



Saint of the Week

Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Feast Day—December 9
1474–1548

Baptized at about age 50, this Mexican Indian was walking to Mass on December 9, 1531, when Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City. Speaking in his native language of Náhuatl, she asked him to petition the bishop for a shrine to be built there. But the bishop asked for a sign. On December 12, Juan returned to Tepeyac; Mary told him to pick flowers blooming atop the hill and put them in his cloak to take to the bishop. When Juan opened the cloak, the flowers fell out and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorned his garment. This miraculous image is preserved in the famous basilica in Mexico City. Juan lived out his days as a hermit near the first chapel built there; he was canonized in 2002.





A Prayer to St. Juan Diego

St. Juan Diego, our first saint from the Americas, pray for us.
We ask God the Father
to pour forth the protecting love of his Spirit upon all migrants,
taking special heed of those in need of support,
who are isolated or separated from their native lands,
whether by choice or necessity.

St. Juan Diego,
intercede for those torn away from their families in pursuit of work
that they may be reunited: husbands with wives and parents with children.

As the Virgin of Guadalupe promised you
her compassionate prayers for the poor of Mexico,
so now raise your merciful pleading
for migrant women and children
who are particularly vulnerable to the dangers of human trafficking.
Seek for them protection from all evil.

May we, O Blessed Juan Diego, receive through your prayers,
the grace to welcome with love to our country
all migrants who seek a home in our parishes and communities.

And we ask that you join your prayers to those of Our Lady,
who appeared to you as your Mother and as Mother of all in our land.
May she wrap her mantle of protection around all migrant people.

We beg for her love, compassion, help, and protection on all immigrants
who today experience great sufferings, sorrows, necessities, and misfortunes.

In the shared power of Christ
and the union of the Holy Spirit,
we say: Amen.