

The penitential rite will include a smudging ceremony for purification and healing. Sage, cedar, sweet grass, and tobacco are the sacred herbs burned in smudging. The smoke purifies the body and soul, and it brings clarity to the mind. It cleans out the negative and brings in the positive. You guide the smoke towards your body with your hands using a washing motion. You begin with your face to cleanse your thoughts to think clearly, your eyes to see the good in everyone, your ears to hear clearly the voice of the Holy Spirit, and your mouth to speak good of everyone. Then you bring the smoke toward your body to cleanse your body, the temple of God.

Prayer in Four Directions

Call to Prayer: In the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Spirit of Light, come to us out of the East, the place of new beginnings and promise. With the power of the Rising Sun announcing a new day, you give us hope. Let there be joy in our words just as you gave the spiritual gift of new life to Saint Kateri through the waters of baptism.

Great Spirit, send us the warmth and soothing winds of your healing medicines from the South.

You are the gentle rain that brings forth the seed of life.
Enable us to hear prophetic voices around us
as Saint Kateri Tekakwitha shared God's love, compassion, and healing power among her people.

Spirit of Life, we face you in the direction of the West.
Help us to be bearers of your Word.

May we be voices of life and hope to all peoples, nations, races, and beliefs,
as exemplified in the life of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Great Spirit, come to us with the power of the North.
Make us courageous to walk the sacred path with Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.
Give us strength and endurance to do all that we are called to do during our life,
especially in times of trials and adversity.

Amen.

Prayer from the Tekakwitha Conference

