

**FATHER SCHULTE HOMILY**  
**December 13, 2020**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

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Over the past several days the Church has celebrated two very important Marian Feasts, which precede Christmas.

- The Immaculate Conception (December 8)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

- Hopefully, we are familiar with the story.
- In 1531 (40 years after Columbus), The Blessed Mother appeared to an Indian peasant man named Juan Diego, in Guadalupe, Mexico.

She spoke to Juan Diego saying:

“As your Mother, I will hear your cries for help, cure your sufferings and ills, and give you compassionate attention, toward your salvation.”

She requested Juan Diego to speak to his Bishop – to have a church built on the site. As proof of her apparition, she placed her image on his cloak to present to the Bishop – along with roses -- (it was winter time) 2000 foot elevation.

The Bishop had the church built. But it would be the miraculous image that would bring about millions of Native American conversions to Christianity.

The symbolism of the image would speak to them in ways only they could relate to.

(See the description of the image) – Copies in back.

-- 500 years ago, the Blessed Mother initiated a great missionary effort in the New World which continues to this day.

The image shows a young native American woman who is both pregnant and a virgin – many see the image as the fulfillment of the Book of Revelation passage describing the “woman clothed with the sun – with the moon under her feet” (Rev. 12:1).

Throughout history, in her various apparitions and messages, Mary is always drawing people to her Son, as such she is the patronnes of Missionaries.

John Paul II – calls Mary of Guadalupe the “Mother of the Americas.”

-- Today, this event is equally as important for our own missionary efforts; as we review our devotion to the Mother of God.

She told Juan Diego that she would cure our suffering and ills. When Mary accompanies us, we should have no fears. She is always present to hear our cries and intercede for us.

As we advance through the weeks of Advent and prepare for Christmas, let us call upon the Blessed Mother as the Immaculate Conception, and as the Mother of the Americas to go before us and guide us and free us from all fears.

-- Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.