

Restore the Roots



December

9 St. Juan Diego



In December of 1531, on Mount Tepeyac, Juan saw a beautiful woman surrounded by light. She spoke to him in his native language, revealing herself as the Virgin Mary and calling him her "dear little son." She asked him to go to the bishop, and request that a church be built on the hill in her honor. Despite his efforts to deliver the message, the bishop doubted his story. Mary appeared again and instructed him to gather Castilian roses from the hillside—out of season in December—and take them to the bishop as proof. When he opened his tilma before the bishop, the roses fell to the ground, revealing a miraculous image of what we now know as Our Lady of Guadalupe imprinted on the fabric. This event led to the construction of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the mass conversion of the indigenous people. If you aren't local to the Shrine in La Crosse, consider planning a pilgrimage to visit it, even if it has to happen in the New Year. To celebrate today, try the recipe on page 2.

11 St. Damasus I



This lesser known pope from the 4th century, St. Damasus' pontificate was marked by challenge, heresies and even an antipope. He was ordained in Rome and followed Pope Liberius into exile. He was elected as Bishop of Rome (pope), but others elected another pope, an antipope. Trying to get the antipope removed, St. Damasus called a council and yet, supporters of the antipope fabricated lies about St. Damasus, from which he had to clear his name and then was installed as pope. Known after his death as a faithful and learned Pope, he was rarely recognized as such during his lifetime. As a lover of scripture, to honor St. Damasus, commit scripture to memory. We've given 24 scripture verses on the back. Pick a few to learn. Or memorize one each day of Advent!

18 Ember Days Start



As highlighted in the September issue, Ember Days are days of preparation and fasting following a feast day. December's Ember days are the 18, 20, and 21, following the feast of St. Lucy. Wednesday and Saturday are days of fasting; one meal can be with meat. Friday is a fasting day with no meat. Offer prayers of thanksgiving for the harvests. Pray for priests and more vocations to the priesthood.

26 St. Stephen



St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr and one of the first ordained deacons. His witness and execution is recorded in Acts Chapter 7, which describes his forgiveness of his killers and his death by stoning. St. Stephen's testimony was a major influence in the later conversion of St. Paul (Saul of Tarsus). His feast day is December 26. As he is the patron saint of deacons, you can celebrate his feast by praying for the deacons in your lives and writing them a card to express your gratitude for their service. December 26 is also known as "Boxing Day", which stems from a European tradition of the wealthy giving boxes of gifts and money to their servants and workers. St. Stephen ministered to the poor, so it would be appropriate to honor his feast with an act of charity, whether it be offering treats to your mailman, shoveling an elderly neighbor's driveway, or giving a donation to the food pantry.

Traditional Monthly Devotion: Immaculate Conception

Editors Note: This issue is shorter because our reflection page about the liturgical season is the first page of the Advent issue and we wanted to make this issue a "light" version so that you can fully enter into Advent.

DEC. 9



Cream Cheese Chicken Chili

Try this easy, Mexican inspired meal for the feast of St. Juan Diego. Crockpot recipes can be great for a busy weeknight but still allow us to celebrate a saint's feast day!

Ingredients

1 15oz can black beans drained
1 package ranch dressing mix
1 can corn
1 tsp cumin
1 10oz can Rotel tomatoes
1 tbsp chili powder
1 tsp onion powder
1 8oz block cream cheese
2 chicken breasts
Optional: tortilla chips, shredded cheese, sour cream, and green onions

Directions

1. Place chicken in the bottom of the crockpot and cover with the beans, corn, and Rotel.
2. Top mixture with ranch packet and other seasonings.
3. Place cream cheese on top, cover, and cook on low for 6-8 hours.
4. Once chicken is at least 165F remove chicken to shred it and place back into soup.
5. Serve with tortilla chips, shredded cheese, sour cream, and/or green onions!

In the beginning,
God created the heavens and
the earth. *Genesis 1:1*

**When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.**

Psalms 56:3

Oh give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good;
his mercy endures forever!
Psalms 118:1

**Great is our Lord, and
abundant in power;
his understanding is
beyond measure.**

Psalms 147:5

You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.
Isaiah 26:3

**But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become
children of God.**

John 1:12

**Sanctify them in the truth; your
word is truth. *John 17:17***

And they said, "Believe in the Lord
Jesus, and you will be saved, you
and your household." *Acts 16:31*

**Since all have sinned and fall
short of the glory of God.**

Romans 3:23

Rejoice in your hope, be patient in
tribulation, be constant in prayer.
Romans 12:12

**So faith, hope, and love abide,
these three; but the greatest of
these is love. *1 Corinthians 13:13***

Let all that you do be done in love.
1 Corinthians 16:14

**Rejoice always, pray constantly,
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-17***

Abstain from every form of evil.
1 Thessalonians 5:22

**"He must increase, but I must
decrease." *John 3:30***

We love, because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19

"I am the way, and the truth,
and the life. No one comes to
the Father, but by me."
John 14:6

**But the Lord is faithful. He
will strengthen you and
guard you from evil.
*2 Thessalonians 3:3***

For God did not give us a
spirit of timidity but of power
and love and self-control.
2 Timothy 1:7

**Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday and today and for
ever. *Hebrews 13:8***

Let every man be quick to
hear, slow to speak, slow to
anger; *James 1:19*

**And we have seen and
testify that the Father has
sent his Son as the Savior
of the world.
*1 John 4:14***

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and
where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.
2 Corinthians 3:17

**So each of us shall give
account of himself to God.
*Romans 14:12*** 2

Editors: Msgr. Richard Gilles and Natalie Elskamp
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