

Sunday, December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

THE GAZETTE



St. Athanasius Episcopal Church

840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026 • (213) 482-2040, ext 201 • www.saintala.org



Advent & Christmas Schedule

December 12, Advent 3 – Virgen de Guadalupe Celebration

8:00am – Las Mañanitas – songs, prayers, stories of the Virgin

9:00am – Breakfast, potluck contributions welcome

10:00am – Bilingual Eucharist, in-person or virtual

Posadas: December 17, Friday, 6:30pm, sponsored by youth; **December 20, Monday, 6:30pm**, sponsored by several families; **December 23, Thursday, 6:30pm**, sponsored by Julio Peña family.

December 19, Sunday, 11:00am, Advent 4 - Love – Virtual Eucharist

December 24, Friday, 5:00pm – Virtual Christmas Eve Eucharist, prelude at 4:45pm.

December 26, Sunday, 11:00am, Christmas 1 – Virtual Eucharist

Worship at St. A, Sundays, 11:00am

Due to the Delta variant surge, services will be all-virtual, except for **hybrid (both in person and virtual) on the second Sunday of each month**. Watch on Facebook Live, [facebook.com/saintainla](https://www.facebook.com/saintainla), and Zoom, <http://us06web.zoom.us/j/98503216673>

Check out St. A's newly rebuilt website for archived and current sermon texts and videos, *The Gazette*, etc. www.saintala.org
Instagram: [saintainla](https://www.instagram.com/saintainla)
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQJfmjT3BhrpQHM2eUN4W5rlvOEW_A_Xeg

L.A. Diocese:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCva0NDh1tfkDNXJxP1NILfA> or
<https://www.facebook.com/LADiocese>

Donate: www.saintala.org/donate

Coming Up at St. A

Food Bank, Fridays, 7am-9am

**TODAY: Advent 3 - Joy
Virgen de Guadalupe Feast Day**

**December 17, Friday Shabbat, 7:00-9:30pm,
St. A Terrace, www.nefeshla.org**

**December 18, Saturday, 9-10:30am
Oasis 2 at St. A.**

Take time to stop, breathe, center, and connect with one's body. Includes self-massage for hands and feet, readings, and quiet time to enjoy simply being.
Led by Gerti Garner and Greta Ronningen.
ggrgarner@gmail.com

**December 19, Sunday, Advent 4 – Love
11:00am – Virtual Eucharist
12:00pm – Sermon Roundtable**

December 25 – Merry Christmas!



Prayers & Thanksgivings

We continue to pray for all affected by COVID-19, the health workers, and physicians and scientists as they research the Omicron variant. **We** continue to pray for nations plagued by violence and war, famine (especially in Afghanistan and N. Korea), drought, volcanic eruptions, and peoples enduring oppression, poverty, hunger, and lack of security and safety. **We** pray for refugees everywhere forced to flee from their homes to places unknown.

We continue healing prayers for Dolores and Fil, for Carminnie, for Gloria, for Van, for Judy G, for Luiza, for Hannah, for Annie, for Markus, for Ramon, for Jerry, for Sue, for Sharon & Jerry. **We** offer deep sympathy to Rosa and Elena and their family on the deaths of their sisters, to the family of Alex killed in an accident, and to the families of the Michigan teens killed in the latest school shooting. **We** give thanks for Mark, Heather's brother, finding stability in his environmental victory, for Christine's successful surgery, and in celebration of Rachel's birthday.

We pray for those alone on the holidays and those mourning the loss and absence of loved ones. **We** pray for those without shelter as the weather turns colder and give thanks for the aid workers striving to alleviate hunger and homelessness.

We pray for the work of the January 6 committee and its progress reporting the truth. **We** pray for the Supreme Court as it considers many life-changing rulings. **We** pray for an end to school shootings and sanity in the gun culture wars.

Congratulations, Carminnie!

Rancho Los Amigos Foundation Artist of the Month - December 2021



Carminnie Doromal

To learn more about Carminnie and to view or purchase her artwork, go to:

www.RanchoFoundation.org/ArtistsOfRancho

Carminnie first came to Rancho in 2016 after a life-changing injury. Soon after she started participating in various visual arts programs offered on campus. Due to limited control of her arms and hands, she began using charcoal as her medium of choice as it allowed her to smudge and blend the work as needed. Her art style of still life and snap-sketch is inspired by the beauty of the environment around her and capturing those moments is one of her greatest joys.



THE APPEARANCES OF THE VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

David Jimenez Bello



Ten years after the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire, on December 9, 1531, an indigenous man named Juan Diego was headed to the Convent of Tlatelolco for mass. At dawn he reached the foot of a hill called Tepeyac. Suddenly he heard music that seemed the chirping of thousands of birds. Very surprised he stopped, looked toward the top of the hill and saw that it was lit with a strange light. The music stopped, and then he heard a sweet voice from the top of the hill, calling to him, "Juanito, beloved Juan Dieguito."

Juan quickly climbed to the summit where he saw the Blessed Virgin Mary in the midst of a rainbow, adorned with celestial splendor. She spoke to him in his Aztec language, Nahuatl, and revealed her desire to have a shrine built there in the plain where, as a pious mother, she would show her love and mercy to him and his family and all who requested it. Juan Diego was to go to Bishop Zumarraga of Mexico and tell him of her desire.

When Juan Diego arrived at the house of Bishop Zumarraga, he told him everything that the Virgin had told him. But the bishop seemed to doubt his words, asking him to come back another day so he could listen more closely.

That same day Juan Diego returned to the top of the hill and found the Blessed Virgin waiting for him. In tears, he told her how he had failed at his task. She asked him to see the bishop the next day, and this time he was more successful because the bishop asked for a sign.

Returning to the hill, Juan Diego gave his account to Mary, and she promised to give him a sign the following morning. But Juan Diego could not fulfill this request because an uncle, Juan Bernardino, was gravely ill.

Two days later, on December 12, Juan Bernardino was dying, and Juan Diego hurried to bring a priest from Tlatelolco. He came to the hillside and opted to go by the east side to prevent the Virgin seeing him go by, and he wanted to meet his uncle first.

To his surprise he saw her come down to meet him. Juan gave his apology for not coming the day before. After hearing the words of Juan Diego, she replied, *"Listen and understand, dear son, let nothing scare and grieve you. Let not your heart be troubled, do not fear this, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? What else do you need? Do not grieve the illness of your uncle, who will not die now of it; be sure that he is already healed."*

When Juan Diego heard these words, he was happy. He begged her to send him off to see the bishop to bring him a sign as proof to believe him. She said, *"Climb, my dear child, to the top where you saw me and I gave you orders. There you will find many different flowers. Cut them, collect them, and bring them to me."*

Juan Diego climbed, and when he reached the summit, he was astonished that such beautiful flowers – nonnative roses - had sprouted. He quickly began to cut them, threw them in his cloak, and brought them before the Virgin. She took the flowers in her hands, arranged them in the cloak, saying, *"My son, here's the signal that you must take to the bishop. You will tell him in my name that he will see my will in the cloak and that he must comply. You are my trust-worthy ambassador. Rigorously I command you to unfold your cloak only before the bishop."*

When Juan Diego was before the bishop and told him the details of the fourth apparition of the Virgin, he opened his cloak to show the flowers, which fell to the floor. At that moment, to the immense

surprise of the bishop and his companions, there appeared the image of the Virgin Mary painted with the most wonderfully beautiful colors on the rough cloth of his cloak.

The same day, December 12, very early, the Virgin appeared at Juan Bernardino's hut to cure his deadly disease. His heart was filled with joy when she gave the happy message that her miraculous portrait on Juan Diego's cloak was to be the instrument that would bring the liberating message of Jesus Christ to their brothers by teaching the divine codex the painting contained. A cloak with its image of a dark woman wrapped in a blue robe scattered with stars and standing atop a crescent moon still hangs in the Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe at the foot of Tepeyac. She became Mexico's patron saint.

Te-coa-tla-xope in the Aztec language means "crush the stone serpent." The Spaniards heard the word from the lips of Juan Bernardino. It sounded like "de Guadalupe." Surprised, they asked themselves why this Spanish name was used. But the favorite sons of America knew well the meaning of the phrase in their native language. This is how the image and the shrine acquired the name of Guadalupe, a title that it has had for four centuries and draws the largest Catholic pilgrimage in the world on her feast day.

A Blessed Christmas to St. A's Family

*Observe and contemplate.
Make real. Bring to be.
Because we note the falling tree
The sound is truly heard.
Look! The sunrise! Wait —
It needs us to look, to see,
To hear, and speak the Word.
Observe and contemplate.
The cosmos and our little earth.
Observing, we affirm the worth
Of sun and stars and light unfurled.
So, let us, seeing, celebrate
The glory of Love's incarnate birth
And sing its joy to all the world.*

*Observe and contemplate
Make real. Affirm. Say Yes,
And in this season sing and bless
Wind, ice, snow; rabbit and bird;
Comet and quark; things small and great.
Oh, observe and joyfully confess
The birth of Love's most lovely Word.*

— Madeleine L'Engle, *Miracle on 10th Street and Other Christmas Writings*

**Love God. Love Your Neighbor.
Change the World.** 
The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.