

THREE COMPLETE ROSARY DEVOTIONS

Our Lady of Guadalupe



A Nine-Day Rosary Novena, the historic Forty-Six Rosaries devotion, and How to Pray the Standard Rosary in her honor — gathered together in a single guide.

“Am I not here, who am your Mother?”

Our Lady's words to Juan Diego, Tepeyac Hill, 1531

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PART I

**A Nine-Day Rosary Novena
to Our Lady of Guadalupe**



Before You Begin



In December of 1531, on a hill called Tepeyac outside what is now Mexico City, a widowed indigenous convert named Juan Diego reported that a young woman surrounded by light appeared to him, speaking to him in his own language, Nahuatl, and asking that a church be built on that site in her honor. She identified herself, in the account passed down through generations, as the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of the true God. When the bishop asked for a sign, she sent Juan Diego to gather Castilian roses, blooming impossibly in winter, from the rocky hilltop, and wrapped them in his cloak, or tilma. When he opened the cloak before the bishop, the roses fell away to reveal an image of the Virgin imprinted on the cloth itself, an image still venerated today at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

This novena walks through nine moments of that story, praying a Rosary, or at least one decade, each day in her honor. It is often prayed December 3 through 11, so that the ninth day falls on December 12, her feast, but it may be prayed at any time.

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How to Pray This Novena



Each day, read the day's reflection slowly, then pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for your novena intention, and close with that day's short prayer. For the full Rosary in its ordinary form, see Part III of this guide.

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The Nine Days



DAY 1

The Music on Tepeyac Hill

Before dawn on December 9, 1531, Juan Diego was walking to Mass when he heard, he later said, singing more beautiful than any bird he knew, coming from the top of a barren hill. He climbed toward the sound, uncertain and curious, and it was there that a young woman appeared to him, radiant, and spoke to him gently in his own language. The novena begins the same way that story does: with an ordinary man, on an ordinary errand, made attentive by something beautiful enough to stop him in his tracks.

Today's Prayer

Our Lady of Guadalupe, on this first day I ask for the same attentiveness Juan Diego had, a heart still enough to notice you even in the middle of an ordinary day. Help me to stop, as he did, when something beautiful calls for my attention.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

DAY 2

“Am I Not Here, Who Am Your Mother?”

When Juan Diego later tried to avoid her, ashamed that he had failed to convince the bishop and distracted by his dying uncle, she met him on the path and asked, gently rather than reproachfully, whether he was not under her shadow and protection. Her words, “Am I not here, who am your Mother?”, have become the heart of this whole devotion: a question that assumes the answer before it is even asked.

Today's Prayer

Mother of Guadalupe, when I try to avoid you out of shame or distraction, meet me on the path as you met Juan Diego. Remind me, especially when I feel most unworthy, that I remain under your shadow and protection.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

DAY 3

The Bishop's Doubt, Juan Diego's Obedience

Juan Diego brought the Lady's request to the bishop not once but several times, each time facing polite disbelief from a man who wanted proof before he would act. Rather than growing bitter or giving up, Juan Diego kept returning, both to the bishop and to the hilltop, carrying a message he had no way of proving on his own.

Today's Prayer

Lady of Guadalupe, give me Juan Diego's patience with the doubt of others, and his willingness to keep showing up even when I am not believed. Let me carry what you ask of me faithfully, whether or not I ever see the results.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

DAY 4

The Healing of Juan Bernardino

While Juan Diego avoided the hill to care for his dying uncle, Mary appeared to him anyway and assured him his uncle would recover, which he did that same hour. It was in this moment that she gave herself the title remembered today as Guadalupe, and identified herself as Mother of the true God, tying together, in a single event, physical healing and a deeper revelation of who she was.

Today's Prayer

Our Lady of Guadalupe, I bring to you today anyone I love who is sick, as Juan Bernardino was sick. Heal them according to your Son's will, and let this healing, like his, deepen rather than distract from our faith.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

DAY 5

Roses in December

Asked for a sign, Mary directed Juan Diego to a rocky, frozen hilltop where nothing should have been growing, and there he found Castilian roses in full bloom, out of season and out of place. He gathered them in his cloak, trusting her instruction even though it made no practical sense, and carried them, impossibly blooming, as proof he had not asked for himself.

Today's Prayer

Lady of Guadalupe, you gave a sign that grew where nothing should have grown. I bring you today whatever in my own life feels frozen or impossible, and ask that you make it bloom, in your own time and your own way.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

DAY 6

The Sign on the Tilma

When Juan Diego opened his cloak before the bishop, the roses fell to the floor, and in their place was an image none of them had painted: the Virgin herself, imprinted on the ordinary cactus-fiber cloth Juan Diego wore. The sign asked for was not simply the roses, but something no human hand could explain, left behind on the plainest of materials.

Today's Prayer

Our Lady of Guadalupe, you chose the humblest possible material to carry your image. Use whatever is humble or unremarkable in my own life, and even in me, to carry something of you to others.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

DAY 7

Mother of a New People

The image left on the tilma bore features neither purely European nor purely indigenous, and appeared to a people in the midst of profound upheaval and loss. In the centuries since, she has been understood as a mother who did not choose one side of a divided world, but stood, quite literally, in between, claiming both.

Today's Prayer

Lady of Guadalupe, mother to peoples who did not yet know how to be one family, help me to see whoever feels foreign or distant to me as someone you claim just as fully as you claim me.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

DAY 8

Patroness of the Unborn

The image of Guadalupe traditionally shows Mary with a dark sash tied at her waist, the sign, in the custom of her time and place, of a woman expecting a child. For this reason she is honored in a particular way as patroness of unborn children and of expectant mothers, carrying within her, even in the image itself, the Christ who was not yet born.

Today's Prayer

Mother of Guadalupe, watch over every child not yet born, and every mother awaiting one, especially those carrying fear or hardship alongside their hope. Protect life at its most hidden and most vulnerable.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

DAY 9

Empress of the Americas

What began with one man on one hillside has become, across five centuries, one of the most visited Marian shrines in the world, and Guadalupe has been named patroness of Mexico, and of the Americas as a whole. The novena closes where the story itself points: not to an ending, but to a devotion still very much alive, still gathering pilgrims to the same hill.

Today's Prayer

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas, I thank you for these nine days spent in your company. Place my intention finally into your hands, and keep me, from this day forward, under your shadow and protection.

Now pray a Rosary, or at least one decade, offering it for today's intention.

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A Closing Prayer



Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the true God, as this novena comes to its close, I thank you for walking with me through these nine days as you once walked with Juan Diego. Keep me always under your shadow and protection, and lead me, as you have led so many before me, ever closer to your Son. Amen.

“Am I not here, who am your Mother?”

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PART II

The 46 Rosaries to Our Lady of Guadalupe

A Historic Devotion



The History of This Devotion



The devotion of the Forty-Six Rosaries dates to the nineteenth century and to Monsignor Antonio Plancarte y Labastida, Abbot of the Collegiate Church at Tepeyac, built on the very hill where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego. Wishing to honor her with a devotion tied directly to her own image, he established the custom of praying forty-six Rosaries in her honor, one for each of the stars traditionally counted on the mantle in the image of Guadalupe.

The devotion begins on October 28 and concludes on December 12, her feast day, a span of forty-six days that joins October, the Church's traditional month of the Rosary, to the culmination of the Guadalupan feast itself. It remains a living tradition today, kept by confraternities and individual households alike.

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How the Devotion Is Prayed



One Rosary is prayed each day for forty-six consecutive days, October 28 through December 12. The mysteries follow the Rosary's own traditional weekly rhythm, so that each day's set of mysteries is simply whichever set is assigned to that day of the week.

Day of the Week	Mysteries Prayed
Monday & Saturday	Joyful Mysteries
Tuesday & Friday	Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesday & Sunday	Glorious Mysteries
Thursday	Luminous Mysteries (<i>if prayed; added to the Rosary in 2002, after this devotion's origin</i>)

For the full form of the Rosary, including each set of mysteries in detail, see Part III of this guide.

The Daily Offering Prayer



Pray this before beginning each day's Rosary during the forty-six days.

O Most Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, I offer you this Rosary as one more star gathered toward the forty-six that shine upon your mantle. Accept it, Mother, as a sign of my faith and love, and through it obtain for me (name your intention). Amen.

A Consecration for December 12



Pray this on the feast day itself, at the close of the forty-six days.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, forty-six days of Rosaries have carried me to this feast. I thank you for every star of prayer offered along the way, and I place myself under your protection for the year now beginning. Keep me faithful to your Son, and let this devotion, ended today, take root as a lasting habit of prayer in my life. Amen.

PART III

How to Pray the Standard Rosary in Her Honor



Before You Begin



The Holy Rosary belongs to no single devotion; it is the Church's own prayer, prayed the same way the world over. Yet it has a particular place in the story of Guadalupe: it was through the Rosary, carried in the hands of missionaries and ordinary believers alike, that her memory was kept alive across five centuries. This part of the guide gives the Rosary in its ordinary, universal form, offered here for use in her honor.

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Opening Prayers



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

On the Crucifix

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

On the First Large Bead

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

On the Next Three Small Beads

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Prayed three times, traditionally for an increase of Faith, Hope, and Charity.)

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Four Sets of Mysteries



One set of five mysteries is prayed per Rosary, according to the day of the week.

Mysteries	Day	Events Recalled
Joyful	Mon & Sat	Annunciation • Visitation • Nativity • Presentation • Finding in the Temple
Sorrowful	Tue & Fri	Agony in the Garden • Scourging • Crowning with Thorns • Carrying of the Cross • Crucifixion
Glorious	Wed & Sun	Resurrection • Ascension • Descent of the Holy Spirit • Assumption • Coronation of Mary
Luminous	Thu	Baptism in the Jordan • Wedding at Cana • Proclamation of the Kingdom • Transfiguration • Institution of the Eucharist

Praying Each Decade



For each of the five decades: announce the mystery, then pray the following on the beads.

On the Large Bead: One Our Father
On the Ten Small Beads: One Hail Mary Each
Then: One Glory Be

Optionally, After Each Decade

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

Closing Prayers



Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

In Her Honor, to Close

Am I not here, who am your Mother? Under your shadow and protection I place myself, and all that I have and all that I do, today and every day, and especially at the hour of my death. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us. Amen.