



# San Antonio Byzantine Catholic Community

Meeting at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church  
1202 S. Zarzamora St., San Antonio, TX  
December 10, 2017  
27th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome guests. Please sign the guest book in the back of the church. If you would like to be added to our mailing list leave your email address. Please stay and visit after Liturgy. Visit [www.stanastasiasa.org](http://www.stanastasiasa.org). Also please leave your email in the guest book so you can be added to the mailing list.

Please join us for hospitality in the church after Divine Liturgy. Always good conversation and a variety of treats.

.St. Alphonsus Parish has registered with Amazon Smile. When you buy something on Amazon, log on to Amazon Smile instead of Amazon, select St. Alphonsus San Antonio and 0.5% of what you spend will be donated to the Church. It costs you nothing and the prices etc. are the same as when you log into the regular Amazon site.

Please keep Peter Northrop in your prayers. Peter is moving to Malaysia and has left this week. Pray that he will be safe and successful. Also, pray for our seminarian and altar server Eumir who will be leaving this week for a visit home to the Philippines. Pray that Eumir has a safe and happy visit with his family and friends over the holidays.

While it is not a Feast that is generally celebrated in our tradition, Dec. 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is a very important Feast Day for our neighbors of Mexican heritage as Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of Mexico. Let us pray for our Hispanic neighbors.

Here is the schedule for the Liturgical Feasts through January 1, 2018 that we agreed to last Sunday. Please make a note of these dates and times.

Vigil for St. Anastasia — Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.  
Divine Liturgy for Synaxis of the Theotokos — Tuesday, December 26, 7:00 p.m.  
Divine Liturgy for Feast of Circumcision — Monday, January 1, 9:00 a.m.

Jesus Christ Son of God Pray for Me a Sinner.

We always need help. If you are interested in being a reader or altar server or singing in the choir please see Fr. Ramon.

Please put the books on the table by the entrance door. Drop your donation in the basket on the counter.

Dec 3			
Attendance		37	
Collection		\$659	
12/1/17	St. Alphonsus	Dec. Facilities	\$500

Fr. Ramon J. Gonzalez, O.P.  
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Readings for the 30th Week After Pentecost

12/11	2 Timothy 2:20-26	Mark 8:11-21
12/12	2 Timothy 3:16-4:4	Mark 8:22-26
12/13	2 Timothy 4:9-22	Mark 8:30-34
12/14	Titus 1:5-2:1	Mark 9:10-16
12/15	Titus 1:15-2:10	Mark 9:33-41
12/16	Ephesians 1:16-23	Luke 14:1-11

February 20-Mar.3, 2018, Fr. Elias will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Petra to visit the sites of our Lord's life, death and resurrection. If you are interested contact Fr. Elias at St. John Chrysostom.

Please keep Nancy Sandrock in your prayers as she continues her medical treatments. Also keep the entire Sandrock family in your prayers.

# The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe



The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story.

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

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## Reflection

Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples. In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance for the indigenous population. While a number of them had converted before this incident, they now came in droves. According to a contemporary chronicler, nine million Indians became Catholic in a very short time. In these days when we hear so much about God's preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself.