

SAINT ANDREW PARISH

DECEMBER 12

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil - 4:30 PM

Sunday - 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM

Daily - 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM,

Saturday Morning - 9:00 AM

Holy Days - Vigil 7:00 PM & 12:15 PM

BAPTISMS

Celebrated every Sunday at Noon by appointment only. Parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class before the first child is baptized. Class is held the second Sunday of each month. Email office@standrewparish.cc to register.

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 3:15-4:15 PM in the Chapel, or anytime by appointment. Contact a parish priest for more information.

MATRIMONY

Contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

A wedding date can only be set after meeting with a priest or deacon.

RCIA

Classes start in the fall and run through Easter. Please contact the RCIA Team at (614) 451-1129, ext. 120 or at rcia@standrewparish.cc.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays for Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament beginning at 6:00 p.m. and concluding with Compline & Benediction at 8:45 p.m.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact a priest at the Parish Office.

REGISTRATION

Contact the Parish Secretary at knasdeo@standrewparish.cc to have a registration form sent to you.

You may also visit the parish website at www.standrewparish.cc to download a registration form.

1899 McCoy Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220
Parish Office (614) 451-4290
www.standrewparish.cc

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM



STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY | 614-451-4290

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor Ext 101
 Rev. William Ferguson, Parochial Vicar Ext 103
 Rev. Mr. Thomas M. Berg, Jr., Perm. Deacon
 Rev. Mr. Daniel Dowler, Perm. Deacon
 Rev. William DeVille, In Holy Service
 whd22@aol.com
 Rev. Paul Noble, In Residence,
 pnoble@columbuscatholic.org

PARISH OFFICE | 614-451-4290

Andy Naporano, Business Administrator
 Ext. 102 anaporano@standrewparish.cc
 Greg Price, Buildings Superintendent
 gprice@standrewparish.cc
 Philip Lortz, Director of Music, 614-451-1839
 plortz@standrewparish.cc
 Thomas Conigy, Accounting
 Ext. 106 tconigy@standrewparish.cc
 Mary Beasecker, Safe Environment & Website
 Ext 104 mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc
 Kelly Nasdeo, Database Coordinator
 Ext 108 knasdeo@standrewparish.cc
 Jen Wenzke, Parish Secretary
 Ext 100 jwenzke@standrewparish.cc

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | 614-451-2855

Suzie Emsweller, Dir. of Religious Education
 Ext 304 semswell@cdeducation.org
 Kathy Dowler, Coordinator of
 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
 Ext 305 kdowler@standrewparish.cc

SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF | 614-451-1626

Joel Wichtman, Principal
 Ext 234 jwichtma@cdeducation.org
 Jenni Duffy, Assistant Principal
 Ext 235 jbucher@cdeducation.org
 Julie Strayer, Administrative Assistant
 Ext 223 jstrayer@cdeducation.org
 Heather Roush, School Secretary
 Ext 228 hroush@cdeducation.org
 Chuck Rekow, Marketing & Enrollment
 Ext 222 crekow@cdeducation.org
 Kyletta Scheirmann, Latchkey
 Ext 105 kscheirmann@cdeducation.org

BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CNTR | 614-459-1402

Kathy Barger, Facility Manager
 Ext 2 kbarger@standrewparish.cc
 Amanda Carter, Preschool Director
 Ext 3 acarter@cdeducation.org
 Maria Moore, Youth Ministry
 Ext 1 mmoore@standrewparish.cc

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Dec. 11 Vigil – Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. Joseph Koczan

Sunday: Dec. 12 – Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew
 9:15 a.m. Norma Johanni
 11:00 a.m. Robert Horner

Monday: Dec. 13

6:30 a.m. Coral Kurth
 8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Belmaggio & Little Families

Tuesday: Dec. 14

6:30 a.m. Michelle Pappa
 8:30 a.m. Ruth Cantwell

Wednesday: Dec. 15

6:30 a.m. Patrick Hennessey
 8:30 a.m. Elinor Sabback

Thursday: Dec. 16

6:30 a.m. William McCrady
 8:30 a.m. Floyd Younkin

Friday: Dec. 17

6:30 a.m. Mark VonderEmbse
 8:30 a.m. Robert Horner

Saturday: Dec. 18

9:00 a.m. James Saffell

Vigil – Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. Jim Callaghan

Sunday: Dec. 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Jess Blount & Leslie Polczin
 9:15 a.m. Special Intention
 11:00 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew

St. Andrew Church is a community of Catholics committed to serving God by living our faith. We exist to fulfill the mission of the Roman Catholic Church at the local level by continuing the saving work of Christ. We accomplish this through the celebration of the sacraments, proclaiming and living the Gospel, reaching out to others in justice and charity, and providing all parishioners abundant spiritual, educational, and social opportunities in order to be known as a faith-filled, engaged, and generous parish.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners:

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. This is the day designated by the rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath, the day that rose-colored vestments are worn by the priest at Mass. We are urged to "Rejoice" on this day because "the Lord is near." We are passing the mid-point of Advent and the feast of Christmas draws nearer. We feel a sense of urgency to complete our preparations for Christmas. I hope that among the many things you need to get done to be ready for Christmas, you will not forget to prepare yourself spiritually.

Last Sunday, we were reminded by John the Baptist to "prepare the way of the Lord." One of the best ways we can do this is by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by "going to Confession." This should not be seen as an unpleasant chore to be avoided but as an opportunity to be renewed in spirit and freed from the burden of guilt and sin. There is no better way to prepare ourselves to welcome Christ with joy. This Wednesday, our second-grade students from St. Andrew School and the Parish School of Religion will be making their "First Reconciliation." I hope that they will experience peace and joy as their sins are forgiven, and that "going to Confession" will become a life-long habit. Please note that there are some additional opportunities for Reconciliation before Christmas, including on the evenings of Monday, Dec. 20, and Wednesday, Dec. 22.

I suppose by now everyone has heard the news that on December 2, I was elected as Diocesan Administrator by the College of Consultors of the Diocese of Columbus. The Diocesan Administrator is the person who governs the diocese during the time of vacancy of the office of the diocesan bishop. Therefore, I will have this responsibility until the next Bishop of Columbus is installed. I have no idea when that will take place or how long the vacancy will last. I do know that I will have a lot more work for as long as I have this responsibility. I am continuing to serve as Pastor of St. Andrew and to reside here throughout this period as I serve as Diocesan Administrator. I plan to continue to be present and involved in the pastoral ministry at St. Andrew as much as possible. I appreciate your prayers, understanding, and support.

I wish all of you a blessed and holy Third Week of Advent!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney

SAINT ANDREW INFORMATION CENTER

CHURCH HOURS

The church building is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., weekdays.

NEW MEMBERS

You are welcome to join our parish! To learn more, contact **knasdeo@standrewparish.cc** or visit our website, **www.standrewparish.cc** to download a form.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINE 10:00 A.M. MONDAY

Send your request to
bulletin@standrewparish.cc

EPOST ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINE 10 A.M. MONDAY

Please include contact information with phone number and email address. Only information pertaining to St. Andrew Parish and School will be published in the ePost. To submit information, email **mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc**.

FACILITIES & ROOM RESERVATIONS

To make a reservation request for one of the meeting rooms, contact **jwenzke@standrewparish.cc**. The event calendar can be viewed at **standrewparish.cc/calendar**.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. You may also call for an appointment: 614-451-4290 ext. 101 or 103.

MASS INTENTIONS

To schedule an intention, please mail your request to the parish office to the attention of Mass Intentions. A \$10 stipend for each Mass must be included with each request & include your email or address to receive confirmation. We will do our best to honor the dates & times requested, but no date/time can be guaranteed.

SUNDAY OFFERING

	Nov. 28	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 26,749	\$ 704,179
BUDGET	\$ 33,250	\$ 731,500
LAST YEAR	\$ 15,911	\$ 676,559

Thank you to all who are responding generously to our financial need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! We encourage you to consider Online Giving, which is safe, secure and convenient. To sign up, visit osvhub.com/st-andrew-parish/funds or contact the business manager, Andy Naporano, anaporano@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-4290, ext. 102.



HAVE YOU SWITCHED TO ONLINE GIVING but you are still receiving envelopes? If so, please email Kelly Nasdeo at knasdeo@standrewparish.cc to stop your subscription.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BAPTISMS OF

Owen Mitchell Hesketh, son of Patrick & Katie
Colby Frances Ritzler, son of Chad & Jessica

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY OF:

Lois Berwanger

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

All members of our parish community are encouraged to join us on Tuesdays beginning at 6 p.m. for the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament with Compline and Benediction at 8:45 p.m.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR: All men of the parish and their families are invited to an extended Eucharistic Exposition on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 8 to 9 p.m. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Holy Rosary. We will conclude at 8:45 p.m. with Compline and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Make time to be in Christ's presence and open yourself to the graces which flow from the Eucharist!

Third Sunday of Advent
Joy
Rejoice in the Lord always
and again I say rejoice

Phillipians 4:4

GAUDETE SUNDAY

This Sunday we rejoice! The faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

WOMEN OF ST. ANDREW

ADVENT
a time to
PREPARE



WOMEN OF ST. ANDREW (WOSA) invites all women of the parish to join us for an Advent study. We will meet on Monday, Dec. 13 (Parish Hall), and Monday, Dec. 20 (Bryce Eck), from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

We will use FORMED (the Catholic streaming media resource offered by St. Andrew Parish) and work together through four study sessions.

For more information or to RSVP (required), contact Maura Holowchak, Maura.Holowchak@yahoo.com, or 614-961-0490.

THE ST. ANDREW ADVENT GIVING TREE OFFERS

a unique opportunity for our parish to participate as a community in giving to those in need. We will fulfill wishes for the following families:

GREEN CROSSES: Students at St. James the Less

BLUE ANGELS: Missionaries of Charity serving the poor in Appalachia

YELLOW STARS: Infants & children served by the Christ Child Society

Parishioners are asked to select an "ornament" or two from baskets near the trees at the entrances to the church and fulfill the wish. Please affix the yellow star to the unwrapped gifts/packages going to the Christ Child Society. Gift cards for St. James the Less and Missionaries of Charity should be placed in an envelope with the angel or cross attached – please indicate the amount of the gift card. ALL GIFTS MUST BE DROPPED OFF BY DECEMBER 19 to assure delivery by Christmas!





CHRISTMAS DECORATING

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many hands make light work! Decorating for the Christmas holiday will take place on **Monday, December 20** for the placement of trees, lights and wreaths, and on **Thursday, December 23** for the placement of poinsettias and manger figurines. You are welcome to come to the Church any time after 5:30pm and stay for an hour or two, or as long as you would like, one or both evenings. There is some ladder climbing and heavy lifting - so guys, you are welcome to help too, especially on Monday.

For more information, contact Jayne Frilling at jbfrilling@hotmail.com or 614-519-7225



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 (vigil)

4 p.m. Church

4 p.m. Nugent Parish Hall

6 p.m. Church

10 p.m. Church (livestreamed)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

9 a.m. Church (livestreamed)

11 a.m. Church

»no 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

There will be a brief music prelude prior to each Mass.

RECONCILIATION

Monday, Dec. 20 & Wednesday, Dec. 22:

7 p.m. until all are heard

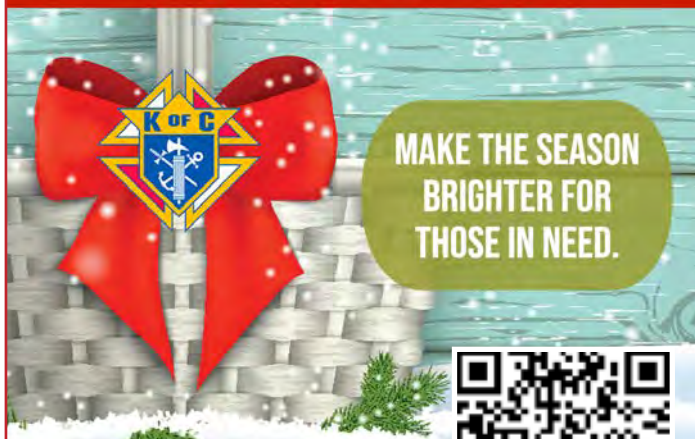
SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Friday, Dec 31 4:30 p.m. (vigil) // Saturday, Jan 1, 9 a.m.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET COLLECTION

St. Andrew Knights will accept cash donations to support the Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry following Masses on December 11 & 12.



MAKE THE SEASON
BRIGHTER FOR
THOSE IN NEED.



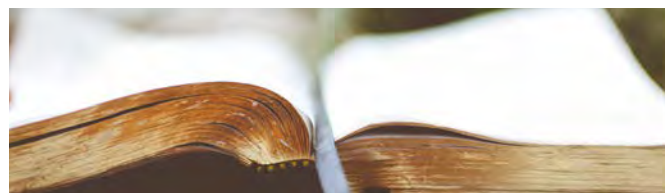
Donations can also be made using this QR code or at tinyurl.com/KofCFoodBasket2021



ONLY A FEW TREES LEFT!

ST. ANDREW ATHLETIC FIELDS

Weds to Fri, 5-7p | Sat, 10a-6p | Sun, 1-5p



MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY every Friday, 7:00-8:00 a.m., in the Parish Office Lower-Level Meeting Room.

The study will cover *The Letters of St. John*. Saint John the Evangelist wrote the fourth Gospel and three letters of the New Testament. He is often known as the "Beloved Disciple." His way of understanding Jesus as "The Word made Flesh" is distinctive. Come see what John said beyond his famous, "God is Love!" We will be using study materials from popular theologian and author Scott Hahn.

For more information or to join the series, contact John Schechter, 614-565-0824 or jschechter@sbcglobal.net.

ST. ANDREW KNIT & CROCHET CIRCLE

JOIN US MONDAY, DEC. 20, 6:30-8:00 P.M. IN NUGENT PARISH HALL.

All knitters and crocheters are invited to our upcoming meeting! We have needle workers of all levels, so bring your knitting needles (size 7 or 8) and crochet hooks (size G or H) and join the fun of socializing and being productive as we make things for those in need. Easy patterns are provided. For more information, call Marilyn at 614-315-7320.



**American
Red Cross**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
THE NEXT RED CROSS BLOOD
DRIVE**

scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in Nugent Parish Hall.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org, sponsor code: SACC.

THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN

by "Jackie," Fr. Ferguson's Cat

Hi boys and girls! My name is "Jackie," and as you know, I am Father Ferguson's cat! We're still in the Season of Advent! That's right! Remember? Advent is the four weeks of preparation leading up to Christmas. Christmas is so special because it's when God entered our world as Jesus Christ. And Jesus was born as a tiny little kitten...errrr...a tiny little child in a small cave in the little town of Bethlehem.



I've been meowing to you during Advent about all the reasons why Christmas is so special. Another reason why Jesus' birth at Christmas is special is because it shows us how much Jesus loves the poor and is here to comfort us whenever we suffer or feel afraid, lonely, or really stressed. Think about what it was like for St. Joseph and St. Mary when Jesus was born. They were poor people who were travelling to a far-away town (Bethlehem), and the only place they could find to stay that night was in a dark cave on the edge of town which the innkeeper let them use. Imagine how stressed and lonely they felt that night. Father Ferguson told me that he once went to Bethlehem and got to see the actual cave where Jesus was born, and Father said it's really small. And then even after Jesus and His parents moved back to Nazareth, they worked hard to make a living, and Jesus was a kid who had to grow up without all the cool things a lot of kids in America get to have nowadays.

Isn't that amazing? God came into our world not as a rich royal king in a big city, but as a simple baby in a poor family in a small town. Jesus coming at Christmas helps us to know how much God loves us no matter how tough our life can get. Have you ever had tough times in your life? Do you ever get picked on because other kids have stuff you don't have? Do you ever feel afraid and lonely? As a cat, I feel this way a lot of times when I'm outside or around big dogs or the other cats at Kitty School pick on me. Why not pray to Jesus today and thank Him for always being here to be our friend, no matter what? Have a "purr"-fect week!

YOUTH MINISTRY: FIRST CALLED WINTER PROGRAMS

SOCIAL JUSTICE SESSIONS

7th Grade - Jan. 5 Family: The Foundation of Society

6th grade - February 2 The Dignity of Human Life

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Confirmation Retreat: Sunday, February 13 following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Lunch served at Noon, retreat ends at 5:00 p.m.

Confirmation: Sunday, February 27, 3:00 p.m.

Thank you to all of the eighth-grade students who participated in *Paratus, Preparing for Confirmation*.

HIGH SCHOOL PRAYER PROGRAMS THROUGH DECEMBER

PANCAKES & PRAYER – Celebrate with our Youth Group! Pancakes and an Advent JOY Prayer Program – 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Bryce Eck. This is a great opportunity for families of those with 12-18 to learn about St. Andrew's Youth Group and to get involved with "First Called" in 2022!

Visit our web page at www.standrewparish.cc/youth-ministry to download and complete the registration form for Middle and High School Youth Programs. For more information, contact Maria Moore, 614-439-3571 (c), 614-459-1402 ext. 1, or mmoore@standrewparish.cc.



BINGO NIGHT COMING IN JANUARY!

Hosted by WOSA (Women of St. Andrew), all men and women of the parish are welcome to enjoy an evening of fellowship and FUN!. Mark your calendar for Friday evening, Jan. 28, 2022. More details coming soon!

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS*December 18 & 19***Saturday, Dec. 18, 4:30 PM**

Stuart Sprigler	EMHC - B1
Vicky Macklin	EMHC - B2
Pamela Sprigler	Lector - B
NEEDED	Altar Server

Sunday, Dec. 19, 7:30 AM

Peggy Hoffman	EMHC - B1
Bob Slater	EMHC - B2
Jennifer Schaefer	Lector - A
John Pashke	Lector - B
Amanda Cowen	Altar Server

Sunday, Dec. 19, 9:15 AM

Herm Mollmann	EMHC - B1
David Tague	EMHC - B2
NEEDED	EMHC - B CHOIR
Mary Kasberg	Lector - A
Joe Chatlos	Lector - B
James Messerly	Altar Server

Sunday, Dec. 19, 11:00 AM

Chris Carter	EMHC - B1
Martha Radtke	EMHC - B2
Paul Brown	Lector - A
Marty Majka	Lector - B
NEEDED	Altar Server

To volunteer, visit www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/standrewcolumbus, or use the QR code here. If you need help with your username or password, contact Kelly Nasdeo at knasdeo@standrewparish.cc.



HOMEBOUND MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! We are excited to once again schedule visits to assisted living facilities and those who are homebound and serve our fellow parishioners who are unable to attend Mass in person. We are holding an information session followed by a training session on **Monday, Dec. 20, 6:30-8:00, in Nugent Parish Hall**. Ministers must be 18 or older to serve. For more information, contact Deacon Dan Dowler, ddowler@columbuscatholic.org.

WE ARE BLESSED to receive a \$3,500 grant from The Catholic Foundation through the Foundation's responsive grant cycle. This grant will be used to update our sound system at the Bryce Eck Center, enhancing our Religious Education programs, and a variety of other meetings and parish activities. We are proud that our ministry is being acknowledged and supported for all the good work we do.

We are grateful for all the donors who made this grant possible through The Catholic Foundation. Individuals who care deeply about helping others and want to do more in their community can set up endowments and other funds through The Catholic Foundation for the benefit of organizations like St. Andrew Parish.

To learn more about how you can set up funds, contact The Catholic Foundation's Director of Development, Scott Hartman, at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or 614-443-8893.



RPRF REFLECTIONS: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 12, 2021

SPREAD THE JOY

"Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Gaudete Sunday. It is supposed to be a time of great joy. Some may say the last few years we haven't had much to be joyful about. Covid, attendance loss at Mass, and losing our Bishop to name a few. But we can take great joy knowing, as we hear from Zephaniah, God is in our midst, and will get us through the tough times. *Real Presence, Real Future* is already helping us with parish planning matters, even though we had Bishop Brennan for a short time, and soon we will be celebrating the Birth of Jesus. So, shout for joy, God is always with us.

~Deacon Tim Birie, Knox County
Consortium of Catholic Churches



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, December 12:

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a

Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

Monday, December 13:

Memorial of Saint Lucy,

Virgin and Martyr

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a

Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9

Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 14:

Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13

Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23

Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 15:

Advent Weekday

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25

Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14

Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 16

Advent Weekday

Is 54:1-10

Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b

Lk 7:24-30

Friday, December 17:

Advent Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8-10

Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17

Mt 1:1-17

Saturday, December 18:

Advent Weekday

Jer 23:5-8

Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19

Mt 1:18-25

Access Daily Readings from
the New American Bible, Revised Edition
(NABRE) online at <https://bible.usccb.org>

OUR BAPTISM IN JESUS AND HIS SPIRIT

Reflection on Luke Lk 3:10-18

"His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn in unquenchable fire."

Let us choose to read this passage, not as a contrast between the lost (burned in unquenchable fire) and the saved (wheat gathered into the granary), but rather as understanding the fire as a necessary part of the Baptism in Jesus and His Spirit that we all must pass through. For I have my chaff, my weaknesses, sin and temerity, my waste that must be burned away in the fire of Christ's love and mercy. *Winnow me away, O Lord; let this Baptism of Your Holy Spirit and Your fire be for me the refining of the blessed!*

Then John's advice to his questioners in the Gospel passage, and his advice to us, becomes the work of our Baptism, in which our actions become the refining fire of Christ in this world, as we follow through on what love demands of us, do the hard work of justice, create peace, make forgiveness happen.

~ Fr. Jay

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Feast Day: December 12 •

Patron of the Americas, Mexico

The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story.

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning, December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac, when he heard beautiful music, like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually, the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time, Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless, the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary – and the God who sent her – accepts all peoples. In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance for the indigenous population. While a number of them had converted before this incident, they now came in droves. According to a contemporary chronicler, nine million Indians became Catholic in a very short time. In these days when we hear so much about God's preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself.



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and don't worry."
- Saint Padre Pio

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