



CONQUEST

ADVENT + LENT WEEKLY ACTIVITY



INSTRUCTIONS: Print out a copy for the apparitions – one for each squad.

SQUAD 1 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



One Saturday in 1531, at the beginning of December, near Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, an Indian named Juan Diego heard his name called from up on the hill. He went up to find a very beautiful woman, with a dress on that was as bright as the sun. Juan Diego was a very simple man. He lived close to that place with his uncle. He lived in an effort to serve God, and when he heard the Blessed Virgin's message, the only thing he wanted to do was to pass it on. The Blessed Virgin told Juan Diego that she wanted a church built there to help defend the inhabitants of the land. She wanted them to invoke her and trust in her as a Mother. So, she sent Juan Diego to see the bishop, but the bishop didn't believe him. The Blessed Virgin appeared to him once again, and when she saw Juan Diego concerned and saddened about the health of his uncle, she told him, "Don't let your heart be saddened and full of anguish. Am I not here, who am your mother? Am I not your help and protection?"



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The Blessed Virgin told Juan Diego to go to the hill and cut some colored roses that he would find growing there, in spite of the fact that it was winter. She told him to bring them to the bishop as a proof. He did so, and when he unfolded his garment to show the flowers to the bishop, a precious image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was revealed there. The bishop immediately believed and began the construction of the church.

This image of the Blessed Virgin is venerated today in Mexico with immense devotion, and it is known for its many miracles. Pope John Paul II declared Our Lady of Guadalupe "Patron and Empress of America."

Remember to give important facts about the time, place, and circumstances of the apparition, the people to whom the apparition occurred, the message transmitted, importance of the apparition and its message for our times.



SQUAD 2 OUR LADY OF LOURDES



On February 11, 1858, a girl who was very poor, very humble, and very devoted to the Blessed Virgin named Bernadette Soubiroux was going out to gather firewood in a field close to a small town named LOURDES, in France. The river was very high, and she was not allowed to go into the cold water because she suffered from asthma. So, her companions went across, while she stayed behind and prayed the rosary. Suddenly, a light appeared upon a rock, and the girl saw a beautiful, very young lady approach, dressed in white with a blue sash around her waist, two roses on her feet, and a rosary in her hands.

The Blessed Virgin invited Bernadette to continue visiting her, but the townspeople did not believe in the apparition.

The Blessed Virgin asked us for three things:

1. To pray hard for sinners.
2. To turn from our sins and change our lives.
3. To make sacrifices.

The Blessed Virgin caused the river water to cure illnesses when it was drunk by the people, even though it had previously been contaminated. The Blessed Virgin appeared about fifteen times, and she repeated that it was necessary to pray more for sinners. Bernadette died at the age of thirty-five as a nun, and she was declared a saint.

Today, thousands of people go to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, and they continue to experience miraculous cures.

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SQUAD 3

OUR LADY OF FATIMA



On May 13, 1917, three poor children, Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia, were shepherding their sheep in a field called Cova de Iria in the town of Fatima, Portugal. At noon they got together to pray the rosary (they prayed to the Blessed Virgin often and helped the poor). As they prayed, upon a nearby tree, a beautiful lady appeared, dressed in white, with her hands folded holding a rosary. She invited them to go to that place to pray on the 13th of every month. She continued appearing to them over the course of six months. No one believed

the children, and they were called liars and even jailed. Yet, the children continued maintaining that they had seen the Blessed Virgin. One day, Mary opened hell before them, and they saw many souls falling there. She said, "Many souls are condemned because no one prays and makes sacrifices for them." Mary announced that if people did not change their lives, great catastrophes would occur, but if they did pray, Russia would become converted to the true religion. On October 13, 1917, the last apparition took place. About 100,000 people gathered together at the place of the apparitions. It rained all morning, but the people stayed and continued praying. Suddenly, the sun came out, and all the people saw it start spinning toward earth and then return once again to heaven. They immediately began to shout and cheer, for many sick people were cured. Millions of people continue to go to Fatima to pray, and the statue of Our Lady of Fatima is replicated in almost 30,000 churches. Her main message was prayer and sacrifice for sinners, and repentance from our sins, which so displeased the Lord. Other messages included praying the rosary for peace in the world and offering sufferings to Jesus for the conversion of sinners when we experience them.

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SQUAD 4

OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL



On November 27, 1830, the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Catherine Labouré (France), a humble Vincentian religious. She appeared dressed in white. Next to her was a glowing globe over which hung a cross. Our Lady opened her hands, and luminous rays flowed from her fingers toward the ground.

Mary said to St. Catherine, “This globe is the world where my children live. These light rays are the graces and blessings that I pour out upon those who invoke me as mother. I feel very happy to be able to help the children who ask me for protection, but there are many who never invoke my help. Many of these precious rays are lost because people pray to me infrequently.”

Around the head of the Blessed Virgin, a halo formed with these words written on it: “Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.” Then she said to Catherine, “Make a medal depicting what you have seen. Everyone who wears it will feel the protection of the Blessed Virgin.” Then an “M” appeared, and a cross appeared on it. Underneath it appeared the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

This is now what is engraved upon the miraculous medal, which was first struck immediately after the apparition in Paris and to which many miracles of every sort are attributed throughout the world.

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SQUAD 5

OUR LADY OF LASALETTE



In 1846 in La Salette, France, two humble shepherds went out to take care of their sheep. Their names were Melania and Maximin. They were tough and brusque, for they had not received much education, but nonetheless they were innocent and pure like mountain water.

Suddenly, they saw a bright globe descend from heaven. It opened, and in the middle of it Our Lady appeared. She was crying, and she seemed to be like a mother mistreated by her children. They were moved when they saw her, and they heard her say, “My Son’s arm of justice is very heavy, and it is about to fall on the world. I am no longer able to contain it. If people don’t obey God’s law, I will have to let it fall, and it will bring sadness to the earth.

“The Lord gives us seven days, and he only asks us for Sunday. Nonetheless, people don’t respect this day and they continue working. They use innumerable bad words in their conversations and at moments of irritation. Leave aside these sins, or great misfortune will occur.”

The people didn’t pay attention to these messages of the Blessed Virgin, and in the years 1846 and 1847, there was a great famine in the region. The harvests were ruined, and a typhoid fever epidemic broke out, affecting more than 20,000 people in that area.

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