



December 8, 2020

I had not planned to send a “Lighting the Way” while the students were all gone home for their ‘winter break’. I’m hoping that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. You are probably now getting things ready for Christmas – baking, cleaning, and writing Christmas letters. But, this past week has two special feasts of our Blessed Mother, and I did not want to let those feasts go by without sharing a little about them. Today, Dec. 8th, is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. This is the day that we commemorate that Mary was born free of original sin, and it is nine months before her birthday on September 8th.

This week, Saturday December 12th, we will celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. It was on that day that our Blessed Mother appeared to a young boy, named Juan Diego and told him to tell the bishop to build a church on that site. The bishop paid no attention to what the young boy said, so our Blessed Mother told Juan to gather some roses that were growing there and give them to the bishop. This was not the season for roses to grow there, but when the young boy brought his cape to the bishop to show him the roses, an image of Our Lady appeared where the roses had been. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002. This feast is special for the people who are our neighbors to the south. Let’s take time this week to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus, and ask her to bless us all, the people in Guadalupe and all over the world.

Shortly after Christmas on December 28th is the **Feast of the Holy Innocents**, the day that we recall that King Herod attempted to destroy the Child Jesus. Herod ordered his troops to kill every male child under the age of two in Bethlehem, but Joseph had been warned in a dream to take the family into exile to spare the life of the child. Many innocent children were killed by Herod’s troops. The Holy Family went to Egypt and stayed there until they heard that Herod had died.

Blessings to you and all your family!

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