

**From the Pastor**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**August 28, 2022**

**THE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHAPEL**

Last Sunday, I wrote a little reflection on the Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Chapel. The reader may recall how it was noted that the chapel was originally the Baptistry of the Church. Some may even remember the stained-glass windows depicting the different elements of baptism: the shell, the candle, etc. That window now depicts the life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the mysteries of the Rosary. The artist for the window is the same artist who did both the windows of St. Peter and St. Francis of Assisi in the narthex. His style is very recognizable. The windows are classical, but with a sense of modernity in that one can look through them and see the outdoors.

At one point in our parish history, the pastor wanted to have a Children's room. It was decided that the baptistry would be the Children's Room. The baptismal font was removed and placed in the sanctuary, in a place that was not suited to be the place of Holy Baptism. The Baptistry was sealed up in glass walls and doors and a very narrow window was placed inside. It was not a suitable place to attend Mass. The tight closing of the glass made the room, if I may use the words of one of our parishioners, "a petrie dish for diseases." Toys were kept there which the little ones placed in their mouths. The year of my arrival, I removed the toys from the room because the Entero-14 Virus was raging among children and was being spread through saliva. An irate mother telephoned that I was being cruel to the children, but that was not my intention. I simply wanted to be of some help in lessening the spread of the virus. Now we have a very large, airy, and light Children's Room for the little ones. It is the Narthex (vestibule) of which I will write next week. How happy I am to see a father with his 19-month-old son in the Narthex every Sunday. The sound system works in the narthex, but it is soundproof. Best of all the families and little ones can see the Mass and participate as though they were in the Church. Another irate parent wrote that the pastor had taken away the Children's Room, only to replace it with "yet another shrine of Mary." I am very sorry that it took so long to finish the Narthex, but the Covid and lack of materials and transportation delayed everything by 18 months.

Now we come to the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In the year 1531 Our Blessed Mother appeared at the very center of the American continents. She appeared to a poor Aztec named Juan Diego who was 58 years old at the time. She asked that a chapel be built where she stood on the Tepeyac Hill just north of Mexico City. As a sign of her presence, she left her image on the cloak of Juan Diego. There the cloak has remained even to our own day – 491 years. It is the most

visited place in all the world. During the three days surrounding the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 9<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup> over three million people pass before the image. Our Lady's last words were, "Am I not here who am your mother? What else do you need?" In the chapel is a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe which is from Mexico. There is also a picture of St. Juan Diego. Because Our Lady came to us at Guadalupe to answer our prayers, it is in that Chapel that we may write our needs and petitions to Our Lady in the Intention Book.

At one time this chapel, like that of the Divine Mercy, was a confessional. The church was built with four confessionals. Now there are two and they are in the transepts of the Church. A parishioner wrote at the time of the building of the chapels that it was a shame that the pastor was taking out the confessionals and making it hard to go to confession. There are two confessionals remaining which is very good for a parish with only one priest. With the confessionals in the transepts, it gives more privacy to the penitents.

Next week I will write about the Narthex and the Chapel of the Divine Mercy.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Our Annual Parish Picnic will be on Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12 noon. It will be a fun filled afternoon of good food, games for the children, music, and meeting up with fellow parishioners. All are most welcome. The picnic is given as a small token of Thanksgiving to all our parishioners.

*In Jesus and Mary,*

*Monsignor Pereda*