

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of all the American continents is December 12th. At dawn on December 9, 1531, on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City, Our Blessed Lady appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian (canonized on July 31, 2002, as Saint Juan Diego by Pope John Paul II). While on his way to attend mass he heard sounds of chirping birds and beautiful music, wondering where it was coming from and its meaning. Then he heard a voice calling him. There she revealed herself to him as “the Ever Virgin Mother of the True God,” and made known her desire that a Shrine be built there to bear witness to her love, her compassion, and her protection. She sent him to Bishop Juan de Zumarraga in Mexico City to request her great desire. The Bishop dismissed the humble Indian without paying attention to his story. Two more times Our Lady appeared to Juan, requesting him to deliver the same favor. He did as she asked and finally the Bishop asked for a sign. So, Juan reported this to her and she promised to grant a sign the following morning. On December 12, while on his way to bring a priest to his dying uncle, Our Lady appeared to him for the fourth time. She assured him of his uncle’s recovery and told him to gather fresh roses which he would find growing on the frosty summit of the rocky and barren hill. This done, she arranged the castilian roses in his tilma (cloak) and hurried him to the Bishop, giving him an account of their origin. This is what is known as “The Miracle of the pink roses.” To the Bishop’s amazement, when Juan opened up his tilma before him there was painted upon it a miraculous beautiful image of Our Lady exactly as she had appeared on Mount Tepeyac. The Bishop prostrated himself in veneration and soon after began the building of the Shrine on the top of Mount Tepeyac. The Basilica in Mexico City is the most important Shrine to Our Blessed mother, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe in all the American continents. Juan Diego’s cloak, marvelously preserved, can still be seen behind the main altar in the new Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is near the original Basilica site she requested. Millions from all over Mexico and the world make their way to venerate Our Blessed Mother and to implore her intercession. She stated to Juan, “Am I not here as your Mother?”

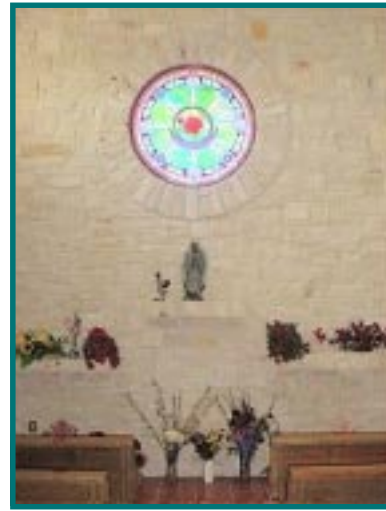


The 6' stain glass logo above is located in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on the same property.

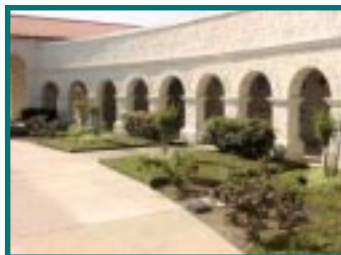


La fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la Patrona de todos los continentes americanos, es el 12 de diciembre. Al amanecer el día 9 de diciembre de 1531, en la Colina de Tepeyac y cerca de la Ciudad de México, Nuestra Bendita Señora se le apareció a Juan Diego, un indio azteca (canonizado el 31 de julio de 2002, como San Juan Diego por el Papa Juan Pablo II). Mientras iba caminando para asistir a la misa, él oyó sonidos de pájaros gorjeando y música hermosa, preguntándose de dónde venía y qué era su significado. Entonces oyó una voz que le llamaba. Allí mismo se reveló a él como “la Madre del Verdadero Dios,” e hizo conocer su deseo que un Santuario se construyera en aquel lugar para atestiguar su amor, su compasión, y su protección. Ella lo mandó al Obispo Juan de Zumarraga en la Ciudad de México para solicitar su gran deseo. El Obispo despidió al humilde indio sin prestar atención a su historia. Nuestra Señora se le apareció a Juan dos veces más, solicitando que le comunicara su deseo. Él hizo como ella le pidió, y finalmente el Obispo le exigió una señal. Juan le informó a ella, y ella prometió darle una señal la mañana siguiente. El 12 de diciembre, mientras que caminaba para traerle un sacerdote a su tío agonizante, Nuestra Señora se le apareció por cuarta vez. Ella le aseguró de la recuperación de su tío, y le dijo que recogiera rosas frescas que encontraría creciendo en la cumbre helada de la colina rocosa y árida. Hecho esto, ella misma arregló las rosas castellanas en su tilma (capa), y ella lo apresuró que fuera al Obispo, dándole el informe de su origen. Esto se conoce como “El Milagro de las rosas.” Al asombro del Obispo, cuando Juan abrió su tilma antes de él, allí estaba pintada sobre la tilma la imagen hermosa de Nuestra Señora, tal como se le había aparecido en el Monte de Tepeyac. El Obispo se postró en veneración y en seguida comenzó a edificar el Santuario en la cima del Monte de Tepeyac. La Basílica en la Ciudad de México es el Santuario más importante a Nuestra Bendita Madre, bajo el título de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en todos los continentes americanos. La tilma de Juan Diego, maravillosamente preservada, todavía se puede ver detrás del altar principal en la Basílica nueva de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la cual está cerca del lugar original de la Basílica que ella le solicitó. Millones de personas de todas partes de México y del mundo hacen la peregrinación para venerar a Nuestra Bendita Madre e implorar su intercesión. Ella le dijo a Juan, ¿”No estoy aquí que soy tu Madre?”

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine was dedicated on June 3, 2000. It is the fruit of collective dreams, with the guidance of Rev. T. R. Blanco, O.S.A., artistic design of Port Arthur's Douglas Clark, architectural design by Architectural Alliance, Inc., Beaumont, TX, and construction by Pelco, Inc. of Liberty, TX. The 17' bronze statue in patina color was sculptured by artist Miguel Angel Macias, from Mexico City, and Douglas Clark. It is set directly on top of rocks brought to Port Arthur from the Mount Tepeyac, Mexico City, Mexico, where the Virgin appeared to Saint Juan Diego. The 7' bronze statue of Saint Juan Diego, sculpted by the same artists, was placed on the shrine site November 2, 2001. 'Cantamos Con El Corazon' is the dedication hymn. 'We Sing This Gift To You' is the English version. Compositions are by Ramon A. Solis, a parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Shrine website by SOLISTX is www.patx.us/olgchurch



Shrine Chapel



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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SHRINE



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