

# OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

✠ FEAST DAY - DECEMBER 12TH ✠

## THE STORY

The story of Our Blessed Mother appearing in Mexico almost 500 years ago is a very interesting one. We will be inserting a continuation of this story in the bulletin for the next several weeks. It is important to know the story behind one of the earliest appearances of the Blessed Virgin in this age and how She speaks to us today.

In January from the 6th to the 20th, there will be a large picture of Her picture on St. Juan Diego's tilma at St. Luke's Parish, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The picture has been blessed by the Holy Father.

Now on to our story...

### PART ONE

The story begins in the early morning hours of December 8, 1531, when a 57-year-old Indian peasant named Juan Diego was walking along the path of Tepayec Hill on the outskirts of Mexico City.

That morning Juan Diego was headed to Mass, because at that time December 9 was the date for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception throughout the Spanish Empire. As he walked along Tepeyac Hill, he began to hear beautiful strains of music, and he

saw a beautiful lady, who called his name: "Juanito, Juan Dieguito." He approached, and she said, "Know for certain, least of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, the true God, through whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near and far, the Master of Heaven and earth. It is my earnest wish that a temple be built here to my honor.

Here I will demonstrate, I will manifest, I will give all my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to the people. I am your merciful mother, the merciful mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who seek me, and of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities, and misfortunes." She told Juan Diego to go tell Bishop Zumarraga of her desire for a church to be built at the site.

Tradition holds that Juan Diego asked our Blessed Mother her name. She responded in his native language of Nahuatl, "Tlecuatlecupe," which means "the one who crushes the head of the serpent" (a clear reference to Genesis 3:15 and perhaps to the prominent symbol of the Aztec religion). "Tlecuatlecupe" when correctly pronounced, sounds remarkably similar to "Guadalupe." Consequently, when Juan Diego told Bishop Zumarraga her name in his native tongue, he probably confused it with the familiar Spanish name "Guadalupe," a city with a prominent Marian shrine.

***More to follow in next week's bulletin!***

Article by Father William Saunders - Catholic Education Resource Center

*Do you know what specific miraculous sign Bishop Zumarraga received from Juan Diego and why this sign took a special form indigenous to his native Spain?*

***Find out in next week's bulletin!***



Research and Study materials provided by St. Luke's Bible Study Team

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