

Prayers for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Scripture Focus: Zechariah 2:14–17 (Rejoice, Daughter Zion), Luke 1:26–38 (Announcement of the Birth of Jesus), or Luke 1:39–47 (Mary Visits Elizabeth)

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Father . . .

Leader: Today we honor Mary under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In this reading, God tells us that Mary is especially blessed because she brought Jesus into the world.

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Reader then reads one of the Scripture passages above from Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics.

Leader: We ask Mary to pray for us because she is so close to Jesus. Let's honor Mary by telling her, over and over, "Blessed are you, Mary."

All: Blessed are you, Mary.

Leader: Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, you are the mother of Jesus.

All: Blessed are you, Mary.

Leader: Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, you are our mother too!

All: Blessed are you, Mary.

Leader: Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, you are the patroness of all the Americas: North America, Central America, and South America!

All: Blessed are you, Mary.

Leader: We love you and honor you as the Mother of God and as our mother always.

All: Blessed are you, Mary.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Today we honored Mary under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Let us thank her for all her love and care for us.

All: Thank you, Mary, for loving us as your children, the brothers and sisters of Jesus. Thank you for your appearance to Juan Diego, and for the beautiful picture you left on his *tilma* (cloak). Thank you for the December roses that you left as a sign of your presence. Pray for all of us, your children of the Americas.

Amen.



Ritual Guide

Opening Prayer

Preparation

Find a picture, even a small holy card, of Our Lady of Guadalupe to place in the Bible corner. You may also want to have a map or globe available to point out North America, Central America, and South America. Choose a reader to read one of the passages given in the Scripture Focus for today.

Optional: Choose an appropriate Marian hymn or song to begin and end the prayer.

Gather

Gather your group in the Bible corner. Point out the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and explain that we are honoring her especially today. Using the map or globe, if possible, ask volunteers to point out North America, Central America, and South America. Ask the middle schoolers if they have family members living in any of these countries. Distribute the prayer handouts. Briefly rehearse the prayer response.

Pray

Begin with the Sign of the Cross as indicated. Introduce the reading with the words given, or in your own words. Collect the prayer handouts and set them aside for the closing prayer.

(An activity for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe can be found in chapter 10 of the *Breakthrough! Leader Guide*.)

Closing Prayer

Preparation

This prayer is based on the story of the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego. Briefly tell the story, or ask volunteers to tell the story.

Gather

Gather the group in the Bible corner. Explain that in this prayer we are thanking Mary for her love and concern for the people of the Americas. Point out the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe. If you have not already done so, ask volunteers to point out North America, Central America, and South America on a map or globe.

Pray

Lead the group in prayer.

Optional: End with the song you chose for the opening prayer.

