

ST. MARK'S IN-THE VALLEY

LOS OLIVOS, CALIFORNIA

LA FIESTA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DECEMBER 12, 2020

La fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe) is celebrated in Mexico, the United States, and in many countries around the world on December 12 each year. La Señora de Guadalupe, first appeared to a peasant named **Juan Diego** on December 12, 1531, in **Tepeyac Hill**, in modern day Mexico City. Speaking to him in Nahuatl, the language of the Mexica (or Aztec), she **asked that a shrine or church be built on that spot**. A series of appearances followed.

After the first appearance, Juan Diego visited **Juan de Zumárraga**, who was Archbishop of what is now Mexico City. Zumárraga dismissed him in disbelief and asked that Juan Diego provide proof of his story and proof of the Lady's identity.

Juan Diego returned to the hill and encountered La Señora de Guadalupe again. She told him to **climb to the top of the hill and pick some flowers** to present to the Archbishop.

Although it was winter and nothing should have been in bloom, Juan Diego found an abundance of flowers of a type he had never seen before. **The Virgin bundled the flowers into Juan's cloak** (*tilma* in Spanish).

When Juan Diego presented the tilma of exotic flowers to Zumárraga, the flowers fell out and he recognized them as **Castilian roses**, which are not found in Mexico. What was even more significant, however, was that **the tilma had been miraculously imprinted with a colorful image of La Señora de Guadalupe herself**.

The tilma, preserved since that date shows the familiar image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, an indigenous woman standing on a crescent moon, wrapped in stars on her mantle, with a sunburst of light emanating from her.

The image has **layers of meanings and associations for indigenous people**, and people of Mexican descent generally, many of whom recognize in her the Mexica goddess **Coatlaxopeuh**, another name for Earth Mother **Tonantzin**, to whom offerings were made on that same hill of Tepeyac hundreds of years before the arrival of the Spaniards.

The tilma is the most sacred object in Mexico. Among many, she is considered to be the **Queen of Mexico** and Patroness of the Americas. Over 20 million people visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe each year, now situated on the very same hill on which she initially appeared to Juan Diego.

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Opening Acclamation

Presider A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun,
All **With the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.

Be present with us, God our Deliverer, as you were present with La Virgen de Guadalupe who called Juan Diego her beloved son. May her example of tender care for the poor and oppressed guide us in the way of justice and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Procession

Presider Let us go forth in peace.

People **In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

The people may carry flowers, and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung, such as the hymn "La Guadalupana."

The Collect at the Procession

Upon arrival in the sanctuary, the people standing, the Presider says

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Presider Let us pray.

Presider O God of love, you blessed your people at El Tepeyac with the presence of La Virgen de Guadalupe: grant that her example of love to the poor and forsaken may stir our faith to recognize all people as members of one family. Teach us to follow in the way you have prepared for us, that we may honor one another in word and action, sharing with her your commonwealth of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

All **Amen.**

A Reading from The Nican Mopohua

Reader Juan Diego returned and right at the top of the mountain he saw the Lady from heaven, at the spot where he saw her the first time.

Seeing her, he fell down before her and said, "Lady, the smallest of my daughters, my Child, I went where you sent me to fulfill your mandate; though with difficulty, to the seat of the bishop; I saw him and exposed your message; he received me graciously and listened attentively; but I understood by his response that he believes that it is I who makes the request of building your temple, and that perhaps is not your command.

I strongly beg, Lady, my Child that you send instead of me someone who is known, respected and esteemed. If we entrust your message to someone like that he is sure to be believed. The Bishop does not believe me because I am a lesser man, I'm small, I'm a no one, and you, my Child, the least of my daughters, Lady, you send me to a place where I do not belong. Forgive me if I cause you great sorrow."

Our Lady replied: "Listen, my son, I understand but need you to know that I have many servants and messengers whom I can send to do my bidding yet I choose you. You are the one that I strictly command, to go again tomorrow to see the Bishop. Tell him once more who sends you and that it is my will for a temple to be built in my honor. Tell him, that the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God, is the one that sends you"

Juan Diego replied: "My Lady, My Child, I will do what you ask. I'll do your will; but perhaps I will not be heard with pleasure. I know that it will be difficult for them to believe me.

Here ends the reading.

Psalm 131

- ¹ O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.
² But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.
³ O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

The Second Reading

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a

Reader Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.

The Gospel

Luke 6:20-23

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

The Prayers of the People

Leader As we honor La Virgen de Guadalupe, may we strive for unity among all people;
We pray to you, God of mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader May the vision of Juan Diego inspire our community to stand against prejudice, discrimination, hatred, and violence;
We pray to you, God of mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader May our care for youth and children, the elderly and sick, the weak, helpless and poor, reflect the love of La Virgen, revealed at Tepeyac;
We pray to you, God of mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader May the vision of La Virgen strengthen us to stand with all immigrants and refugees in their struggle in every nation and people, especially the people of Santa Barbara County and the Santa Ynez Valley;
We pray to you, God of mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader May those who have died rest in your peace, and those who mourn find comfort in fellowship with La Virgen de Guadalupe and all the saints;
We pray to you, God of mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Presider O God of power and mercy, who gives us roses in a season of darkness; fill us with your unexpected truth and vision of peace among all people. By the example of La Virgen de Guadalupe, may we seek the justice which unites all people everywhere; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Concluding Collect

Presider Let us pray.

Presider Because in revealing La Virgen de Guadalupe at El Tepeyac, you have shown us your way of justice and peace, lifted up the small and lowly, and assured us of your great love for the poor and weak, we give you thanks, O God, for gathering your children together in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. We rejoice that you have remembered us; for we were scattered and have now been drawn together from the four corners of the earth. May we who celebrate La Virgen de Guadalupe ever strive for peace, and serve you as witnesses of Jesus Christ, until the Lord dawns in glory.

All **Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Following the prayers flowers may be placed at the image of La Virgen de Guadalupe.

Appropriate hymns, anthems, instrumental music, or songs such as "Buenos Días Paloma Blanca" may accompany this action.

Songs, hymns, and readings traditionally used on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe include the following:

Songs and Hymns:

La Guadalupana

Buenos Días Paloma Blanca

Mi Virgen Ranchera

O Virgen la mas Hermosa

From Hymnal 1982

277 Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly (Raquel)

278 Sing We of the Blessed Mother (Rustington)

From El Himnario

483 Alma Glorifica al Señor mi Dios (Cántico de María)

62 Como Estrella en Claro Cielo (Raquel)