

Kateri continued to go to morning and evening prayers. She helped at Mass and said the Rosary with the other praying Indians. Kateri would place pebbles on the ground to count her prayers for the Rosary.

Her faith was put to many tests. Some children would pull her hair, point at her and call her hurtful names. Some threw stones at her and even called her a witch. But she was fearless.

The men of God and some other friends told her to leave her village. She was going to go to the Praying Castle in Canada.

Kateri's uncle learned about her escape and went after her to bring her home. Her friends hid her until her uncle went away. They paddled up the river to Canada.

Kateri made it to the Praying Indian Village. She met a friend named Mary Teresa. They prayed and did penance together. The friends shared their most secret thoughts.

Every morning, she stood before the chapel door until it opened at 4 a.m. and she stayed until after the last Mass. There were three Holy Masses.

Kateri kept very busy everyday with chores. She made nets, buckets, and mats out of bark. She made clothes from skins and belts covered in beads.

Kateri was devoted to the Holy Eucharist and to Jesus crucified. She carved the sign of the cross on a tree in the woods where she did her praying.

The people in the village liked Kateri because she was kind and cheerful in her quiet way. She helped the sick and she cared for the little children.

Kateri loved the Great Spirit with her whole heart and did everything to please Him. She stayed away from anything that would keep her from loving the Great Spirit.

She became very sick. She was suffering with a fever and stomach pains. Her chest hurt and she had severe headaches.

On April 17, 1680 Kateri left Mother Earth and went to Heaven. Her last words were "Jesus, Mary, I love You!" She lived for only twenty-four winters.

They say when Kateri died the scars on her face went away and she had smooth and beautiful skin.

Blessed Kateri has been declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II and is waiting to work more miracles to be a sign of her life in Heaven with Jesus and Mary.

Please pray to Blessed Kateri and ask her to help you in any way you need. Pray for her canonization.







**Blessed Kateri**

Appropriate for:  
**Preschool, Grade K**

# American Indian Rattle

## Supplies

- Toilet paper tube, one per child
- One roll of wood grain contact paper or other preferred color
- Dried rice
- Picture of Blessed Kateri (page 7)
- Clear tape
- Glue
- Small cups
- Paint brushes one per child
- Optional: Yarn, or ribbon, feathers various colors, two per child

## Set Up

1. Gather toilet paper tubes. Measure the ends of the rolls and pre-cut contact paper circles 1" larger than the tube's end. You will need two contact paper circles per tube.
2. Measure the toilet paper tube's length and diameter and pre-cut a rectangle shape that will cover the outside of the tube. Suggestion: Peel each piece of contact paper back and fold the white backing under. When the children are ready to put contact paper on, they can peel it themselves with little assistance.
3. Measure approximately three tablespoons of dry rice and place in individual disposable cups, one per child.
4. Measure ribbon or yarn into 6" length, and using clear tape, tape one feather to each end of the yarn or ribbon, one per child.
5. Print and pre-cut pictures of Blessed Kateri.
6. Dispense glue in small paper cups and place a paint brush in each cup for each child.

## Directions

1. Peel the first piece of round contact paper and lay on the end of the cardboard tube. Bend the extra contact paper over the edge of the tube and press tightly to make sure it sticks.
2. Turn tube over and pour small cup of rice into the tube. Peel the other circle of contact paper and cover the open end of the tube. Repeat step 1.

# American Indian Rattle (*Continued*)

3. Peel the rectangular piece of contact paper and lay it on the table, sticky side up.
4. Carefully, lay the cardboard tube on one end of the contact paper. Holding the contact paper against the tube, slowly roll the tube covering it with the paper. Smooth out wrinkles as best as you can. There will always be wrinkles, don't worry about them.
5. Apply glue with paint brush. Folding the yarn, ribbon piece in half, lay the fold in the edge of the glue. Now place the picture of Blessed Kateri on the tube, covering the yarn, ribbon fold. The feather piece will hang off of the rattle.
6. Let dry and use at music time!









**Blessed Kateri**

Appropriate for:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

# Desk Stand

## Supplies

- Pudding box one per child
- Gold spray paint
- Picture of Blessed Kateri (page 9)
- Prayer for Canonization (page 10)
- Burlap
- 1" ribbon with Native American design
- Glue
- Small paper cups
- Paint brushes
- Optional: small shells, stones and twigs

## Set Up

1. Pre-cut pudding boxes. Cut off three of the narrow sides, leaving the front and back attached with the remaining narrow side. The box should open and stand like an open book.
2. Spray paint the outside of the box desired color.
3. Pre-cut Blessed Kateri picture and prayer.
4. Dispense glue into cups with a paint brush for each child.
5. Measure and pre-cut burlap to cover each inside panel of the box.
6. Measure and pre-cut the ribbon to fit in the narrow side of box.

## Directions

1. Write names on the back of the boxes.
2. Paint glue on each inside panel of the box. Apply one piece of burlap and smooth. Repeat on other panel.
3. Apply glue to narrow side and place the ribbon covering the cardboard.
4. Apply glue to each piece of burlap and place picture and prayer in position.
5. Optional: embellish with shells, sticks, stones or other items from nature.
6. Let dry.





### ***Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha***

God, Who, among the many marvels of Your Grace in the New World, did cause to blossom the pure and tender lily, Kateri Tekakwitha, grant we beseech You, that this young friend of Jesus and of His Cross may soon be counted among her Saints by Holy Mother Church and that our hearts may be enkindled with a stronger desire to imitate her innocence and faith. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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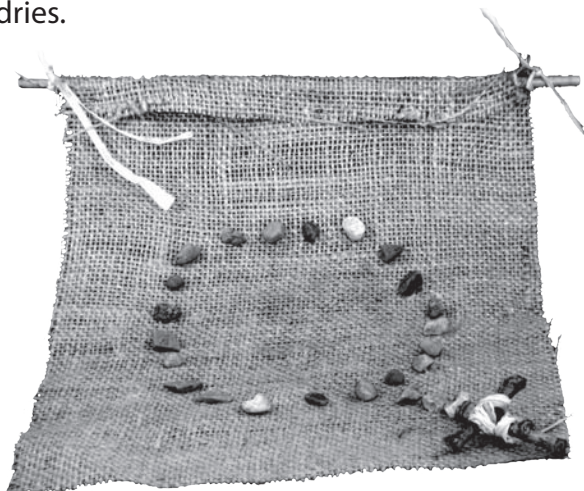
Appropriate for:  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

# Pebble Rosary Wall Hanging

- Supplies**
- Cups filled with small pebbles
  - Glue
  - Small cups
  - Paint brushes
  - Small twigs fashioned into crosses one per child
  - Burlap size 8" x 11" one per child
  - Small stick 12"
  - Stapler
  - Permanent marker
  - Brown yarn

- Set Up**
1. Pre-cut burlap to size one per child.
  2. Place cups of pebbles and dispense glue with brushes at each child's work area.
  3. Place one 12" stick at each child's work area.
  4. Using yarn make small crosses with the twigs. Or let children make them during craft time.

- Directions**
1. Write names on the bottom right corner of burlap.
  2. Place 12" stick on the top 8" side of the burlap. Apply generous amount of glue on the burlap above the stick. Fold the burlap over the stick and staple until the glue dries.
  3. Children may make one decade or complete Rosary.
  4. Glue twig crosses onto the bottom middle of the burlap.
  5. Begin gluing the pebbles in place making a circle or oval-shape Rosary.
  6. Use larger pebbles for the Glory Be beads.
  7. Lay flat to dry.





**Blessed Kateri**

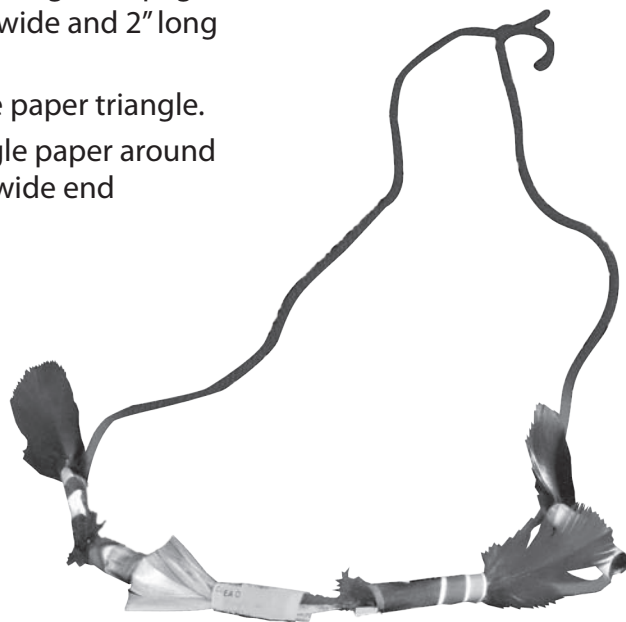
Appropriate for:  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

# Paper Bead Indian Necklace

- Supplies**
- Old magazines
  - Scissors
  - Glue
  - Yarn
  - Feathers
  - Medal of Blessed Kateri (optional)
  - Pencils
  - Small paper cups
  - Paint brushes

- Set Up**
1. Place magazines around children's work area.
  2. Dispense glue in paper cups placing one paint brush in each cup.
  3. Distribute scissors one per child.

- Directions**
1. Have children select colorful pages from the magazines and tear the pages out.
  2. Cut long triangles out of the magazine pages. Triangles can be any size; 1" wide and 2" long makes a nice size bead.
  3. Paint glue on one side of the paper triangle.
  4. Using a pencil, roll the triangle paper around the pencil starting with the wide end first.
  5. Carefully slide the bead off of the pencil and let dry. Continue making as many beads as the child likes.
  6. When beads are dry, string them on a piece of yarn. Tuck feathers inside the beads for added decoration. Optional: add a Blessed Kateri medal.







**Blessed Kateri**

# Kateri the Indian Maid

♩=89      C      G7      C

1. Ka -te -ri the In -dian maid, with face scarred with small  
2. Ka -te -ri will pray for you. Just ask if you need pox.  
to.

6      G7      C      F

Li -lly of the Mo -hawks, Ka -te -ri al -ways prayed. She be -came a  
Wait -ing just to help us. Now per -fect with Je -sus.

10      C      G7

child of God on Ea -ster morn -ing. She prayed the Ho -ly

14      C      F

Ro -sa -ry by pla -cing stones so gent -ly. She loved the Ho -ly

# Kateri the Indian Maid (Continued)

18

*C* *G7*

Eu -cha -rist and gave her -self as a faith -ful gift. then carved a cross

22

*C* *F*

on a tree and prayed on bent knee. Al -le -lu -ia,

27

*C* *G7*

Al -le -lu -ia, she prayed the Ho -ly Ro -sa -ry,

31

*C*

and she be -came a child of God.



***Blessed Kateri***

# Peanut Butter Popcorn

- Ingredients**
- ½ cup light corn syrup
  - ½ cup sugar
  - ½ cup peanut butter
  - 6-8 cups popped popcorn
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla

- Directions**
1. In small pan, melt together the corn syrup and sugar.
  2. Add peanut butter and melt.
  3. Do not boil too much and burn the peanut butter.
  4. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla.
  5. Stir mixture over popcorn.
  6. Let cool and serve.
  7. Serves 8



***Blessed Kateri***

# Mohawk Chief

- How to Play**
1. Everyone sits in a circle, and one person leaves.
  2. One person is selected to be the 'Mohawk Chief' or the 'It'.
  3. Everyone else in the circle has to follow the movements the "Chief" performs i.e.-clapping, snapping, banging the ground.
  4. The person who stepped out of the circle then comes back and tries to see whose movements everyone is following, and guess who the "Chief" is.
  5. Keep guessing for 3-5 tries.



**Blessed Kateri**

# Memory Verse

**Blessed Kateri**



1 Cor. 11:2

*"I praise you because you remember  
me in everything and hold fast  
to the traditions, just as  
I handed on to you."*

—St. Joseph Edition NAB

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