

Our Lady of Guadalupe Torch in a Season of Remembrance

In Memory of Our Dearly Departed & For Those Who Suffer Their Loss

In this booklet we offer you the "Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosaries for the Dearly Departed Collection" which are the devotions we will be offering up on this Diocesan-wide mission to remember and pray for the dead in this season of remembrance. This collection includes special prayers for the holy souls in purgatory and for the families of those who mourn their loss. This collection starts with a very special "Our Lady of Guadalupe Apparition Rosary for the Dearly Departed" which tells the story of Our Lady's Apparition to Juan Diego in the 5 decades as well as providing the intercessory prayer for the holy souls.

Diocesan - Wide Intercessory Prayer Sacrifice

Apparition Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Joyful Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sorrowful Rosary for the Holy Souls of Purgatory
Glorious Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Luminous Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

"As we enter heaven, we will see them, so many of them coming towards us and thanking us. We will ask who they are, and they will say a poor soul you prayed for in purgatory."



[~] Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Introductory Prayers

Sign of the cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer: Oh, our Lady of Guadalupe, mystical rose, make intercession for Holy Church, especially for the penitent church in purgatory and for the families who grieve their loss. Protect the Sovereign Pontiff, help all those who invoke thee in their necessities, and since thou art the ever Virgin Mary and Mother of the true God, obtain for us from thy most holy Son the grace of keeping our faith, sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life, burning charity and the precious gift of final perseverance. Amen.

Apostles Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

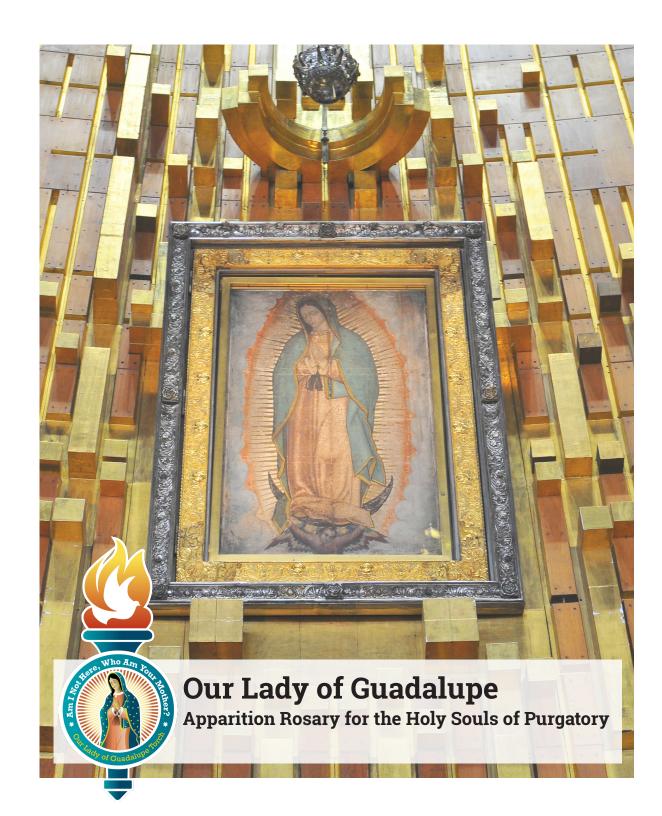
3 Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Glory be

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.





APPARITION ROSARY FOR THE HOLY SOULS OF PURGATORY

First Miraculous Apparition

Reader: At dawn on December 9, 1531, Juan Diego, began his journey to the Church in Tlatelolco to attend catechism class and Mass. As he was passing Tepeyac Hill, he saw a brilliant light on the summit and heard the strains of celestial music from songbirds. Then he heard a feminine voice call him by name in his Native language of Nahuatl and asking him to ascend the hill. When he reached the top he saw a beautiful woman bathed in golden beams. The Blessed Virgin Mary was standing in a glorious light. She told him she was the Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God. She said "I am the Virgin Mary, Mother of the one true God, of Him who gives life. He is Lord and Creator of heaven and of earth. I desire that there be built a temple at this place where I want to manifest Him, make Him known, give Him to all people through my love, my compassion, my help, and my protection. I truly am your merciful Mother, your Mother and the Mother of all who dwell in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, and of those who seek and place their trust in me. Here I shall listen to their weeping and their sorrows. I shall take



them all to my heart, and I shall cure their many sufferings, afflictions, and sorrows. So, run now to Tenochtitlan and tell the Lord Bishop all that you have seen and heard."

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, we thank you for your first apparition to Blessed Juan Diego when you revealed that you are the Purest Virgin, Mary, Mother of the True God and Mother of all mankind. We thank you that you bear witness to your love, your compassion, your aid and your protection for all who would love you, trust you, and invoke your help. Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, please take to your Son Our Lord Jesus Christ our fervent prayers for those both known and unknown to us who have died. That they may be released from purgatory and finally enter into the presence of God. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Second Miraculous Apparition

Reader: Juan Diego traveled to the palace of the Franciscan Bishop Zumarrago. The Bishop was reluctant to believe Juan Diego's story but asked Juan to visit again. Juan returned to Tepeyac Hill where he found the Blessed Virgin waiting for him. He told her of his failure. She bade him return to the Bishop the next day and repeat her wishes saying "Listen, little son. There are many I could send. But you are the one I have chosen for this task. So, tomorrow morning, go back to the Bishop. Tell him it is the ever-holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God who sends you, and repeat to him my great desire for a church in this place."



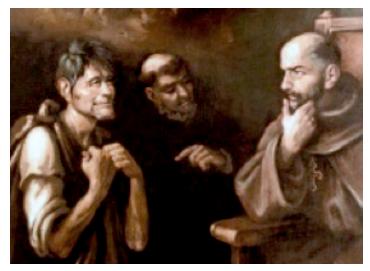
Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, my Queen

and my Mother, we I thank you for your second apparition to Blessed Juan Diego when, upon his return from the Bishop's house, he knelt in humiliation and defeat before you since he was unable to accomplish your mission. We thank you for the courage and encouragement you gave to Blessed Juan Diego to make a second appeal to the Bishop. Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, give to us courage and encouragement to follow through on this weeklong prayer sacrifice for the souls in purgatory. So that even now, as we pray, souls are being released from purgatory and are at this moment being crowned as saints in Heaven. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Third Miraculous Apparition

Reader: Juan Diego called on the Bishop for a second time. The Bishop requested that the Lady give him a sign. Juan reported to the Lady that evening and she promised to give him a sign to take to the Bishop the following morning. Upon his return home, Juan Diego found his uncle, Juan Bernardino, gravely ill. Instead of meeting the Blessed Virgin the next day, he stayed home to care for his dying uncle.



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, we thank you for your third apparition to Blessed Juan Diego when, after this unsuccessful attempt to have a temple built, you continued to pursue him. Our Lady of Guadalupe, reach out to us here today as we implore your assistance for our loved ones in purgatory and all souls who await entrance into Heaven. In faithfulness we will not falter or be discouraged. For we put all our hope in your power as the Queen of Heaven, forever our Mother. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Fourth Miraculous Apparition

Reader: Two days later, on December 12, Juan Diego woke up early to bring a priest from the church to his dying uncle to perform the last rite. During his travels, the Lady stopped Juan Diego. She listened as Juan spoke about his uncle. Then she said, "It is well, littlest and dearest of my sons, but now listen to me. Do not let anything afflict you and be not afraid of illness or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need? Do not fear for your uncle for he is not going to die. Be assured... he is already well." The Blessed Virgin told him to climb to the top of the hill.



She said he would find many flowers blooming there, which he was to cut and bring to her. Juan Diego knew no flowers had ever bloomed before on the summit but to his shock, he discovered a marvelous garden of blossoms. Placing them in his tilma, he brought the flowers to the Lady, who rearranged them and told him to take them to the Bishop saying, "You see, little son, this is the sign I am sending to the Bishop. Tell him that now he has his sign, he should build the temple I desire in this place so that I may console the suffering and that they may come to know my Son. Remember, little son, that you are my trusted ambassador, and this time the Bishop will believe all that you tell him." Juan Diego stood before Bishop Zumarraga for the third time. He opened his tilma to show the Bishop the sign and the flowers cascaded to the floor. The bishop fell to his knees as on the tilma appeared the portrait of the Blessed Virgin, just as Juan Diego had previously described her.

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, my Queen and my Mother, we thank you for your fourth apparition to Blessed Juan Diego when you ordered him to pick the roses. You arranged them in his tilma and left your image printed when the roses were released. Through this image, remind us always that you are our Mother, and that we are safe in the hollow of your mantle. Hear our cry when we ask that the souls of those we loved so much here on earth and all the souls in purgatory make quick reparation for their sins. Release them into heaven. Embrace our persistence in this effort as it is in love and for love that we pray and beg your intercession. Release them into heaven. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Fifth Miraculous Apparition

Reader: Earlier that same day, December 12, the Blessed Virgin had also appeared to Juan's uncle, Juan Bernardino, and restored him to health. Juan Diego was at that time fifty-seven years old; his uncle was sixty-eight. Juan Bernardino told his nephew that the Blessed Virgin appeared to him and told him her image was to be known as "Santa Maria de Guadalupe." She has been known by this title for five centuries.

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, my mother, into your hands joined in prayer, take our prayers, petitions and hopes, and present them to Jesus on our behalf. Remembering the love and



care your hands rendered to Him, He will not refuse what they hold now, even though they are from sinners like us. We pray that just as you looked into the face of Juan Diego and his Uncle Bernadino, you would look into the face of those we have loved so much here on earth and have since passed away. Look into the face of all the suffering souls in purgatory. Take their hand and escort them into the presence of your Son. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Fatima Prayer - O my Jesus, forgive us of our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy. Amen.

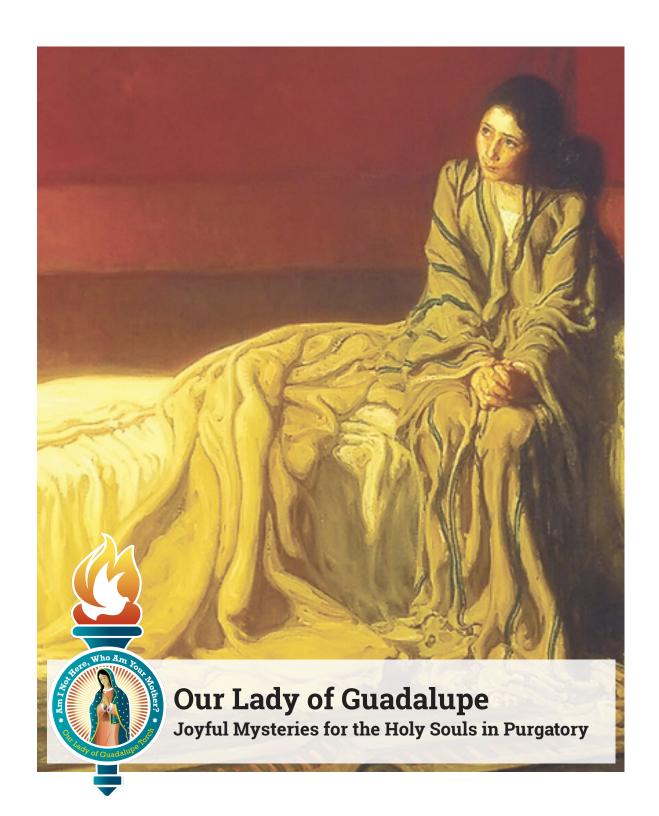
Concluding Prayers:

The Hail Holy Queen (The Salve Regina)

All Pray: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life. Grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating on these mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we may imitate the love that they contain and obtain the hope that they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen





THE JOYFUL ROSARY FOR THE FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

Scripture: The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-33, 38)



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, mother of the Church

Suffering, with your "yes" you have opened heaven's ways; you have achieved the will of the Father. You will be blessed forever: your intercession for the holy souls in purgatory is heard in Heaven, because you have accepted God's plan. We pray that, like you, we can say "yes" to the Father in every instance He asks it of us. Help us to be humble and obedient to God's will and to always remember our brothers and sisters in purgatory who await the grand entrance into heaven. We pray also for those who mourn the death of a relative or a friend and feel that with this loss their lives are incomplete. Show them that they have a Mother who loves them and will never leave them and that they have nothing to fear. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

Scripture: During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:39-45)



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, help us to bring Christ to others and give them the hope of Eternal Life, like you brought Jesus to Elizabeth. Dearest Mother Mary, Salvation of those who hope in you, we ask you to intercede for us and for the holy souls of purgatory. That we may receive the gift of burning charity in praying for the dead and that they may be loosed from their sin and finally obtain the joys of heaven. We pray also for those who mourn, who have downcast hearts. We pray that they may know in full confidence that you are able to lift them out of their grief. You said "Am I not here who is your Mother? What else do you need?". Show yourself to them and bring them the lifesaving hope of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity

Scripture: While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 6-12)



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, most Holy Ark of the Covenant, you carried the Son of God in your womb and brought him into this world to reclaim the lost. Look down upon the suffering souls in purgatory and intercede for them. That our Lord may remember not their offenses but be mindful of His loving mercy, which is from all eternity. We pray for those who mourn. That you, Our Lady of Guadalupe, may fill their empty hearts with bouquets of beautiful memories of their loved ones. That they may know that the existing love that burns in their hearts comes from their Creator, and it is that same love that will lead them to Him. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple

Scripture: Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." (Luke 2:25-32)



Prayer: Oh, Mother of Compassion, Our Lady of Guadalupe, just as Simeon longed to see the face of the Messiah, you know the intense longing the souls being purified in purgatory have for that same desire. They long for God's eternal embrace. Intercede for them, Mother of Consolation that they may finally attain Heaven and one day we may all rejoice in Paradise together forever and ever. Dearest Mother, we pray also for those who have lost a loved one and are hurting in grief. Lift their eyes so that they may catch a glimpse of eternity and be comforted by the promise of heaven. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding in the Temple

Scripture: Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem. but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. (Luke 2:41-50)



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, take our prayers to our Heavenly Father, that He may know that we do not pray alone and that we have an intercessor in you, His beloved Mother, whom He will never refuse. Hear our cries for the faithful departed especially those we loved so much here on earth. We give our all through your hands, Our Lady of Guadalupe, that you may set free whatever soul you please, according to your heavenly wisdom and mother's love for them. We also pray, dearest Mother, for those who mourn. Cover them with your great mantle of love. Help them find your Son Jesus just as you found him in the temple, that He may give their weary hearts rest and their minds sound sleep. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

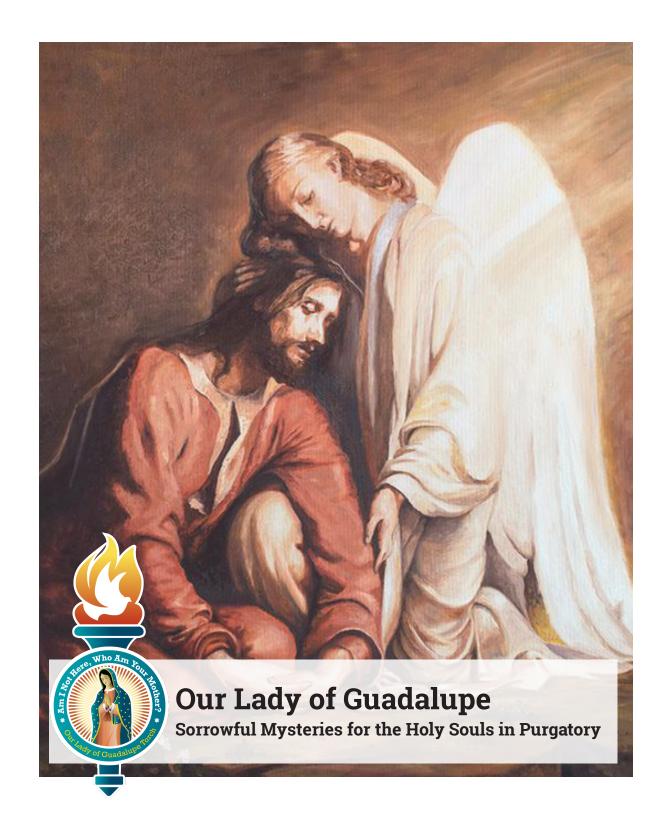
Fatima Prayer - O my Jesus, forgive us of our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy. Amen

Concluding Prayers:

The Hail Holy Queen (The Salve Regina)

All Pray: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

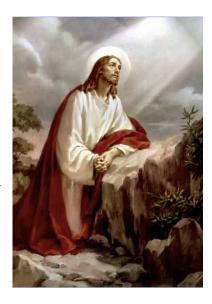
O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life. Grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating on these mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we may imitate the love that they contain and obtain the hope that they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen



THE SORROWFUL ROSARY FOR THE FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden

Scripture: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into



the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." (Mark 14:32-42)

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Rosary, we beseech you, by the immense grief which your Divine Son Jesus felt in the garden, intercede for the souls in purgatory, and especially that soul which is most destitute of prayers and most lacking of earthly loved ones. Bring them to the glory of your Son, there to praise and bless Him forever. Our Lady of Guadalupe, for all those who awoke this morning to the loneliness of bereavement. Those who are living an unaccustomed quietness of a life now, thought to be, incomplete. That they may feel the warmth of the One who has already passed from death to life, for the very purpose of making it possible for their loved one to pass from death to life into God's Kingdom. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Second Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar

Scripture: Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him. Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder. (Luke 23:13-19)



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the

Heaven, you did suffer with Jesus his Passion, accepting the office of Mother of mankind at the foot of the Cross. Behold Mother the children in purgatory whom He commended to your care. Behold the souls ransomed with the Blood of the Son, shed in His cruel scourging. We beseech you now, intercede for the deliverance of the souls in purgatory into the Presence of your Son. Also, for those who mourn we pray, Our Lady of Guadalupe, that you may be the vessel God uses to bring them into His light. That through you they may know their God and know that He will never leave them or forsake them. That they may know that there will be beauty for ashes on the other side of this grief. Amen.

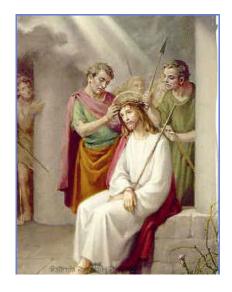
Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns

Scripture: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. (Matthew 27:27-31)

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Behold the just suffering in purgatory, who ask to be remembered by you. Mother of mankind, speak to thy Son on behalf of those we commend to you now, by the



Precious Blood which your Son Jesus shed in His bitter crowning with thorns. That they may be speedily released from pain and admitted to Paradise. To the company of Jesus, all the angels and saints and you, our precious Mother. Our Lady of Guadalupe, to you we also entrust those who mourn. That they may know your promise to be with them in this day of trouble and your promise to hold them close in the fold of your mantle. That if they cannot find Our Lord in the darkness of this grief, you may lead them to Him. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross

Scripture: Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18 There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. 21 The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." (John 19:17-22)



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, we beseech

you, by the Precious Blood which your Divine Son Jesus shed through the streets of Jerusalem when He carried the cross upon His sacred shoulders. Intercede for the deliverance of the souls in purgatory so that on the throne of glory which awaits them, they may magnify Our Lord and bless Him forever. Our Lady of Guadalupe, help our brothers and sisters in Christ who mourn the loss of a loved one. Let them know that God's eye is upon them even in the midst of this suffering. That they may know that nothing is wasted in this life especially not a grief that is such a witness to love. Lead them into the beauty of lifesaving truth. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death

Scripture: Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother* and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. (John 19:25-30))

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, we beseech you, by the Precious Blood, which your Divine Son shed upon the wood of the Cross from His most sacred hands and feet. Intercede for the deliverance of the souls in purgatory, especially those souls



for which we are most bound to pray for. Overlook everything about us that may cause you to reject our plea and hinder your intercession on their behalf. Our Lady of Guadalupe, we also ask you to intercede for those who mourn. You, more than anyone knows the pain of loss. You know what it does to a human heart. Death and loss cut deep and without your intercession these lives will perish. Whisper in the hearts of those who hurt, Dearest Mother. Let them know the truth there is in hope and the certainty there is in God. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Fatima Prayer - O my Jesus, forgive us of our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy. Amen

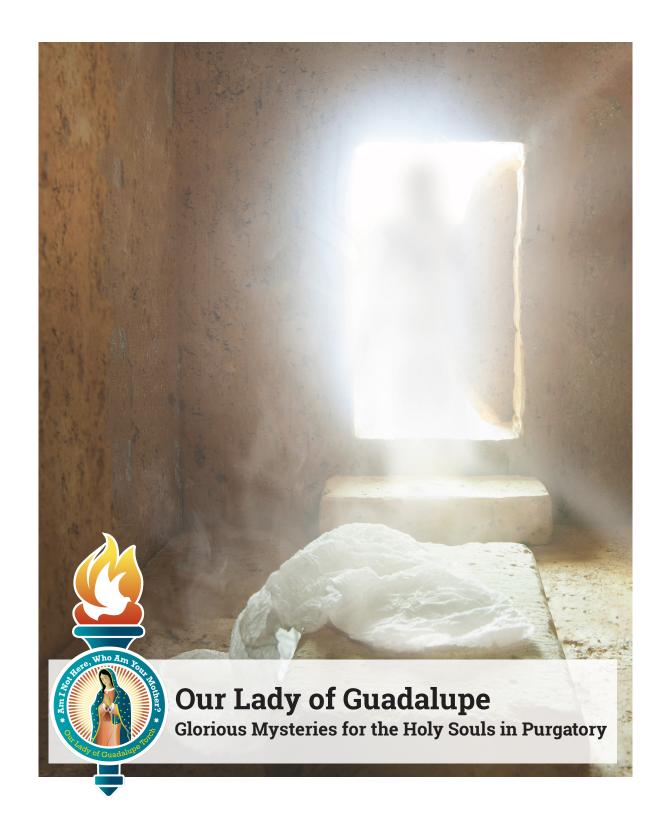
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O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life. Grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating on these mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we may imitate the love that they contain and obtain the hope that they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen





THE GLORIOUS ROSARY FOR THE FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

The First Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection

Scripture: But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners. and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb: stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. (Luke 24:1-12).



Prayer: Our Lord Jesus Christ turned the darkness of death into the dawn of new life in His Resurrection and He promised that light to all who believe in Him. We ask you now, Our Lady of Guadalupe, to intercede for those who have fallen asleep in the Hope of the Resurrection but were unprepared at the moment of their death. That they may be forgiven of their sins and that their purification may go quickly that they may be welcomed into the presence of your Son. Our Lady of Guadalupe, today we pray also for those whose lives are in turmoil, and pain is all that is felt. Be with them in their sorrow and uphold them in your strength. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



The Second Glorious Mystery: The Ascension

Scripture: So when they had come together, they asked him. "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them. "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:6-11).



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, at the Ascension Jesus accomplished the work of redemption. Today, with determined hearts we ask you, Our Mother, to intercede for the souls in purgatory. Especially those we loved so much here on this earth. Let them finally receive the fullness of the reward of your Son's sacrifice. Let the love we have for them and the love they have for us, be enough to merit their departure from purgatory and their ascension into the presence of God. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of Consolation, we pray for all who are grieving the loss of someone they loved. Bring warmth to those whose hearts are cold, empty, angry and confused. Soften those temperaments just enough so they can hear the sweet whisper of your voice. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



The Third Glorious Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Scripture: When the day of Pentecost had come. they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holv Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear. each of us, in our own native language? In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's



deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" (Acts 2:1-12)

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, the incarnation of the Son took place in your womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. You are the favored daughter of the Father and so we ask you tonight to plead for the Holy Souls. That they may be released from the bonds of purgatory and today may be in the glory of Heaven. Our Lady of Guadalupe we also pray for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. That they may have comfort in knowing that, although in purgatory, their loved ones are in great joy because they know for certain they are bound for heaven. That the mourners may know the privilege God has given us to participate in the release of souls from purgatory by entering into earnest prayer for them. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



The Fourth Glorious Mystery: The Assumption

Scripture: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (Luke 1:46-55)



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, you appeared to St Faustina at a celebration of your Assumption. She told us that you visit with the souls in purgatory. She said you bring them refreshment. We thank you for the gift of letting us know, through St Faustina, that the souls in purgatory have you in their presence. We join you in prayers for them. Commend to your Son, all the souls in purgatory. That through your maternal intercession, these souls may overcome the pains of purification and may joyfully reach the eternal home they long for. Our Lady of Guadalupe, most merciful Virgin Mother of God, you are the kindest comforter of those that mourn. Draw them close to you, that they may give their hearts to you, and you may set it on fire for your Son, Jesus. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



The Fifth Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary

Scripture: And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. And another portent appeared in heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth; she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne. (Revelations 12:1-5)

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of Heaven, you have been enthroned in heaven for our sake. To your hands has been committed the distribution of favors and graces. Your power reaches from the Church Triumphant, to the Church Militant and the Church Suffering. To you then, O Queen of



Mercy, who dwell in the heavens, we banished children of Eve lift up our eyes and hearts on behalf of the souls of the departed, that you may look with favor upon them and bring them from captivity into the freedom of glorious Heaven. Our Lady of Guadalupe, we pray also for all whose lives have been touched by the loss of a loved one. That your love and the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ would bring the hope of eternity into their hearts. That the joy of knowing that someday we will all rejoice together in Heaven, be enough to sustain them while still here in this land of exile.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Fatima Prayer - O my Jesus, forgive us of our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy. Amen

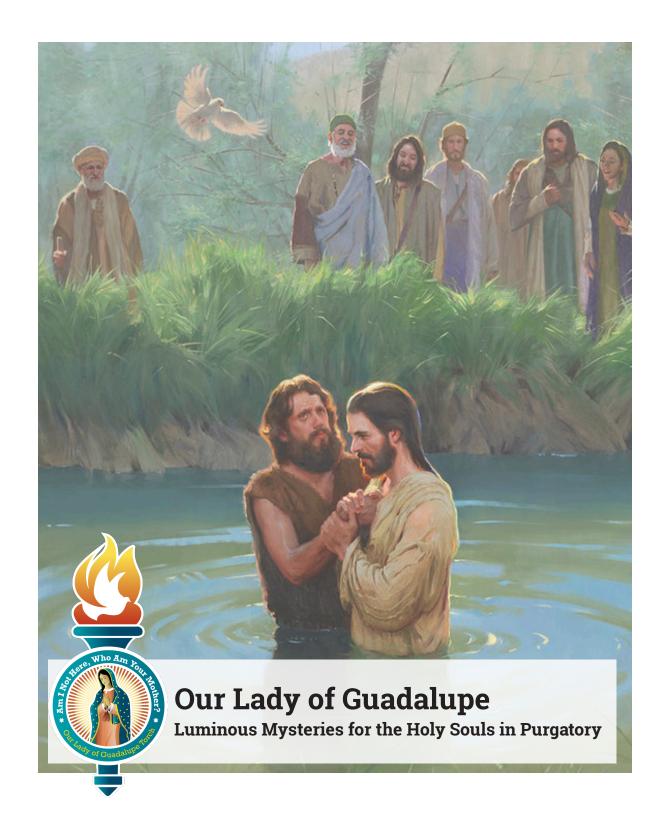
Concluding Prayers:

The Hail Holy Queen (The Salve Regina)

All Pray: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life. Grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating on these mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we may imitate the love that they contain and obtain the hope that they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen





THE LUMINOUS ROSARY FOR THE FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

First Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan

Scripture: Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17

Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, just as your Son came up from the water at His baptism and the Holy Spirit came upon Him to receive Him, we ask that through your intercession and through virtue of their baptism, Our Lord may speedily receive all the souls in purgatory into heaven. Especially those we loved so much here on earth. Proclaiming also of them "These are my beloved, with whom I am well pleased". Dearest Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we pray for those who mourn, that they may know that this pain of loss is



temporary. That they may know that their loved one is on a journey that is going to lead them into joyous eternal peace with Christ in heaven. That they may know that, through the love of your Son, they will see their loved ones again and enjoy a never-ending eternal embrace. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast at Cana

Scripture: On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him. "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not vet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So, they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called



the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:1-11)

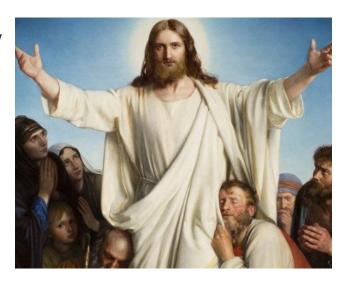
Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, intercede for us just as you interceded for that couple in Cana. Release our loved ones into heaven that their stay in purgatory may be lessened. We know Our Lord will not deny you anything. Give us the peace of knowing, at least, that Our Lord has already forgiven our dearly departed of their sins. Especially those that died unprepared as was the chief steward at Cana. We pray also for those who mourn. That you, Our Lady of Guadalupe, may heal their brokenness with the soothing balm of your gentle touch. That they might know wholeness and peace through the love of a heavenly Mother and of her Divine Son. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Third Luminous Mystery: Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom of God

Scripture: Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:12-17)



Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Eternal Son of God made Man. Your poor and sorrowful children suffer grievously in the purification of purgatory. For the sake of the joy of Eternal Life, in the Kingdom of Heaven, which Jesus Christ proclaimed, have compassion on them. Send your holy angels to bring them joyful greeting, and announce to them release from their sufferings. Help our dear ones who have departed this life and every suffering and deserving soul, that with their night of sorrow being ended, they may be born to the eternal dawn. We pray also, Mother of God, for those who mourn. That you may immerse them in your love and lead them through the darkness of sorrow and into the light of your Son, Jesus, the Almighty Comforter. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Fourth Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration

Scripture: Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah".



While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. (Matthew 17:1-8)

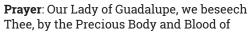
Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, the magnificent light of your Son's truth shines from the mountaintop of the transfiguration, into our hearts, which now cry out to you. Offer for the souls in purgatory, hungering for the countenance of God, your motherly intercession. That your prayer may supply for what is lacking in our own, your holiness for our sinfulness, your love for our indifference, your power for our weakness. Win for those whom we have lost, the companionship of angels and saints in dwellings of light and peace. Our Lady of Guadalupe, intercede for those who mourn. Embrace all those whose hearts today overflow with grief, unanswered questions and such a sense of loss. Hold them close in the fold of your mantle through the coming days. That in your arms they may find your Son. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...



Fifth Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist

Scripture: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:26-30).





your Son Jesus, which He gave with His own hand on the eve of His passion to His beloved apostles. Intercede for the holy souls in purgatory especially those most devoted to this Mystery of Infinite Love. That they may enjoy presently the eternal glory that the Holy Eucharist promises. And For those who mourn, we pray, Our Lady of Guadalupe, for your intercession. May God be with them in their sorrow, and comfort them in their loss. And may their spirit be lifted and their hearts be filled with peace. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Fatima Prayer - O my Jesus, forgive us of our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy. Amen

Concluding Prayers:

The Hail Holy Queen (The Salve Regina)

All Pray: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life. Grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating on these mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we may imitate the love that they contain and obtain the hope that they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen



Litany to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Leader: Lord, have mercy on our dead. All: Especially those in dire need of your mercy
Leader: Christ, have mercy on our dead. All: Especially those in dire need of your mercy
Leader: Lord, have mercy on our dead All: Especially those in dire need of your mercy

Leader: Christ, hear us. All: Christ, graciously hear us.

V: God the Father of Heaven, R: Have mercy on us and on the holy souls of purgatory

V: God the Son, Redeemer of the world, R: Have mercy on us and on the holy souls of purgatory

V: God the Holy Ghost, R: Have mercy on us and on the holy souls of purgatory

V: Holy Trinity, One God, R: Have mercy on us and on the holy souls of purgatory

V: Holy Mary of Guadalupe R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother of the Americas, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Star of Evangelization, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Perfect and Ever-Virgin, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother of the True God, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother worthy of honor and veneration, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother most merciful, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother of those who love thee and have confidence in thee, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother of those who cry to thee and search for thee, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother who cures all our pains, miseries and sorrows, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother who remedies and alleviates our sufferings, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother who keeps us under her compassionate and merciful gaze, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother who shows us help, love and compassion, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother who chooses those who are humble and simple, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother who graciously repays all who serve her, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother who keeps us under her shadow and protection, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Mother who carries us in her embrace, R: pray for our dead

V: Holy Mary, Fountain of our joy, R: pray for our dead

V: Good St. Joseph, R: pray for our dead

V: St. Juan Diego, R: pray for our dead

V: All Angels and Saints, R: pray for our dead

V: Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, R: spare us O Lord.

V: Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, R: graciously hear us, O Lord.

V: Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, R: have mercy on us and on all the souls in purgatory.



The Memorare Of Our Lady Of Guadalupe

All Pray: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary of Guadalupe, that in thy celestial apparitions on the mount of Tepeyac, thou didst promise to show thy compassion and pity towards all who, loving and trusting thee, seek thy help and call upon thee in their necessities and afflictions. Thou didst promise to listen to our supplications, to dry our tears and to give us consolation and relief. Never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Mary, ever Virgin Mother of the True God! Though grieving under the weight of our sins and the loss of our loved ones, we come to prostrate ourselves in thy august presence; certain that thou wilt deign to fulfill thy merciful promises. We are full of hope that, standing beneath thy shadow and protection, nothing will trouble or afflict us.

Thou hast decided to remain with us through thy admirable image, thou who art our Mother, our health and our life. Placing ourselves beneath thy maternal gaze and having recourse to thee in all our necessities, we need do nothing more. O Holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer us7

Closing Prayer

Our Lady of Guadalupe, if those whose names I had in my heart during this time of prayer, have already passed on into heaven, then let my prayers go to those who have no one to pray for them and are in most need of your mercy.

Blessed souls, I have prayed for thee; I entreat thee, who are so dear to God, and who are secure of never losing Him, to pray for me a miserable sinner, who is in danger of being damned, and losing God forever.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



Marian Songs for Before and/or after Rosaries

Guadalupe Hymn

You are the fountain of my life, Under your shadow and in your protection, I fear no evil, no pain, no worries.

O Maria, O most merciful Mother, Gentle virgin with the name Guadalupe. On a mountain we find roses in winter, All the world has been touched by your love.

Here in the crossing of your arms, Could there be anything else that I need? Nothing discourage, nothing depress me.

O Maria, O most merciful Mother, Gentle virgin with the name Guadalupe. On a mountain we find roses in winter, All the world has been touched by your love You are the star of the ocean, My boat is small and the waves are so high. But with you to guide me, I'll reach my homeland.

O Maria, O most merciful Mother, Gentle virgin with the name Guadalupe. On a mountain we find roses in winter, All the world has been touched by your love.

You are the dawn of a new day, For you give birth to the Son of the Father. All of my lifetime, I'll walk beside you.

O Maria, O most merciful Mother, Gentle virgin with the name Guadalupe. On a mountain we find roses in winter, All the world has been touched by your love.

Immaculate Mary

Immaculate Mary, thy praises we sing; Who reignest in splendor with Jesus our King. Ave, ave, ave, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!

In heaven, the blessed thy glory proclaim; On earth we, thy children, invoke thy fair name. Ave, ave, war, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!

We pray for God's glory; may His kingdom come; We pray for His vicar, our father, and Rome. Ave, ave, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!

We pray for our Mother, the Church upon earth, And bless, dearest Lady, the land of our birth. Ave, ave, ave, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!



Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of death.Amen.

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love. You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the Son.
You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one.

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love.

Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too. Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts.

Jesus the Very Thought of Thee

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek! But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize will be; Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE





Symbolism of the Image

The natural lifespan of a tilma made with fiber from the agave or maguey plant is only about 30 years. There is no scientific explanation for the 478 years of high quality-preservation of the Tilma or for the miracles that have occurred to ensure its preservation.

The miraculous image produced on the apron or tilma of Blessed Juan Diego is rich in symbolism. The aureole or luminous light surrounding the Lady is reminiscent of the "woman clothed with the sun" of Rev. 12:1. The light is also a sign of the power of God who has sanctified and blessed the one who appears. The rays of the sun would also be recognized by the native people as a symbol of their highest god, Huitzilopochtli. Thus, the lady comes forth hiding but not extinguishing the power of the sun. She is now going to announce the God who is greater than their sun god.

The Lady is standing upon the moon. Again, the symbolism is that of the woman of Rev. 12:1 who has the "moon under her feet". The moon for the Meso-Americans was the god of the night. By standing on the moon, she shows that she is more powerful than the god of darkness. However, in Christian iconography the crescent moon under the Madonna's feet is usually a symbol of her perpetual virginity, and sometimes it can refer to her Immaculate Conception or Assumption.

The eyes of Our lady of Guadalupe are looking down with humility and compassion. This was a sign to the native people that she was not a god since in their iconography the gods stare straight ahead with their eyes wide open. We can only imagine how tenderly her eyes looked upon Blessed Juan Diego when she said: "Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief...Am I not here who am your Mother?"

The angel supporting the Lady testifies to her royalty. To the Meso-American Indians only kings, queens and other dignitaries would be carried on the shoulders of someone. The angel is transporting the Lady to the people as a sign that a new age has come.

The mantle of the Lady is blue-green or turquoise. To the native people, this was the color of the gods and of royalty. It was also the color of the natural forces of life and fecundity. In Christian art, blue is symbolic of eternity and immortality. In Judaism, it was the color of the robe of the high priest. The limbus or gold border of her mantle is another sign of nobility.

The stars on the Lady's mantle shows that she comes from heaven. She comes as the Queen of Heaven but with the eyes of a humble and loving mother. The stars also are a sign of the supernatural character of the image. The research of Fr. Mario Rojas Sánchez and Dr. Juan Homero Hernández Illescas of Mexico (published in 1983) shows that the stars on the Lady's mantle in the image are exactly as the stars of the winter solstice appeared before dawn on the morning of December 12, 1531.

The color of the Madonna's dress is rose or pale-red. Some have interpreted this as the color of dawn symbolizing the beginning of a new era. Others point to the red as a sign of martyrdom for the faith and divine love.

The gold-encircled cross brooch under the neck of the Lady's robe is a symbol of sanctity.

The girdle or bow around her waist is a sign of her virginity, but it also has several other meanings. The bow appears as a four-petaled flower. To the native Indians this was the nahui ollin, the flower of the sun, a symbol of plenitude. The cross-shaped flower was also connected with the cross-sticks which produce fire. For them, this was the symbol of fecundity and new life. The high position of the bow and the slight swelling of the abdomen show that the Lady is "with child". According to Dr. Carlos Fernández Del Castillo, a leading Mexican obstetrician, the Lady appears almost ready to give birth with the infant head down resting vertically. This would further solidify her identification with the woman of Rev. 12 who is about to give birth.





Office of Evangelization and Family Life
Diocese of Trenton