



# The Kids' Catholic Virginian

“Let the little children come to me” – Matthew 19:14

## The miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe is amazing in so many ways! The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531. She wanted him to build a shrine for her.

He didn't think that anyone would believe that he had seen and talked to Our Lady. She told Juan Diego to climb a hill and pick some roses for his archbishop.

It was December and Juan Diego was pretty sure there were no flowers growing, but, of course, he listened to Our Lady. Guess what? He found a bunch of flowers – flowers he had never seen before!

When he showed them to the archbishop, they realized that these flowers didn't even grow in Mexico! Not only that, when the flowers fell out of Juan Diego's cloak (called a tilma), they found something even more miraculous than the flowers.

The famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was imprinted on the tilma! Scientists say the image is more like a photo than a painting, because there are no brush strokes. This was five centuries ago – and there was no way anyone could have made an image like that.

Modern scientists have discovered numerous amazing things about the tilma.

Say it: gwah-duh-loo-pay  
Feast: December 12  
Patroness of the Americas

You can still see the actual tilma today in Mexico and it's in great shape. Scientists say it's made out of a material that should have fallen apart after just a few years.

Astronomers studied the 46 stars on her cloak. They match the way the stars would have looked in the sky the day Mary appeared.

Scientists looked at Mary's eyes under very powerful microscopes and saw images of people – most likely Juan Diego and the archbishop – reflected in her eyes. The figures look the way our eyes would look when we see something, but they're so tiny on the tilma, it would have been impossible for a human to paint them.

A man tried to blow up the tilma in 1921. Even though everything around it crumbled, the tilma was perfectly okay!



## SAINT SUPERHERO

St. Juan Diego

Say it: waan dee-ay-go • Feast: Dec. 9 • Patron of Indigenous people

St. Juan Diego was born more than 500 years ago. He was an Aztec Indian who lived in Mexico. He is the first Indigenous saint from the Americas.

As a child, he was raised like the other Aztecs, who did not believe in – or know about – Jesus. He became Catholic as an adult, after a group of missionaries came to Mexico. Juan

Diego was one of the first Aztecs to be baptized and even though it was hard to be Catholic, he tried very hard to be holy.

Juan Diego was in a hurry one day to go to Mass when he saw a beautiful lady who looked like an Aztec Indian. She even spoke in his language. Of course, this was Our Lady of Guadalupe and she was also pregnant with Jesus!

She wanted to show that she is everyone's mother in every land, even those who don't know how much Jesus loves us.

Our Lady told Juan Diego that she wanted a chapel built in her honor. She appeared to him several times, even when he tried to avoid her. He knew this was a big deal and told her that he was a nobody – not an important person.

**Our Lady wants us to know that we are all important and can do anything she asks of us, even if it seems impossible!**

A magnificent chapel was built. St. Juan Diego became very famous and many, many Indians became Catholic. He was still humble and lived a quiet life, even after Our Lady chose him for such a big mission.