



# ADVENT

## Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

*1474–1548*

**Feast Day—December 9**



Baptized at about age 50, this Mexican Indian was walking to Mass on December 9, 1531, when Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City. Speaking in his native language of Náhuatl, she asked him to petition the bishop for a shrine to be built there. But the bishop asked for a sign. On December 12, Juan returned to Tepeyac; Mary told him to pick flowers blooming atop the hill and put them in his cloak to take to the bishop. When Juan opened the cloak, the flowers fell out and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorned his garment. This miraculous image is preserved in the famous basilica in Mexico City. Juan lived out his days as a hermit near the first chapel built there; he was canonized in 2002.

