

Getting Ready for Chapter 12

Take Home



We Pray for All People

The early Church experienced the Holy Spirit in many ways. Through the power of the Spirit, we continue to experience Christ's presence. We are committed to nourishing the Spirit's growth through our work and prayer. Devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, is a significant tradition in our faith. Her fidelity and closeness to God makes her the perfect model of faith and charity.

ACTIVITY

Family Spirit Look through your collection of family pictures or videos that capture the spirit of your family. You may notice that some pictures show the family doing something you all enjoy or having a celebration that is important to you. Make sure to share them with the family.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Take note of any Marian images. Ask her to watch over your family and to bring you close to her Son, Jesus.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Juan Diego
(1474–1548)

Juan was a Mexican Indian to whom the Virgin Mary appeared. She asked him to do several things. When he did as she asked, her glowing image was left on his cloak. He devoted the rest of his life to the service of the Virgin Mary.

Feast Day: December 9



A Prayer for the Week

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Help us to remember that the Lord is with us also, at all times and in all places. Help us bring the Good News of Jesus to others as Saint Juan Diego did. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Feast of Weeks *Shavuot*, or Feast of Weeks, was one of the three times during the year that Jews made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. It coincided with the barley harvest. After the destruction of the Temple, Shavuot became a day to commemorate the formation of the Jewish people as they received the Torah and God's covenant at Mount Sinai. It is still celebrated fifty days after the beginning of Passover. The Greek name for Shavuot is Pentecost.

To find out the experience of Pentecost for Mary and the Apostles, read Acts 2:1–13.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Marian Images

Our Lady of Guadalupe Perhaps the Church's most symbolic Marian image is that of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Appearing to Juan Diego in present-day Mexico City, the Virgin Mary's image was miraculously emblazoned on the peasant's burlap apron, or tilma. Its rich symbolism is, probably, foremost in explaining why 10 million people in Mexico converted to the faith within 10 years after the apparitions in 1531.

Among Our Lady of Guadalupe's many symbols, the native features of her face constitute her most impressive trait. Our Lady of Guadalupe came to Juan Diego and the rest of the indigenous peoples speaking and looking like one of their own.