



One of the favorite feasts of our Guatemalan parishioners is that of Our Lady of Guadalupe which is celebrated on December 12. It recalls the apparition of Mary to Juan Diego, a poor peasant in Mexico in 1531. Instead of wearing the usual clothing depicted in religious art, she was dressed in native garb and spoke to him in his own language. This image was later imprinted on a *tilma*, a poor quality cactus cloth which remains vibrant to this day.

In many Latin American communities the feast is celebrated with festivals, processions, and special prayers. In some places it is a holiday. Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas.

#### **Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe**

*Holy Mary, who under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
are invoked as Mother  
by the men and women of Mexico and of Latin America,  
encouraged by the love that you inspire in us,  
we once again place our life in your motherly hands....  
With great hope, we turn to you and trust in you*

- (Pope Benedict XVI)