



## Marianist Moments

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12

Patroness of the Americas

~ Meeting aid ~



### Introduction

On December 12, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego several times in 1531, and came to be known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her feast day was established in 1754 by Pope Benedict XIV. In his Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in America* (1999), Pope John Paul II called her the “Patroness of the Americas” and “Star of the First and New Evangelization.”

### Prayer

Adapted from the Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe

✠ Eternal God, who places your people under the singular protection of your Son's most holy Mother, grant us who invoke her may receive her love, aid, and protection as she promised to St. Juan Diego. May we seek a more animated faith in Christ Jesus and in his ways of justice and peace for all people. May we see the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe on the *tilma* as a sign of faith in you and your most holy Son, Christ Jesus. May your sovereign peace reign in our world. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 39-47, RSVCE

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears,

the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. . ."

## Silent Introspection

"Our Lady of Guadalupe," All about Mary, udayton.edu

**Contemplate the following text on the miraculous power of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe written by Fr. John Samaha, SM.**

*" . . . Our Lady of Guadalupe, a life-sized portrayal of the Virgin Mary as she appeared in 1531 on the cactus-cloth tilma, or cape, of St. Juan Diego, an Aztec peasant and devout convert. . . Almost five centuries later the colors of that portrait have remained as vibrant as if painted this year. The coarse, woven, cactus cloth shows no signs of fading or deterioration, although that type of material seldom lasts twenty years. . . Each year more than ten million persons venerate the mysterious image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, making this shrine the most popular in the Catholic world after St. Peter's Basilica at Vatican City. . . Accounts abound of the miraculous events attributed to the Virgin of Guadalupe. In the early seventeenth century when floods almost destroyed Mexico City, her image escaped unharmed. . ."*



## Group Sharing

Meditating on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe let us consider how this miraculous image is a sign of grace for the whole world and our personal lives and ministries.



(Image: Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1531)

† May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.