



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we enter the second week of Advent, we come to the mid-point of Advent and the Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Recently, our parishioner Tony Basilio visited this miracle which brought about such the greatest growth in the Church. He'll share his experience of it on Tuesday. For now, I share an article here: "Our Lady in Times of Distress" by Sara Stacey for your encouragement.

Peace, Fr. Rogers

It might be frightening to look at our culture today. There is the sense that a Catholic worldview is not welcome. Some feel confusion about what it means to be Catholic. A culture of death and darkness seems to oppose God's love. One wonders how the Holy Spirit will work in the world and through the Church amidst such hostility and division. This is not the first time the Church has encountered such a moment. The 1500s were also a tumultuous era. At the beginning of the century, in, 1517, the Protestant Reformation started. Then the English Reformation of Henry VIII began in 1534. The Church responded with the Counter-Reformation. A new order, the Jesuits, was founded in 1540 and in 1545, the Council of Trent was initiated. By that time, millions of people had left the Catholic Church. It seemed to be a time of waywardness and chaos. How was the Holy Spirit going to work in such a world?

Simple: By sending the Mother of God not to the Old World—Europe—but to the New World. Specifically, Mary appeared at the Hill of Tepeyac in 1531 to ask a 57-year-old peasant named Juan Diego to speak to Bishop Zumarraga about building a chapel in her honor there. This is where Our Lady, on December 9th, made her first apparition to her "Juanito" or "dear little Juan." [She told him](#) that she was "the perfect and ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the God of truth through Whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near us, the Lord of heaven and earth." On her last visit on December 12th, Mary arranged roses in Juan Diego's tilma and sent him to the bishop to ask him again to build a shrine to her on that spot. When he opened his tilma to show the bishop the roses, it revealed her image, which can still be seen in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Mary appeared on a hill that was already sacred to the ancient peoples of Mexico as a shrine to a mother goddess. She was dressed as an Aztec princess, pregnant with the God who made us. She spoke to a humble native of the land and called him her "youngest and dearest son." Before her apparition, approximately 200,000 Native Americans had been baptized. Between the time of her visit to Juan Diego and her message to Bishop Zumarraga and their deaths in the spring of 1548, over 9 million ancestral peoples had received the gift of faith and baptism.

In a time of great conflict, colonialization, and racial tension, Mary appeared on this continent to [tell Juan Diego](#), "I am truly your merciful Mother, yours and all the people who live united in this land and of all the other people of different ancestries, my lovers, who love me, those who seek me, those who trust in me." She is the mother of all the peoples in the land, then and now. She reminds us that what truly defines us is not our status or ancestry, but our membership in the Body of Christ.

It can be a struggle to know and act like a member of Christ's Body when there are so many opposing forces. What does it mean to act like a Christian, vote like a Christian, shop like a Christian, or even speak like a Christian? It means that we take our fears, our sorrows, our hopes, our hurts, and our weeping not to a political party or an outlet mall; but to our Mother, who in turn presents them to her Son.

*Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? -[Our Lady to Juan Diego](#)*



**St. Patrick Parish**  
**Rosary**  
**Sunday Evenings**  
**7:00 PM**  
**via Zoom**

**THERE WILL BE NO ZOOM ROSARY ON SUNDAY, DEC. 10**  
*Rather, pray with us in person in Church at 4:00 PM for the Joyful Scenes of Christmas.*

**Join our Level 5 PREP Students & Families on Sunday, December 17.**

#### Christmas Weekend Mass Schedule

##### **4th Sunday of Advent, December 24**

- There will be two vigil Masses on Saturday, December 23: 4:00PM & 5:30PM
- There will be three Masses on Sunday, December 24: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, & 10:30AM

##### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

- Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24: 4:00PM, 6:30PM, & 8:15PM
- Christmas Day, Monday, December 25: 7:30AM, 9:00AM (Livestream), 10:30AM, 12:00PM

PLEASE NOTE: THE 9:00AM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY IS THE ONLY MASS THAT IS LIVESTREAM