

How Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish was started



Our statue of Mary as she overlooks the Mary Garden.

In 1970 Msgr. John Lunney was assigned the task of establishing a parish in West Anchorage. "With the help of Our Lady and her Divine Son...our 'mark' will be evident in suburban Anchorage...to their everlasting glory." Msgr. Lunney wrote these words to the small group of Catholics meeting at Turnagain Methodist Church. Within six years a Parish Center was built to meet the spiritual, social and educational needs of the community.

Over the decades the parish continued to grow. A new rectory and covered walkway were added. One More Time Thrift Store was established to raise money for the building of an actual church and the Hispanic Catholic Community, led by Father James Murphy, moved their Spanish Mass to the Parish Center.

In 1994 Msgr. Lunney retired and Father Michael Warfel (now Bishop of Billings, Great Falls, Montana) arrived at Our Lady of Guadalupe. Under his guidance the Hispanic Community merged with the existing parish, uniting the groups both physically and spiritually. Unable to build a church at the time, minor renovations were made to accommodate the needs of the growing parish.

In the new millennium the parish began to consider their needs and their ability to afford a new building. They did not give up or forget Msgr. Lunney's words to them. Funds were raised, plans approved and on September 21, 2003, the parish held a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the worship space we celebrate in today. The new church was dedicated on December 12, 2005, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

***taken from the Dedication Ceremony Booklet



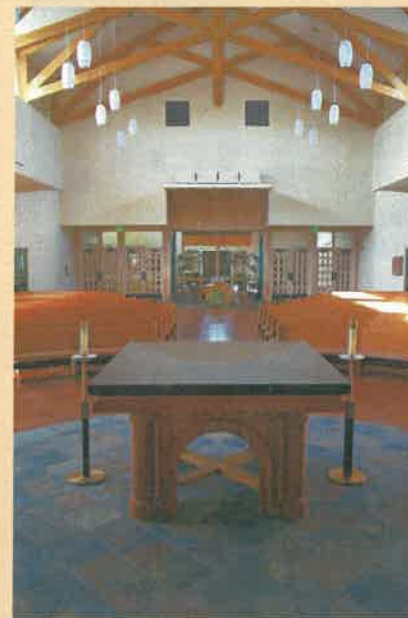
WITHIN THESE WALLS

A self-guided tour of the signs, symbols and treasures of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

The Architectural Style is in the spirit of the Spanish mission churches built by the Spanish Franciscan Friars from Mexico to California as early as the 1700s.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
3900 Wisconsin Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99517
Email olg@olgak.org
Website www.olgalaska.org

**pictures taken by Ron Nicholl Photography
www.pbase.com/rnicholl



Altar. Our altar is made of black granite and cherry wood. The use of the stone and wood in the altar design is intended to remind us that the altar stands as the place of our shared meal, wherein we become what we consume, the body of Christ. Relics of three saints reside within the base: Saint Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897), the patron of missions for Alaska; Saint Louise de Marillac (1591-1660), co-founder

along with St. Vincent de Paul of the daughters of charity; and Saint Eugene de Mazenod (1782-1861), Bishop of Marseilles and founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



Ambo- The table of the word, located behind the altar and one step up, ensuring that the entire assembly will be able to see, hear and receive the proclamation of God's word in liturgy.



Baptismal Font-It is common to see Catholics putting their fingers in the Holy Water font as they enter church and making the sign of the cross. The font is designed to accommodate full immersion baptisms common at Easter Vigil.



The **Book of the Gospels** is enthroned in a place of honor, so that the Good News is accessible to all who enter and is a testament to our faith as Disciples of Christ.

Notice that the Ambo, Altar and Baptismal Font are all in line, indicating the connection between our Baptism, Eucharist and the Word of God.



The Narthex is the main entrance hall. It is a gathering area for the faithful as they prepare to enter the worship space.



Stations of the Cross- Our current stations were created by a parishioner's son to fulfill part of his Eagle Scout requirements. They are located in the narthex of the church.



The **wooden Crucifix** in the Guadalupe Chapel was hand carved in Italy in 2009. The four symbols at each point of the cross represent the four evangelists (writers) of the Gospel. The winged man symbol is for St Matthew and is called the divine man, since he teaches about the human nature of Christ. The winged lion is for St Mark since he informs us the royal dignity of Christ. The winged ox is for St. Luke since he deals with the sacrificial aspects of

Christ's life. The eagle is associated with St. John, since his gaze pierces far into the mysteries of heaven.

The Chapel has an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as well as a statue of St. Juan Diego. There are **votive lights** that parishioners can light representing a sign of their faith as a petition of prayer.



Book of Intentions- Here parishioners record their special prayers. This book is brought up to the altar with the bread and wine at each Mass



Confessional-the place for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You can either talk to the priest face to face or from behind a privacy screen.



The Assembly Area is arranged on three sides around the sanctuary to acknowledge and affirm the presence of Christ in those gathered for the celebration of worship, thus enabling us to experience the nature of what we do in the liturgy with "full, conscious, and active participation."



The Paschal Candle in our church is lit at Easter Vigil and remains lit through the fifty days of Easter. Then it is kept next to the baptismal font.

Presider's Chair is the chair in which the priest sits during the Mass.



Stained glass windows behind the main altar were inspired by the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The major border panels of deep blue are studded with stars like Our Lady of Guadalupe's mantle. There are 12 panels in number, like the stars in her crown. The deep amber color, ladder-like design emulates the angel's wings in her Guadalupe visage and echoes Juan Diego's words, "I am a nobody. I am a small rope, a tiny ladder...."



The Processional cross is a mobile cross used in the procession and recession of liturgical ministers. Our processional cross was made from the former crucifix in the old church.



The gifts of bread and wine are taken to the Altar during the offertory. They become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.



Lord of the Miracles: There is, perhaps, nothing more Peruvian than The Lord of the Miracles, or El Señor de los Milagros. Tradition has it that in 1651 a slave who had converted to Catholicism painted the depiction of Christ on a cross on the wall of a building in the outskirts of Lima. When a devastating earthquake struck the city four years later the entire building collapsed except for the wall adorned with the painting.

The Crucifix portrays the Mystical Christ present among the People of God. Christ's throne is the rainbow, symbol of His



kingdom of peace. His glory is expressed by the decorative circular aura, His saving Passion, by the cross. The symbols for the six days of creation (left, top, right) suggest that "all things were made by Him" (John 1:3). The seven flames represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, "whom the Father will send in my name and who will teach you all things" (John 4:26)



The Ambry-is a cabinet that holds the Sacred Oils. **Chrism** is used in Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. **Oil of the Catechumens** is used when the Catechumens are initiated into the Faith. **Oil of the Sick-** is used in the anointing of the sick. We receive new Sacred oils every year just before Holy Week.



Rose window- A circular window embellished with tracery that is symmetrical around its center. The rose is meant to represent the flowers that were arranged in Juan Diego's tilma by Our Lady of Guadalupe



Tower Bells- solid brass bells that were a gift from the state of Michoacan in Mexico. **Carillon-** Is the music you hear that comes from the bell towers. It plays music during the day as well as special hymns during other times of the year.



Credence table- A side table for articles used at mass. **Sacramentary-** The presider's book; the part of the Roman Missal containing mainly the Mass prayers and rubrics, excluding the readings. **Lectionary-** The "collection of readings" (Scripture) assigned by the church for liturgical proclamation.



Chalice- A cup that holds the wine.

Paten- A flat saucer that is used for the host

Monstrance - a container for the host in exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The glass-sided, removable receptacle at its center actually holds the host.



Pyx- The container that holds the communion host outside of church and mass. It is used by Eucharistic ministers when they take Communion to the sick.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament, which is used in our ministry to the sick and for adoration. The tabernacle is surrounded by wood corona. The candle is lit as long as the Blessed Sacrament is in the tabernacle.



Ciborium- Container for the consecrated Communion hosts, resembling the chalice except for having a cover.

Censer- A vessel for burning incense at solemn ceremonies. It's rising smoke symbolizes prayer. It's also called a thurible, a thurifer being its user. The supply container for the incense is called a boat.



Liturgical Colors

Green- hope growth, life-used during Ordinary time
Red- sacrifice, Holy Spirit. Used on commemorations of our Lord's Passion (Passion Sunday, Good Friday) Pentecost
Violet- sorrow, penance, preparation. Used during Advent and Lent
White-innocence, purity, joy-used during all occasions of joy. (like Christmas and Easter) We have seasonal banners that hang by the Baptismal Font



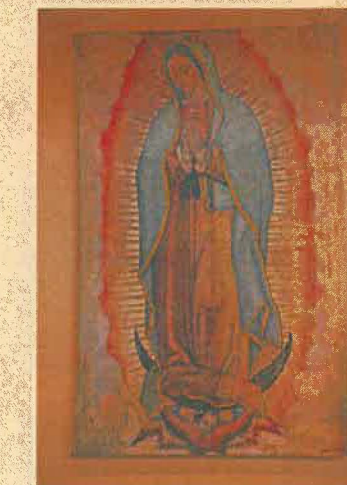
Alb- A long, loose fitting tunic worn under other vestments.
Chasuble- The external garment worn by the preside at the mass.
Stole-A sign of priestly office, worn in the celebration of sacraments; a narrow strip of cloth worn over the shoulders.



Altar Cloths-
Corporal-A square piece of cloth placed on the altar and upon which the chalice and paten are placed.
Finger Towel-Used for the rite before the



Eucharistic prayer.
Purificator- A cloth used to cleanse the chalice.



The Portrait and the Tapestry of Our Lady of Guadalupe

From December 9 to 12, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared three times to Juan Diego. Although it was winter, she told him to gather roses to bring to the bishop as a miraculous sign. When Juan Diego opened his cloak before the bishop, Our Lady's image was imprinted on it. To this day, the miraculous image is displayed in the Basilica in Mexico City



Our Lady of Pochaev
The original icon of Our Lady of Pochaev was given to us by the Russian Orthodox Bishop as a gift for our church dedication. Pochaev is in the western Ukraine and the history of this devotion dates from the 13th century.