



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



THIRD SUNDAY OF

Advent



DECEMBER 11, 2022

“Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

MATTHEW 11:4-5

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2022

Am I not Your Mother?

This coming Monday is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, so this is a good opportunity to reflect a little on the message of Guadalupe. There are countless ways to approach this event, but we are going to focus on two particular points, the humility of Juan Diego and the motherhood of Mary.

The story of Guadalupe is about a series of apparitions that our Blessed Mother made to a Native American named Juan Diego or Cuauhtlatoazin (Talking Eagle). There is a key statement that Juan Diego makes during these events, and we will paraphrase it, "I am nothing, I am a nobody". Without dwelling too much on the details of the story, basically Juan Diego has been given a task by our Lady, to convince the Bishop that first she has truly appeared to him and, secondly, she has requested a church be built at the top of a hill called Tepeyac. Juan Diego is having great difficulties fulfilling his mission and he expresses his frustration. Basically he says, "send someone else, I am a nobody, a person of no importance". The Spanish translation is "Yo soy cola, Soy gente menuda" (I am the tail end, I am one of the little people).

Juan Diego is the embodiment of the great virtue of humility. He recognizes his own littleness. Littleness is a major component of the theology of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. She makes a statement not unlike that of Juan Diego, "I have always felt, in comparing myself with the Saints, that I am as far removed from them as a grain of sand."

Humility is not about thinking about oneself as having no worth. We are, after all, created in God's image, by His great love for us. Humility is about recognizing the awesomeness of God and acknowledging how dependent we are on Him. A humble person seeks a deep connection or relationship with his creator. A humble person does not seek honor or praise from other people, nor is that person offended by human criticism. People's opinion does not matter. The only thing that really matters is the connection one has with God. And that relationship is like that of a child with its father.

Juan Diego is indeed a humble person. He recognizes his littleness. But when he makes the statement, "I am a nobody", he is beginning to doubt his worth. Our Blessed Mother helps him in this moment of doubt. To paraphrase her response "It is precisely because of your littleness that you are the only person who can carry out this task." Mary guides Juan Diego to understand that his true worth is his very own littleness.

Then Mary makes one of the most tender statements we humans have ever heard. She tells Juan Diego, "Am I not here, I, who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy?" Mary reassures Juan Diego as only a mother can. She makes this tender statement to Juan Diego. She makes it to you and me.

Mary, like her son, is the great intercessor. She intercedes for us. She guides us, protects us, she sees that our needs are met. She loves us as only a mother can. And she does this by choice. Twice she is asked to be mother; first, at the Annunciation when she is asked to be mother of our Savior, and then at the foot of the cross when she is asked to be the mother of all of us. Each time she lovingly accepts and embraces her role as mother.

Have you ever felt little? Have you ever felt powerless and overwhelmed by the challenges of life? Have you ever felt like Juan Diego? "I am a nobody." Remember the message of the Beatitudes. When you feel most persecuted, when you mourn, when you hunger and thirst for justice, when you most feel "little", then is when you are most blessed. For it is then that you can learn true humility. Not to get down on yourself but to realize that your worth is in the nature of your relationship with God. And the one person who can guide you through this experience of "littleness" is your Mother. Our Lady of Guadalupe tells Juan Diego "Only you can accomplish this task." In the same way, only you can accomplish the particular task God has given you in your life, your mission. But you can only do this with God's grace. When you get discouraged, turn to Mary who tells you, "Am I not here, I, who am your Mother?"

~ Rico Chapa

Our Lady of Guadalupe

SUNDAY, December 11

Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Time: 11:00 PM

Place: Santa Cruz Church

MONDAY, December 12

Procession from Santa Cruz Church at 5:00 PM.

Arrival at the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Mass at the Chapel at 6:00 PM

with Blessing of New Stained Glass Windows.

The Guadalupano Group of Santa Cruz invites you for dinner at the Chapel Hall following mass.



Posadas Navideñas 2022

The posadas will take place from
December 20-23.

At 6:00 p.m. at the following places:

Tuesday, December 20th

Begin at: Our Lady of Guadalupe Capilla
(409 E. 31st Street, 3rd & 31st)

Rejection at: Casa Maria

Accept: Limon Family – 237 E. 23rd Street

Wednesday, December 21st

Begin at: Limon Family – 237 E. 23rd Street

Rejection at: Portillo Family – 1050 S. 3rd Avenue

Accept: Leon Family – 1001 S. 5th Avenue

Thursday, December 22nd

Begin at: Leon Family – 1001 S. 5th Avenue

Rejection at: Ahumada Family – 22 W. 20th Street

Accept: Galaz Family – 450 W. Armijo Street

Friday, December 23rd

Begin at: Galaz Family – 450 W. Armijo Street

Rejection at: Salazar Family – 440 W. 23rd Street

Accept & Mass: Santa Cruz Church

1220 S. 6th Avenue

The Annual Catholic Appeal –
 Our parish goal is \$40,340, currently we have collected \$22,856 that is (57% of our goal). The Deadline is December 31st. Please prayerfully consider making your tax deductible donation to help us meet our parish goal.
 To give use your smart phone and Text ACA to 41444 ~ OR ~ visit www.cathfnd.org/donate
 Thank you and God bless you Fr. Stephen.

Stewardship Reflection

It seems everywhere we turn in the weeks leading up to Christmas, we are pushed to spend more, do more and entertain more-all to create a "Perfect" Christmas. Is it really about the number of shiny boxes? Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our priorities. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember to give back to God and to those that are in need. Right now, the Annual Catholic Appeal is in need of your support. Their ministries and programs are so vital to every parish, including our own. Please join Santa Cruz in supporting the ACA. When we share our gifts in the name of Jesus there will always be more than enough.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Grieving during the Holidays

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Bereavement Group at Santa Cruz Church has developed a video on the topic: "How to cope during the holidays while grieving"
 If you are interested in viewing this video here is the link:
<https://youtu.be/DgMM1IK1AvY>



Poinsettia Donations
 Poinsettia donations are greatly appreciated to decorate the church for Christmas.
 Thank you and God reward you!

Donaciones de Noche Buenas
 Necesitamos y apreciamos donaciones de noche buenas para decorar la iglesia para la Navidad. Gracias y que Dios te recompense!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 10th

8:00am Carlota Ramirez/R.I.P.
 5:30pm In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus/
 Int. Carlos & Lily Contreras/R.I.P.

Sunday, December 11th

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners
 8:00am Jasun Crespo/Happy Birthday
 10:00am Peter Martinez/Happy Birthday
 12:00pm Johnny Lopez, Jr./R.I.P.
 6:00pm Lydia Llamas/R.I.P.

Monday, December 12th

Ignacio & Hilda Vega & Walter Vega/R.I.P.
 8:00am Jesus Alfredo Franco/R.I.P.

Tuesday, December 13th

In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima/
 Int. Souls of infants, victims of abortion/R.I.P.
 8:00am Lucy Flores & Gabriel Chacon/R.I.P.

Wednesday, December 14th

Mother Maria, O.C.D./Improved Health
 8:00am Special Int./Jeanette & Estela Amado

Thursday, December 15th

Mother Maria, O.C.D./Improved Health
 8:00am Charles Kelly/R.I.P.

Friday, December 16th

Mother Maria, O.C.D./Improved Health
 8:00am Fernando Piña/R.I.P.

Parish Collection December 11th, 2022

Collection: \$ 5,052.71

**2nd Collection Carmelite Missionary Sisters:
 \$ 2,130.15**

*Thanking You for Your
 Service to Our Parish*

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish
1220 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email santacruzparish@hotmail.com ~

Sign up for Flock Notes text santacruzaz to 84576
Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Pastor:
 In Residence:

Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.
 Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon & 6 pm

8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: Call the parish office / Llame a la oficina parroquial

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093

COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICE

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Day 1: Viewing and Rosary/Vigil

Day 2: Mass & Graveside Committal



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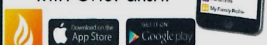
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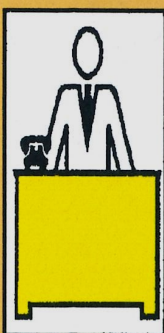
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