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FROM THE PASTOR

Tuesday, December 12th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Here are few facts and ways the Aztecs were converted to Christianity because of our Lady. Our Lady of Guadalupe which means Crusher of the serpent's head, brought the light of the true faith, crushed the false gods of Mexico, and established an era of peace. The Image of Our Lady is actually an Aztec Pictograph which was read and understood quickly by the Aztec Indians.

- 1) THE LADY STOOD IN FRONT OF THE SUN - She was greater than their dreaded sun-god "Huitzilopochtli".
- 2) HER FOOT RESTED ON THE CRESCENT MOON - She had clearly vanquished their foremost deity, the feather serpent "Quetzalcoatl".
- 3) THE STARS STREWN ACROSS THE MANTLE - She was greater than the stars of heaven which they worshipped. She was a virgin and the Queen of the heavens for Virgo rests over her womb and the northern crown upon her head. She appeared on December 12, 1531, for the stars that she wore are the constellation of stars that appeared in the sky that day!
- 4) THE BLUE-GREEN HUE OF HER MANTLE - She was a Queen for she wears the color of royalty.
- 5) THE BLACK CROSS ON THE BROOCH AT HER NECK - Her God was that of the Spanish Missionaries, Jesus Christ her son.
- 6) THE BLACK BELT - She was with child for she wore the Aztec Maternity Belt.
- 7) THE FOUR-PETAL FLOWER OVER THE WOMB - She was the "Mother of God." The flower was a special symbol of life, movement and deity – the center of the universe.
- 8) HER HANDS ARE JOINED IN PRAYER - She was not God but clearly there was one greater than Her and she pointed her finger to the cross on her brooch.
- 9) THE DESIGN ON HER ROSE-COLORED GARMENT - She is the "Queen of the Earth," for she is wearing a map of Mexico telling the Indians exactly where the apparition took place.

Fr. Basil Torrez died last week. He was well known here in western Kansas, as he served several of these parishes. His funeral will be on Tuesday, December 12th at 11am, St. Michael's Parish in Collyer. Eternal rest grand unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

**Please note this change:** On Tuesday, December 19th, Bishop Vincke will be visiting our parishes. It also happens **St. Paul's** communal penance service is Tuesday evening. In addition to confessions, Bishop Vincke will be giving a short talk. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of if you will be participating in the penance service.

**The Advent Confession schedules** are at the entrances of the church. Please refer to them for confessions at each of the parishes in the West Deanery.

**ST. JOSEPH NEWS**

St. Joseph Christmas program will be Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7:00. All are welcome!

**D of I - Monthly meeting** of St. Catherine Circle, Oakley, will be held Thursday, December 14, 1:00 p.m., at the parish annex. Plan to stay after the meeting for our annual Christmas party. Hostesses Janet Zerr and Brenda Weiser.

**The Oakley K of C council** will be taking orders for Breakfast Burritos. These burritos will contain potatoes, sausage, eggs, and cheese. The cost will be \$30 for ½ dozen. You must pre-order before Friday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. (Tony 846-8010 or Mike 672-7406) The burritos will be available to at St. Joseph Annex on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. The proceeds will go toward USD 274 Special Education and The Kansas Special Olympics. Thank you for your support!!!!

If you have not received your contribution envelopes in the mail, they should be arriving soon. This will be the new method of distributing contribution envelopes instead of yearly boxes. I believe they will be delivered quarterly. If you did not receive your contribution envelopes and wish to receive them, please contact Fr. Luke as soon as possible.

**ST. PAUL NEWS**

The Night of Prayer for Life will be at St Paul's beginning at 8:00 p.m. on December 12th the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is to go to the Feast of St Juan Diego on December 13th. We are praying for not only the end of abortion but for people to understand why abortion and contraception have not been condoned in by the Catholic Church. The normal format will be followed.

In the middle of Advent, I will put out signup sheets with lists of tasks to be done for clearing out the church on Wednesday, December 27th. Some things that will be generally needed are clean pickup beds to haul to the K of C Hall, basic power tools, a couple ladders, boxes, and carpet remnants to put between the faux organ pipes while they are being stored in the garage.

**Capital Campaign Update:** \$638K pledged and \$321K in the bank. Thank you for your continued support!!!!

**Our Tithes from Last Week**

Oakley: \$3163.00    Angelus: \$2743.67

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

Sat	09 – 5pm Mass + Pauline Zimmerman
Sun	10 – 8am Mass (Angelus) + Don Loader 10:30am Mass - Parishioners
Mon	11 – No Mass 6:15pm School Council
Tues	12 – 8:30am Mass + Raymond Bussen 9:30am Bible Study 8pm Night of Prayer for Life in Angelus
Wed	13 – 7:30am Mass (Angelus) + Special Intention for Pat Wycoff 7pm St. Joseph Christmas Program 7pm CCD classes
Thur	14 – 8:30am Mass + Charles Anderson 1pm D of I Meeting in the Annex
Fri	15 – 7am Mass + Ron Kuhlman
Sat	16 – 5pm Mass - Parishioners
Sun	17 – 8am Mass (Angelus) + Rita Beckman 10:30am Mass + Vesta Ostmeyer

Confessions 30 minutes before Weekend Masses, by appointment, or if indicated on the schedule.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Darin Munk	Mrs. Aimee Zimmerman - Chair
Mr. David Manhart	Mr. Mason Sheetz
Mrs. Penny Pfeifer	Mr. Ethan Schwarz
Mrs. Bridgit Bockwinkel	Mrs. Dana Charles – Vice Chair
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**ST. JOSEPH FINANCE COUNCIL**

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Mr. Darin Munk (Par. Co. Rep.)	Mr. Mark Campbell
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**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COUNCIL**

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**ST. PAUL PARISH/FINANCE COUNCIL**

Mr. Bernard Dickman	Ms. Diane Solomon - Chair
Mr. Clem Fellhoelter	Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
Mrs. Kristy Fellhoelter - Vice Chair	Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Dec 16 <sup>th</sup> 5 pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 am	Servers	CYO
	Lector	Cecilia Brungardt		Lector	CYO
	Gifts	Donita Sparks & Pat Ryan		Gifts	CYO
	Hospitality	Donita Sparks & Pat Ryan		Hospitality	CYO

Sunday, Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> 8 am	Servers	LaRynn & Lettie Rumbach
	Lectors	Bill Kuhlman & Barney Dickman
	EMHC	Gary Ostmeyer
	Gifts	Loren & Teresa Stephens
	Hospitality	Ron Lager, Larry Mense, Gary Ostmeyer & Jeff Ostmeyer