

Our Lady of Guadalupe

- December 9th, 1531, Juan Diego (now St. Juan Diego), a peasant farmer living in the area of the Hill of Tepayec was walking toward Mexico City. It was upon this hill that Juan Diego saw a vision of a young girl, “bathed in light,” who told him that he was to build a church on the site of her presence.
- When Juan Diego told the local Archbishop, Juan de Zummaraga, he told Juan Diego to go back and ask the girl for a miracle to prove her existence as well as the fact that she came from God.
- The Lady told Juan Diego to gather flowers from the hillside (*despite the fact that it was far too late in the season for flowers to bloom and they typically did not on that mountain*) and return them back to the Archbishop.
- Diego found there Castillian roses, flowers atypical to that country. He gathered them in his *timlatli*, or tilma, a plain, animal skin cloak typical to peasants at that time and region, and brought them back to the Archbishop.
- When he brought the roses back (*on December 12th*) and dropped them to the floor, an image of Our Lady (as seen above) was miraculously left on his *timlatli*.
- A church was built on this hillside and is appropriately named *The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe*. This is also where the original tilma stands and is the most visited Marian Shrine in the entire world.
- This is one of the most recognizable images in Mexican culture
- It is because of this event that Mexico is one of the “most Catholic” countries in the world and why Bl. Pope John Paul II (the Great) had declared that Mary was the *Patroness of the Americas* and *Empress of Latin America*



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