



Our Lady of the Rosary Roman Catholic Church

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December 11, 2022 Advent III (Gaudete Sunday)

Mass Intention

Dec 11: Pro Populo

Dec 12: In honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Roberts Family)

Our Lady of Guadalupe

One of the most beautiful series of apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Queen Heaven - occurred on the American continent on a December day of 1531, only ten years after the Spanish conquest. Mesoamerica, the New World, 1521: The capital city of the Aztec empire falls under the Spanish forces. Less than 20 years later, 9 million of the inhabitants of the land, who professed for centuries a polytheistic and human sacrificing religion, are converted to Christianity. What happened in those times that produced such an incredible and historically unprecedented conversion? In 1531 a "Lady from Heaven" appeared to a poor Indian at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of Mexico City; she identified herself as the Mother of the True God, instructed him to have the bishop build a temple on the site and left an image of herself imprinted miraculously on his tilma, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 469 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin. A fervent Christian Indian in his fifties, Juan Diego, a widower, was on his way to Mass in Mexico City from his home eight miles distant, a practice he and his wife had followed since their conversion, in honor of Our Lady on Her day, Saturday. He had to pass near the hill of Tepeyac, and was struck there by the joyous song of birds, rising up in the most melodious of concerts; he stopped to listen. Looking up to the hilltop, he perceived a brilliant cloud, surrounded by a light brighter than a fiery sun, and a gentle voice called him by name, saying, "Juan, come." His first fear was transformed into a sweet happiness by this voice, and he mounted the slope. There he beheld the One he had intended to honor

by hearing Her Mass. She was surrounded by a radiance so brilliant it sent out rays that seemed to transform the very rocks into scintillating jewels. "Where are you going, My child?" She asked him. "To Saint James to hear the Mass sung by the minister of the Most High in honor of the Mother of the Saviour." "That is good, My son; your devotion is agreeable to Me, as is also the humility of your heart. Know then that I am that Virgin Mother of God, Author of Life and Protector of the weak. I desire that a temple be built here, where I will show Myself to be your tender Mother, the Mother of your fellow citizens and of all who invoke My name with confidence. Go to the bishop and tell him faithfully all you have seen and heard." Juan continued on his way, and the bishop, Monsignor Juan de Zumarraga, a Franciscan of great piety and enlightened prudence, heard him kindly and asked questions, but sent him home without any promises. Juan was disappointed, but on his way past the hill, he once again found the Lady, who seemed to be waiting for him as though to console him. He excused himself for the failure of his mission, but She only repeated Her desire to have a temple built at this site, and told him to return again to the bishop. This he did on the following day, begging the bishop to accomplish the desires of the Virgin. Monsignor said to him: "If it is the Most Holy Virgin who sends you, She must prove it; if She wants a church, She must give me a sign of Her will." On his way home, Juan Diego found Her again, waiting, and She said to him, "Come back tomorrow and I will give you a certain mark of the truthfulness of your words." The next day Juan was desolate to find his uncle, with whom he lived, fallen grievously sick; the old gentleman was clearly on the brink of death. Juan had to go and find a priest in the city. As he was passing the hill, Our Lady again appeared to him, saying, "Do not be anxious, Diego, because of your uncle's illness. Don't you know that I am your Mother and that you

are under My protection? At this moment your uncle is cured." "Then please give me the sign you told me of," replied Juan. Mary told him to come up to the hilltop and cut the flowers he would find there, place them under his cloak, and bring them to Her. "I will tell you then what to do next." Juan found the most beautiful of roses and lilies, and chose the most fragrant ones for Mary. She made a bouquet of them and placed it in a fold of his cloak or tilma — a large square of coarse cloth resembling burlap. "Take these lilies and roses on My behalf to the bishop," She said. "This is the certain sign of My will. Let there be no delay in raising here a temple in My honor." With joy Juan continued on to the city and the bishop's residence, where he had to wait nearly all day in the antechamber. Other visitors noted the fragrance of his flowers, and went so far as to open his mantle to see what he was carefully holding in it, but found only flowers pictured on the cloth. When finally he was admitted to the presence of the prelate, he opened his cloak and the fresh flowers fell on the floor. That was not the only sign; on his cloak there was imprinted a beautiful image of the Virgin. It remains today still visible in the Cathedral of Mexico City, conserved under glass and in its original state, having undergone no degeneration in 471 years. Juan found his uncle entirely cured that evening; he heard him relate that Our Lady had cured him, and had said to him also: "May a sanctuary be raised for Me under the name of Our Lady of Guadalupe." The bishop lost no time in having a small church built at the hill of Tepeyac, and Juan Diego himself dwelt near there to answer the inquiries of the pilgrims who came in great numbers. In effect, nearly all of the land became Catholic in a few years' time, having learned to love the gentle Lady who like God their Father showed Herself to be the ever-watchful friend of the poor. In 1737 the pestilence ceased immediately in Mexico city after the inhabitants made a

vow to proclaim Our Lady of Guadalupe the principal Patroness of New Spain. In 1910 She was proclaimed by Pope Saint Pius X "Celestial Patroness of all Latin America." Recent studies of the image of Our Lady on the tilma have discovered in one of Her eyes the portrait of the obedient one Juan Diego and the bishop who did not oppose Our Lady's request. The result: Over 9 million conversions. She came to stop human sacrifice by the Aztec nation. She entreats all her children to stop the abominable human sacrifice of abortion. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of the Americas, is Our Lady of the Unborn.

Ember Days

December 14, 16, and 17 are the Ember Days of Advent. The intentions of the Ember Days are the consecration of the season to God. December 14 and 17 are days of fast and partial abstinence. December 16 is a day of complete fast and abstinence.

Vigil of the Nativity

December 24th, the Vigil of the Nativity, is a day of complete fast and abstinence in preparation for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas.

Fasting

Everyone between the ages of 21 and 59 inclusive is bound to observe the law of fast. On days of fast, only one full meal is allowed and it should not be taken before noon. Two other meatless meals sufficient to maintain strength may be taken, but together they should not equal a normal main meal. Meat may be taken at the principal meal on a day of fast, except on days of complete abstinence. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. Mothers who are pregnant or nursing are always exempt. In doubt concerning your obligation to fast and abstain, consult the parish priest or confessor.

Abstinence

Everyone 7 years of age and older is bound to observe the law of abstinence. Complete abstinence from meat must be observed on Fridays throughout the year, Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday. On days of partial abstinence, e.g. Ember Wednesday and Saturday, meat and soup or gravy made

from meat may be taken only once a day at the principal meal.

Wisdom of the Saints

By the prayers of Mary, almost innumerable sinners are converted. - St. Methodius

The world is poisoned with erroneous theories, and needs to be taught sane doctrines, but it is difficult to straighten what has become crooked. We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend upon material success...but on Jesus alone. - St. Frances X. Cabrini

The Great Antiphons (O Antiphons)

Starting on December 17th the Church enters the seven days which precede the Vigil of Christmas, and which are known in the liturgy under the name of the Greater Ferias. The ordinary of the Advent Office becomes more solemn; the antiphons of the psalms, both for Lauds and the Hours of the day, are proper, and allude expressly to the great coming. Every day, at Vespers, is a sung a solemn antiphon, consisting of a fervent prayer to the Messiah, whom it addresses by one of the titles given Him in the sacred Scriptures.

December 17: O Wisdom, that proceedest from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end mightily, and disposing all things sweetly, come and teach us the way of prudence.

December 18: O Adonai, and leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst to Moses in the fire of the flaming bush, and gavest him the law on Sinai, come and redeem us by thy outstretched arm.

December 19: O Root of Jesse, who standest as the ensign of the people; before whom kings shall not open their lips; to whom the nations shall pray: come and deliver us; tarry now no more.

December 20: O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel! Who openest, and no man shutteth: who shuttest, and no man openeth; come, and lead the captive from prison, sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 21: O Orient, splendor of eternal light, and Sun of justice, come and enlighten them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death.

December 22: O King of nations, and their desired One, and the corner-stone that

makest both one; come and save man whom thou formedst out of slime.

December 23: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expectation and Saviour of the nations, come and save us, O Lord our God!

Announcements

If interested in joining the choir email chain, please contact Caroline Hilliard at carlbriggs80@gmail.com!

Father is current accepting Mass intentions. Customary offering is \$25 per Mass.

Please join us for the Rosary. Sundays at 9 AM on Discord.

<https://discord.gg/K42TYCr>

If you are not receiving the mission newsletter, please contact Christy Hilliard, cahilliard7@gmail.com.

Prayer List

Please remember the following intentions:

Kathleen Weidner, Dennis Smith, Theresa Fishman, Father Trough, Success of the Mission

Upcoming

Dec 12: Mass, 7 AM *

Dec 31: Mass, 10 AM

Jan 15: Mass, 7:30 PM *

Jan 16: Mass, 8 AM *

*** Please note updated schedule**

Collections

Last Mass: \$475

Year-to-Date: \$15,733



Dress Code

Welcome! Out of respect for the True Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and for the edification of our neighbor, we kindly request that all who come to our parish observe the basic traditional Catholic standards of dress for church attendance:

- Women and girls must cover their heads.
- Women and girls must wear dresses or skirts that cover the knee completely when standing or sitting. Slacks, shorts, sleeveless, tight or low-cut clothing, and dresses or skirts with long slits above the knees are not permitted.
- It is recommended for men and boys to wear suit coats and ties for Sunday Mass. Jeans and other casual attire are inappropriate for attendance at church.