

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Today we will hear the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Narrator: (stands at the podium) It was before dawn on a chilly December morning. An Aztec Indian named Juan Diego hurried to Mass. As he reached a little hill, suddenly he heard the beautiful singing of birds. There stood a woman who shone like the sun! She spoke of him with love.

(Juan Diego and Mary appear on the stage in front of the SUN picture)

Mary: (speaking to Juan Diego) I am the Mother of God, the God who created everything. I want to show my love for the poor and needy. Please go to the bishop. Ask him to build a church on this spot, so that I can help all who need my protection.

Juan Diego: (speaking to Mary) My lady, right now I will do as you ask.

(Juan Diego and Mary, exit the stage going behind the wall)

Narrator: So Juan Diego walked a long way into the city. He explained to the bishop the wonderful thing that had happened. But the bishop sent Juan Diego away. Juan Diego returned to the hill. The Lady was there waiting for him.

(Juan Diego and Mary appear on the stage in front of the sun picture)

Juan Diego: (speaking to Mary) My lady, I am not sure that the bishop believed me. Perhaps I am too poor.

Mary: (speaks to Juan Diego) My son, I trust you to be my messenger. Go to the bishop again.

(Juan Diego and Mary walk behind the wall on the stage – change picture to the CHURCH)

Narrator: Juan Diego was happy to do whatever she asked. He went back to the bishop, but the bishop said:

(Juan Diego and the Bishop walk onto the stage in front of the Church picture)

Bishop: (speaking to Juan Diego) I need a sign from God to prove that what you say is true.

(The Bishop exits the stage behind the wall)

Narrator: Juan Diego agrees to ask the Lady for a sign. But the next day, there was an emergency. His uncle was dying of a high fever. Juan Diego could not go back to the Lady. He needed to bring a priest to pray with his uncle. He walked around the hill so that he wouldn't meet her. But soon, there she was anyway.

(Mary appears before Juan Diego on the stage in front of the SUN picture)

Mary: (speaking to Juan Diego) My dear one, where are you going?

Juan Diego: (speaking to Mary) (sadly) My uncle is dying! I need to get a priest for him.

Mary: (speaking to Juan Diego) Dear one, do not fear this illness, or anything at all. Am I not your Mother? Your uncle is not going to die. He is healed!

Narrator: Juan Diego knew that she was telling the truth. He trusted her. He told her how the bishop had said that he would need a sign from God. But Mary had the answer.

Mary: (speaking to Juan Diego) Go to the top of the hill. You will see roses growing. Gather them.

(Mary and Juan Diego walk to the roses)

Narrator: She was right. Even though there was frost on the ground, many sweet-smelling roses were growing on the rocky, thorny hilltop. Surely the bishop would believe this sign! Mary arranged the roses in Juan Diego's cloak. Carefully he carried them all the way to the city.

(Mary and Juan Diego walk behind the wall on the stage and Juan Diego and the Bishop appear from the other side of the wall, onto the stage in front of the CHURCH picture)

Juan Diego: (speaking to the Bishop) My lord bishop, I told the Heavenly Woman of my promise to bring you a sign. She asked me to bring you these flowers from her. Here they are.

(Juan Diego opens his cloak and the image appears)

Narrator: But as Juan Diego opened his cloak to let the roses fall, an even greater sign came about. Where the roses had been was a picture in shining colors of the Lady herself. The bishop and everyone else in the room fell to their knees.

(the Bishop falls onto his knees in reverence)

Bishop: (speaking to Juan Diego) Juan Diego, please forgive me for not believing you! The picture on this cloak is truly a sign of God's love!

Narrator: So the Lady had given a sign the bishop could understand. She had also told the truth about Juan Diego's uncle. He had been completely healed of his sickness. The next day, Juan Diego took the bishop to the spot where he had met the Heavenly Woman. A church was quickly built, and Juan Diego's cloak was placed inside. Now everyone could see this sign of God's care for the poor and needy. Juan Diego came to live at the church. Many people visited it. He prayed with them until the day he died. That was more than 500 years ago. But crowds of people are still coming to the church, near Mexico City. The picture on the cloak is still as bright as it was that day in December. And people all over North and South America still turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe for protection.