

Liturgical Living: Our Lady of Guadalupe

This week, we celebrate the Feast of St Juan Diego on December 9 and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

St Juan Diego was instrumental in the first major conversion in the Americas by delivering Our Lady's message to the people of Mexico. It is believed that 9 million Aztec people converted to Catholicism in the nine years following the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

On December 9, 1531, Juan Diego was on his way to church when he heard sweet music playing. He followed the heavenly music to the top of a hill where he encountered a beautiful lady dressed as an Aztec noblewoman. She called him by name and spoke in his own language. The woman told him she was Mary, Mother of Christ, and that she had a special task for him. He was to tell the bishop that she wanted a shrine built in that very spot.

Juan Diego thought that the bishop would doubt such a request from a poor man like him, but he did as the Lady asked. The bishop did not believe Juan Diego at first. The bishop asked for a sign from the Lady that she was Mary.

Juan Diego returned to the hill, where he found roses miraculously blooming, though it was almost winter. He eagerly gathered the roses to show them to the bishop, wrapping them in his cloak to protect them from the cold. When he presented the flowers to the bishop, they fell to ground, leaving an image of the Blessed Mother imprinted on the garment. Juan's tilma hangs to this day in the church, now a Basilica, that was built as the Blessed Mother instructed.

Consider reading the story of St Juan Diego to your children, using [this link](#) as a guide. If your kids like listening to podcasts, there is a 2-part Saints Alive audio drama available on the Hallow app or for listening [here](#).

Here are some fun family activities for celebrating these feasts:

- [Craft your own tilmas](#) featuring an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, then use your tilma to act out [a family play about St Juan Diego](#).
- Pray a family rosary.
- Teach your kids [all about St Juan Diego's miraculous tilma](#).
- Have a Mexican meal for dinner.
- Make a batch of [Mexican hot chocolate](#) for a treat.
- Bake [Mexican Wedding Cookies](#).

St Juan Diego, pray for us! Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!