

Saint of the Week for December 3, 2017

Feast Day: December 9

Interesting Fact: This saint was first called *Cuauhtlatohuac* - which means “the eagle who speaks”!

Profile:

- This saint is forever linked to Our Lady of Guadalupe because it was to him that she originally appeared on Tepeyac hill on December 9, 1531.
- When this saint approached Tepeyac, a small hill and former sanctuary to the Aztec goddess Tonanzin, Mary appeared to him in a vision and requested that the local bishop build a church on that site.
- The local bishop didn't believe him at first and asked for a heavenly sign. On the day Mary promised him that he would receive a heavenly sign, his uncle Juan Bernardino was dying of a disease introduced by the Europeans. Instead of going to the Lady for this sign, our saint took another route, looking for a priest to hear his uncle's confession.
- The Lady appeared to him, assuring him that his uncle had been healed, and that on the top of Tepeyac hill he would find what the bishop requested. He climbed the hill and found the top of it covered with beautiful flowers of all colors. He cut the flowers; the Lady arranged them on his cloak of very coarse fiber, known as a *tilma*, and sent him off to the bishop.
- When he unfolded the *tilma* before the bishop and his assistants, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on it. A visit to his uncle revealed that Mary had appeared to him, healed him and called herself “Our Lady of Guadalupe.”
- Thousands of people gathered in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City on July 31, 2002, when Pope John Paul II canonized this saint .



Who am I?