

JAGUAR



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St. James 5th Graders Present Our Lady of Guadalupe Play



Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared three times to St. Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, in Mexico on December 9, 10, and 12, 1531. The fifth grade students at St. James School reenact the story each year for the school and parish. This year they presented it after Mass on Friday, December 10, one of the apparition days.

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego the first time, she said to him, “Juanito, the humblest of my children, I am the ever Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God through whom all things live. I desire that a church be built here so that I can give my love and protection to all who live in this land and to everyone. Go to the Bishop of Mexico to tell him what I greatly desire. Go and put all your efforts into this.”

The bishop did not believe Juan, but asked for a sign. At the third apparition Mary spoke these beautiful words to Juan, “Listen and understand, my humblest son. There is nothing to frighten and distress you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and let nothing upset you. Is it not I, your Mother, who is here? Are you not under my protection? Are you not in my care? ...Go up to the hilltop, my son, where you will find flowers of various kinds. Cut them, and bring them to me.”

The flowers Juan gathered in his tilma were only part of the sign since they should not have been in bloom at that time of the year. The greater sign was visible when Juan opened his tilma to show the bishop the flowers. Everyone present was stunned by the miraculous image of the Mother of God on his tilma!



Statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Sacred Heart Church decorated for her feast day in 2020.

Since the Aztecs read by using pictographs, they understood the picture of Mary very well. Here are some amazing facts about the tilma and the meaning of the image.

1. The tilma is made up of cactus fibers and has a life span of 20–30 years. Nonetheless, during the almost 500 years since the miracle, the cloth with the image of Mary remains as strong as it was on the first day it appeared.
2. The “paint” used to create the image is a mystery. The paint material does not belong to any known element on earth.
3. Mary’s pale red dress is that of an Aztec princess. Her blue mantle symbolized the royalty of the gods and the blue color symbolized life and unity.
4. The stars on Mary’s mantle reflect the exact position they would have been seen in the sky of Mexico the day that the miracle happened.
5. The Aztecs had worshipped the sun god. Mary stands in front of and hides the sun, but the rays of the sun still appear around her, signifying she is greater than the sun god.
6. Mary stands on the moon, supported by an angel with wings like an eagle: To the Aztecs, this indicated her superiority to the moon god of night and her regal nature.
7. In the Indian culture of those times, the black sash around Mary’s waist, symbolizes that she is pregnant with a child. Of course, her child was Jesus.
8. One of the doctors who analyzed the tilma placed his stethoscope below the black sash and heard rhythmic beats at 115 pulses per minute, the same as a baby in the womb.
9. The temperature of the tilma is a constant temperature of 98.6 degrees, the same as that of a living human body.
10. In each eye of Mary (only 1/3 inch in size) miniscule human figures were discovered that no artist could have painted. Using digital technology, the image was enlarged many times to reveal that it was Juan Diego opening his tilma in front of Bishop Zumárraga and a family.
11. Over the centuries, those who have examined the tilma have concluded that it can only be supernatural because it is so unique and inexplicable.

The result of Mary’s visitation to Mexico was renewed faith and hope for an oppressed people and an end to bloody human sacrifice by the Aztecs. The tilma can still be viewed today in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.



Left to right: Drew Jochum as Juan’s uncle, Bracehn Messman as the bishop, and Tate Clarke as a priest.



Daniel Mora Cardenas narrates from the podium.



Front row, left to right: Allisson Rios Murillo, Jaquelynn Rodriguez Lopez, Ranae Ward, Daniel Mora Cardenas. Back row: Liam Havlat, August Eberhardt, Vincent Hobbs, Archer Heath.



Juan Diego (Oscar DonJuan Mendoza) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Marlenn Rodriguez Romero).



Juan Diego (Oscar DonJuan Mendoza) kneels before Mary (Marlenn Rodriguez Romero) as she gives him her message.

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