



DEC
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Our Lady of Guadalupe



What do you need? Tell Our Lady of Guadalupe!

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What if someone told you to go to city hall and tell the mayor to put up a new building in the center of town? Sounds crazy, right? But that's a little like what happened to Juan Diego.

On a December morning in 1531, Juan Diego was walking to Mass when a beautiful lady appeared to him. She said she was Mary, the Mother of God! Mary asked Juan Diego to tell the bishop she wanted a church built on the spot.

What could Juan Diego do? He was a humble peasant — he'd never even met the bishop. He did as Mary asked, but the bishop didn't believe him and wanted proof that it was really Mary. Things got worse for Juan Diego when his uncle became sick. The man was dying. As Juan Diego hurried to find a priest, Mary appeared again. "My dearest son," she said gently, "what do you need?" Juan Diego told her everything. Mary explained that his uncle would be cured. (And he was, at that very moment!) She told Juan Diego to gather some flowers blooming nearby and bring them to the bishop as a sign. Again Juan Diego did as Mary asked. At the bishop's house, when Juan Diego opened his cloak, or *tilma*, the flowers spilled out, and an image of Mary appeared on the *tilma*.

You've probably seen this image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her picture is still on Juan Diego's

tilma, centuries later! And it is on display — in the church she asked to be built in Mexico.

Many people celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe by getting up early in the morning for a procession (that's like a parade) into Mass. They bring flowers, sing songs, and after Mass, share delicious food. This celebration reminds us that sometimes it might seem like doing God's will is impossible. But Jesus and his mother Mary are always with us, loving us and giving us strength.



CONNIE CLARK is editor of *Living Faith Kids*, a magazine of daily Catholic devotions for children. To learn more, visit LivingFaithKids.com.

CELEBRATE GOD'S GIFTS! As Juan Diego found out, doing God's will isn't always easy. But Jesus has given us many gifts—like his mother Mary—to help us. Jesus also gives us the gift of his body and blood in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Here we receive God's special strength, wisdom, and courage to help us do his will. Finish the puzzle to see how much you know about this most amazing gift!

ACROSS

3. One of the blessings of the Eucharist is receiving God's own life within us, also called sacramental ____.

5. We can receive the Eucharist at every ____.

7. Transubstantiation means that the bread and wine still look, smell, and taste the same, but they truly become Christ's Body and ____.

9. Jesus says, "I am the bread of ____." (John 6:35)

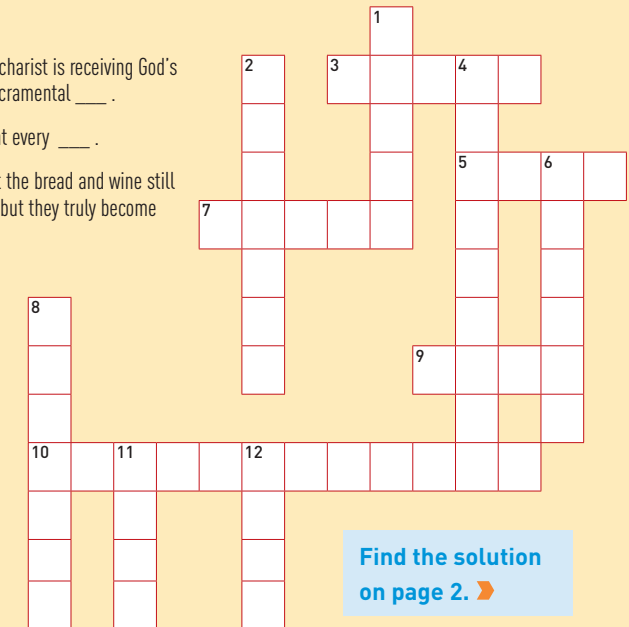
10. The word *eucharist* means _____. (Hint: It's another word for being grateful.)

DOWN

1. In the Eucharist, Jesus himself is truly present in the ____ and wine we receive.

2. Another name for the cup in which Jesus' Precious Blood is served to us.

4. Another name for this sacrament is Holy ____.



Find the solution on page 2. ➔

6. Jesus gave us the Eucharist at a special meal called the Last ____.

8. Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist can't be completely explained in words; it is a great ____ of our faith.

11. We say this word prayerfully when we receive the Body of Christ.

12. Besides receiving the risen Jesus' Body and Blood, we also receive his ____ and his Divinity.

Celebrate God's Gifts!

solution

