

D I O C E S E  
of NEW ULM

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Office of the Bishop

January 18, 2023

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

In December 1531, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to an Aztec Indian, Juan Diego, on Mount Tepeyac, which is on the outskirts of modern-day Mexico City. Mary appeared there for one reason, "it was the will of God." It was God's will that He would use this most powerful image imprinted on the tilma of Juan Diego, where the original is currently displayed in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

As many scientists of various disciplines, theologians, and scripture scholars have studied this image for centuries, there is a common interpretation that it was immediately understood by the Aztec people of that time. In 1474 there was a great temple dedicated in Mexico City to the earth goddess, and an estimated 80,000 people were sacrificed in a four-day period. This practice of human sacrifice continued until the time of the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary appears as an indigenous woman . . . "clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars," (*Revelation 12:1*). She is pregnant with the Son of God and clothed in the colors of nobility. Following the apparition, thousands converted every day, which led to an estimated 14 million converting to the Catholic faith.

I urge you to study this image of Our Lady and place it in your homes and parishes as a reminder of God's will for promoting the beauty, goodness, and truth of human life as it flows from the hand of our Creator. Mary's "yes" to the Archangel Gabriel is a "yes" to the redemption and announcement from God that it is His will to declare that all life is sacred from conception to natural death.

As the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and commissioned him as a "protector of the holy family," the Incarnation, we share in this same calling. I urge you to pray, in your actions like St. Joseph, in your voice like the prophets to declare all life is sacred.

January 22, 2023, marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. As the Supreme Court overturned this landmark case, there is a victory in the protection of the unborn in our nation. However, many states are advancing legislation to codify legal abortion without restrictions. The Protect Reproductive Options Act (PRO Act) has been introduced in the legislature and would remove all protections and prevent any restrictions on abortion in the state of Minnesota. I provided testimony against SF1, the Senate version of this bill, at a committee hearing on January 10, 2023. I urge you to pray, fast, and contact our elected officials and strongly urge them to vote against this proposed legislation.



God created each person for greatness, and may we honor that this greatness by God's design and choice begins in the womb, where his Son started his earthly journey. Every person is created in the image and likeness of God. Their life matters, and God has a mission and purpose for them.

Thanks for your prayers, fasting, and support!

In Christ,



Most Rev. Chad W. Zielinski  
Bishop of New Ulm

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**Clouds** — In the image, the Virgin is surrounded by clouds, showing that she is from heaven. The indigenous greeted people they believed came from God with the expression: “Among fog and among clouds.”

**Sun** — There are three suns represented in the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The first sun, not visible in the image, is cosmic, casting light on the Virgin’s left side and creating a shadow. Golden rays from the second sun, behind her, signify that she is the “Mother of Light” and greater than the Aztec sun god, whom she eclipses. The third sun is represented by the four-petaled flower on her tunic, indicating that she is about to give birth to the “Almighty Sun.”

**Cross medallion** — Around her neck, Mary wears a gold medallion engraved with a cross. For indigenous people, the medallion symbolized consecration, so the medallion around Mary’s neck meant that she was consecrated to Jesus.

**Hands** — The indigenous people expressed prayer not only by the hands, but by the whole body. In the image on the tilma, Our Lady of Guadalupe is shown in a position of dancing prayer, with her knee bent in movement.

**Mantle and tunic** — Mary’s rose-tinted, flowery tunic symbolizes the earth, while her turquoise, starry mantle represents the heavens. The mantle also indicates that she is royalty since only the native emperors wore cloaks of that color.

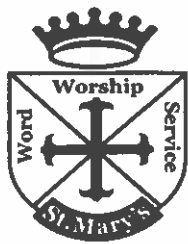
**Black ribbon** — The black ribbon around Mary’s waist shows that she is expecting a child. For the Aztecs, the trapezoid-shaped ends of the ribbon also represented the end of one cycle and the birth of a new era.

**Flowers** — Nine golden flowers, symbolizing life and truth, adorn Mary’s dress. The flowers are made up of glyphs representing a hill and a river. The indigenous people considered hills the highest points of encounter between God and people. Viewed upside down, the flowers take the shape of hearts with arteries coming out, representing life, which originates from God.

**Four-petaled jasmine** — The only four-petaled flower on Mary’s tunic appears over her womb. The four-petaled jasmine represents the Aztecs’ highest deity, *Ometéotl*. While *Ometéotl* remained distant, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe shows that the one true God chose to be born of a woman, making himself accessible to all.

**Moon** — The Virgin stands on a crescent moon. The Aztec word for Mexico, “Metz-xic-co,” means “in the center of the moon.” The moon also symbolizes the Aztec moon god, fertility, birth and life.

**Angel** — An angel with eagle’s wings appears below Mary’s feet. According to Aztec belief, an eagle delivered the hearts and the blood of sacrificial victims to the gods. The angel holds up the pregnant Virgin, signifying that the child in her womb is the offering that pleases God. *Source: Secrets of the Image website, Knights of Columbus, [www.secretsoftheimage.org](http://www.secretsoftheimage.org)*



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

St. Mary's School, Sleepy Eye, MN

January 28 – February 4, 2023

*Forming Faithful Disciples*

*Since 1883*



Saturday, Jan. 28

5:30pm Mass - Elementary/Middle School students singing  
Guest Speaker at Mass



Sunday, Jan. 29

9:30am Mass - High School *Schola Cantorum* singing  
Guest Speaker at 7:30 and 9:30am Masses



Monday, Jan 30

Spirit Day

Drive-by Doughnuts for Parents 7:20-8:00am  
Classes go to Adoration in main church 8:00am – 3:00pm

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Cozy/Comfort

Elementary School Service Projects - During Day  
Service Projects 1:40-3:15pm



Wednesday, Feb. 1

Jersey Day

Divine Mercy Chaplet/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 2:30pm  
Family Fun Night 5:00 -7:00pm (see other side for details)



Thursday, Feb. 2

Dress-up Day

All- School Mass and St. Blaise Blessing 8:15am

Variety Show 1:45pm (estimated time)

School Adoration Hour in St. Francis Chapel 4:00pm (regular wkly)



Friday, Feb. 3

Color Day

Shared time with Elementary/Middle-High School 9:15-9:45am

Business Appreciation Day - Staff delivers cookies to businesses

MHS Blood Drive 11:00am-5:00pm in St. Mary's Field House

Prize announcement at 2:50pm







# Catholic Schools Week FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

**All are Invited to Celebrate with us!**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2023**  
**5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic School**

## School Cafeteria

5:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner (SMS Chicken Bowls, cookie and milk)  
\$8/served

6:00-7:00 p.m. BINGO

## Gym

Dodgeball Tournament  
(sign up at school)

## Auditorium

3-on-3 Basketball  
(sign up at school)

## Elementary Library

Mad Scientist Escape Room  
(sign up at school)

## Field House

Obstacle Course  
Bowling  
LEGOS  
Cookie Walk  
Photo Booth – bring your own camera!

Fish Pond  
Tic Tac Toe Bean Bag Toss  
Temporary Tattoos  
Play Dough

**All Activities Free of Cost!**