

Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe Appears

According to tradition, a simple Aztec convert to Catholicism, Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, was traveling. On December 10-12, 1531, our Lady appeared to him on a hill, speaking to him in his native Nahuatl language. She asked him to have a church built on that very hill.

When Juan related his fantastic story to the Spanish Bishop, the bishop asked him for a sign from our Lady. Although it was winter, our Lady told Juan to go to the top of the hill and gather Spanish roses. There he found them in bloom and gathered them inside his tilma (work apron) to take back down to our Lady. She arranged them inside his tilma and he set off to see the bishop.

When Juan opened his tilma before the bishop, the roses fell to the floor, and on the inside of the tilma was imprinted the image we now know as our Lady of Guadalupe. The bishop ordered a church built, and Spanish missionaries used the story of our Lady of Guadalupe to bring millions of indigenous people to Christ.

by Father James G. Ward, C.M.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Recite the following prayer for nine days from Saturday, December 2 – Sunday, December 10 (or at a minimum on the first and ninth days of the novena).

Pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe

(Pope John Paul II, January 25, 1979)

O Immaculate Virgin, mother of the true God and mother of the Church! You, who ... revealed your clemency and your pity to all those who ask for your protection, hear the prayer that we address to you with filial trust, and present it to your Son Jesus, our sole Redeemer.

Mother of Mercy, teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, to you ... we dedicate on this day all our being and all our love. We also dedicate to you our life, our work, our joys, our infirmities, and our sorrows.

Grant peace, justice, and prosperity to our people, for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are, our Lady and Mother.

We wish to be entirely yours and to walk with you along the way of complete faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his Church: hold us always in your loving hand.

Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, we pray to you for all the bishops, that they may lead the faithful along paths of intense Christian life, of love and humble service of God and souls. ...

Grant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life in its beginnings, with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God. Blessed Virgin Mary, protect our families, so that they may always be united, and bless the upbringing of our children. ...

Thus, Most Holy Mother, with the peace of God in our conscience, with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace, which come to us from your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.



Day One

Holy Mother, you appeared to Saint Juan Diego as a maiden of his own race to reveal that you are the mother of all God's children. Draw close to your heart those who are facing an unexpected pregnancy, so that like you they will say yes to the new life with which God has blessed them. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Two

Mary, Mother of divine grace, you appeared to Juan Diego standing on the moon and robed in a royal mantle adorned with stars, showing that you are the Queen of Heaven and Earth, yet far from a haughty or distant Queen. With hands folded in supplication, eyes cast downward in humility and compassion, you did not ask for a temple where you could be honored, but one where you could attend to the "weeping and sorrows of ... all the people of this land, and of the various peoples who love me..." May all who are sorrowing due to abuse, violence, exploitation, neglect, and all sins against the dignity of life, fly to you, Mother, for comfort and hope. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Three

Mother of God, your ribboned sash identified you as a pregnant woman, a woman who bore the Christ Child to a world in darkness and who through two millennia has borne the light and love of Christ to a world that has largely rejected Him. May the love of your Son awaken a hymn of thanksgiving and praise in all pregnant mothers, as happened long ago in the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Four

Virgin most wise, you chose a humble farmer to announce your motherly concern to the people of Mexico. Although Juan Diego felt unequal to the mission you gave him, you encouraged him to persevere. Faced with powerful anti-life forces today, we also feel unequal to the mission God has given us of building a culture of life and a civilization of love. Help us to persevere always in this great campaign for life, assured of your help and prayers. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Five

Virgin gentle in mercy, in Juan Diego's anxiety to bring a priest to his dying uncle he failed to keep his appointment with you. Yet, you rewarded his filial love by restoring his uncle to health. Your compassion allowed Juan Diego to fulfill the mission you gave him, returning to the bishop with the proof the bishop sought. Teach us, Mother, to put God's holy will ahead of all created things, including our loved ones, and help remove the obstacles that prevent us from following God's will. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Six

Holy Mary, comfort of the troubled, you sought out Juan Diego when in fear and confusion he took a different route to avoid encountering you. Then you restored his hope and confidence so he could carry out the task you had entrusted to him. Many people today face decisions of life and death filled with fear and confusion. Mother, we ask you to restore their trust and hope in God so that their actions will always affirm the sanctity of human life. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Seven

Mystical Rose, your miraculous signs of Castilian roses in winter and your image on the tilma of Juan Diego led to the conversion of eight million Aztec people to Catholicism in just seven years. Mary, Mother of the Americas, intercede again for your children in the Americas, and convert the hearts of all who deny the sanctity of every human life. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Eight

Mary, Mother of the Church, your apparitions at Tepeyac and the miraculous image you left fostered unity between Catholic conquerors and clergy and the millions of Aztec converts. Bring unity, Mother, to the various factions within the Church and the wider public so that all may work to establish a culture of life. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Nine

Mother of our Savior, the conversion of your Aztec children brought an end to infant sacrifice in Mexico. Holy Mary, we implore your help to end the infant sacrifice by abortion throughout the Americas. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...