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# OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSENGER

THE MIR CENTER OF WESTERN COLORADO

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*For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel..." (Mt: 1:20-23)*

**Our Lady of Medjugorje's  
Monthly Message of  
November 25th, 2022:**

*Dear children! The Most High has sent me to you to teach you prayer. Prayer opens hearts and gives hope, and faith is born and strengthened. Little children, with love I am calling you: return to God, because God is love and your hope. You do not have a future if you do not decide for God; and that is why I am with you to guide you to decide for conversion and life, and not for death. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

On the 25th of each month, Our Lady gives a message through the visionary Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti for the villagers in the parish of Medjugorje and for all those who choose to follow her on the path to holiness.



The Nativity

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## Rosa Mystica and the Hour of Grace

from Medjugorje.org

During the period of November 24, 1946 to December 8, 1947, the Blessed Mother appeared to Sister Pierina in a little church in Montichiari, Italy, eleven times. On the first appearance the Blessed Mother told Sister Pierina She wanted to be known as the "Mystical Rose", and that an hour of grace should be kept at noon, December 8th, in all the Catholic Churches of the world. The Blessed Mother wanted this to be known through all of Italy, and the entire world.

It was November 16, 1947 when Sister Pierina was finishing her thanksgiving after Holy Communion when she saw a great light. She then saw a vision of the Blessed Mother as "Mystical Rose". Sister Pierina was so deeply moved by the stunning beauty of Our Lady that she began to talk to Her. All of a sudden a gentle force made her kneel down in front of Our Lady. The Blessed Mother spoke these words, ***"My Son is so greatly offended by the sins of the people, especially by the sins of impurity. He is already planning to send the deluge upon the people, for their destruction, but I have asked Him to show mercy, and not send the destruction. So that is why I have appeared, to ask for penance and atonement for the sins of impurity."***

Again, Our Lady asked for penance. She said, ***"Penance is nothing more than accepting all our crosses daily willingly. No matter how small, accept them with love."*** At this time She told Sister Pierina to come again December 8th at noon, ***"This will be my Hour of Grace."*** The Sister asked how she was to prepare for this Hour of Grace? To which the Blessed Mother said, ***"With prayers and penance. Pray the 51st psalm with outstretched arms three times. During the Hour of Grace, many spiritual graces would be granted. The most hard-hearted sinners will be touched by the grace of God."***

The Blessed virgin promised that whatever a person asked her for during this Hour of Grace (even in impossible cases) would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the Will of the Eternal Father.

It was December 7th when Sister Pierina felt the urge to go to church. This time she was accompanied by the priest and the Mother Superior. The Blessed Mother appeared with a young boy and girl dressed in beautiful white clothing. Sister Pierina was sure these little ones were angels because they were so beautiful. The Blessed Mother said, ***"Tomorrow I will show you My Immaculate Heart, which is so little known among the people."*** She asked people to pray for Russia. ***"There are so many people being held prisoners, which their families know nothing of, because they have been gone for so many***

***years. Pray for the conversion of Russia. The suffering of the soldiers and their sacrifices and martyrdom will bring peace to Italy...The little children are Francisco and Jacinta. I am giving them to you as your companions. You will have much to suffer for my sake. I want simplicity and goodness from you, as of these little children."*** The Blessed Mother blessed Sister Pierina, the priest and all those who were gathered there.

On the morning of December 8th, people began arriving at the little church at 8:00 in the morning from neighboring towns. By noon, some 10,000 people had gathered to see the Blessed Mother, many of whom had to stand outside because the church did not have enough room for the large crowd. Sister Pierina was accompanied to church by her mother and brothers, the Mother Superior, and the Chief of Police from Montichiari. Sister Pierina was reciting the Rosary with the crowd in the middle of the church. Suddenly a brilliant white light appeared from the ceiling. Stairs were coming from the light down to the floor of the church, about fifteen feet in length. The staircase was beautifully decorated with red, white and yellow roses. The Blessed Virgin appeared so radiant, dressed in white, with Her hands folded. She was standing on a splendid carpet at the top of the stairs, made of the red, white and yellow roses.



In the Most Gentle and Loving Voice, Our Lady smiled and began to speak, ***"I am the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of all graces, and the Mother of my Beloved Son, Jesus. I want to be known as the Mystical Rose. My wish is that every year on the 8th December, at noon, an "Hour of Grace" will be installed. Many spiritual graces and physical blessings will be received by those who pray, undisturbed, during this hour."*** Then, slowly, She began to descend the staircase, gracefully scattering roses as She went along, until She reached midway of the staircase. Here again the Blessed Mother spoke, ***"I am very happy to see this great demonstration of Faith."***

Sister Pierina asked for many of the sinners to be forgiven. The Blessed Mother replied, ***"My Divine Son will show His Greatest Mercy as much as the people will pray for them. I want this to be known and told to the Pope (Pius XII). Tell him I want him to install the "Hour of Grace" through the whole world, and even those who are not able to go to church during this hour, will receive the same graces by praying during this time in their home at noon time."*** She also asked that a Statue be made and placed on the spot where She stood. This should be called the "Rosa Mystica", and carried in a procession through the town, at which time many graces will be given and cures will take place. Then the statue is to be returned to the church. Our Lady prayed for the sick, some will be cured – others not. Many men,

(Hour of Grace continued on page 6)

**From the Diary of Sister Emmanuel**

www.childrenofmedjugorje.com

On October 25th, 2022, the visionary Marija received the following monthly message:

***“Dear children! The Most High permits me to be with you, and to be joy for you and the way in hope, because mankind has decided for death. That is why He sent me to keep instructing you that without God you do not have a future. Little children, be instruments of love for all those who have not come to know the God of love. Witness joyfully your faith and do not lose hope in a change of the human heart. I am with you and am blessing you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”***

***Praying for Our Deceased Loved Ones***

November is not over! It is beautiful to see how much the Croatian people take their deceased loved ones to heart. Cemeteries here look like blossoming colorful gardens! And above all, masses and prayers are said every day for the deceased. This is a great act of charity towards those who have left this world before us and it is something that we can all do.

In the 80s, the visionaries told us that one day, at the time of the apparition, they saw the Blessed Mother moving amongst the crowd that prayed with them, and she blessed all those present. But they also noticed that she was making a sign of the cross on some people's foreheads, people of different ages. So, they asked her why she was doing this to some people and not to others? She told them that she was doing this on the foreheads of those who would soon die. Through this simple motherly gesture, we understand that Mary mysteriously prepares each of her children to present themselves before God.

Sometimes, signs are given regarding the imminent departure of some people. I know a priest who devotes a lot of time to prayer. One day as he was walking to the church in Medjugorje, he saw Father Slavko about 10 meters away from him. Suddenly, he saw Fr Slavko's body turn into a skeleton. Shocked by this vision, my priest friend tried to catch up to Father Slavko, but he had already walked ahead. Of course, the priest applied himself to praying a lot for his fellow priest, because he saw this sign as a warning. And indeed, just a few days later, at the end of a Way of the Cross at the top of Mount Križevac, to everyone's surprise, Father Slavko gave up his soul to God.



**Sister Emmanuel**

**Fr. Slavko's advice**

On November 24th, Father Slavko was born in heaven. On the anniversary of his birth into heaven, I wish to share with you a powerful piece of advice he gave in his homily about the danger of slander, speaking ill of your neighbor and indulging in malicious conversations. Here are his words in essence:

“When you see someone committing a sin, or you hear that someone has made a mistake, you

quickly pick up your phone and tell your friends, "Look at what so-and-so did...!" No! Don't do that! I suggest another attitude, that of a Christian: Take your phone and tell your friends: "You know, I heard bad news! Someone has committed a significant mistake and I am very saddened. I do not want to tell you now what it is, nor who it is, but I suggest that you pray a novena and fast with me for this person, so that God will help him. I can assure you that you will lose many of your friends!"



**Ivanka, Marija, Ivan and Fr. Slavko**

This is how Father Slavko would evangelize. He always invited us to experience a very hands-on conversion. As a good confessor, he helped us detect the bad habits that we may have without even realizing it which defile our souls. As we became aware of our transgressions, he helped us to get rid of them. On November 24th, many villagers walk from Cerin, his native village, to his grave, begging him to intercede powerfully for peace in our hearts, peace in our families and peace in the world.

***Nasty gossip is detestable!***

Maria Simma was a simple peasant girl from Vorarlberg in Austria. She had a special charism: she saw souls suffering in Purgatory come to her and ask for prayers. They presented themselves as normal people, dressed in the work clothes they had on earth. Maria Simma, told me about it during my conversations with her. She actually had the gift of seeing souls suffering in Purgatory. She said that gossip, and even more so slander, were great sins with consequences that can be disastrous. You can destroy a reputation, or even drive someone to suicide. Because of this sin, many souls



*(Sister Emmanuel continued on page 6)*

## Fr. Calloway to Priests & to All: Pray the Rosary!

by Patti Gabriella from DetroitCatholic.com

*Fr. Don Calloway was once a homeless teenager following the Grateful Dead, smoking marijuana and wandering the country. He went through a dramatic conversion to the faith after reading a book about Medjugorje. Recently, he spoke at the major seminary in Detroit.*

What's tiny and delicate at first sight, yet packs a powerful punch in the battle against Satan? For Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, that's easy: the rosary.

During a Nov. 10 talk at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Fr. Calloway, a Catholic convert, author of 15 books and renowned speaker, brought his love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the holy rosary to Detroit as part of the seminary's Lay Ecclesial Ministry speaker series, reminding hundreds in attendance that the rosary is a powerful weapon.

"It doesn't look like much," Fr. Calloway said, holding up his rosary. "But what God sees and what Our Lady sees and what the angels see is that what I'm holding in my hands is a weapon. A powerful weapon."

Such language might seem aggressive or militaristic to some, Fr. Calloway said, but the rosary isn't a weapon the same way that a sword or gun might be.

"It's a spiritual weapon because the powers that we're up against are not the powers of man," Fr. Calloway explained. "St. Paul says we're in a spiritual battle. So yes, this is a weapon, but a spiritual weapon. The origin of this is from heaven itself."

In his talk, Fr. Calloway launched into the history of the rosary and the power it has wielded in times of distress throughout history, beginning with its origins as a weapon given to St. Dominic as he tried to evangelize heretics in France who were denying tenets of the Catholic faith.

Our Lady came to St. Dominic and gave him the rosary — a combination of prayers that had already existed in one form or another, Fr. Calloway explained, including prayer beads and the first half of the Hail Mary prayer, and Mary's Psalter.

"She gave him this prayer and told him that it would be used as a battering ram, a weapon against hereticism," Fr. Calloway said. "She equipped him with mysteries, the exact things that the heretics were attacking: the incarnational mysteries that would become known as the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of Christianity."

St. Dominic took the rosary to the streets and prayed and preached the mysteries of the faith using the rosary as his weapon, Fr. Calloway added.

Throughout history, Fr. Calloway said, the devil has tried to keep the rosary from the hands of the people of God, but it has persevered.

In a modern example, Fr. Calloway pointed to the events surrounding Boko Haram, the Islamic militant group that in 2014 captured more than 200 girls in Nigeria. In desperation, the girls' parents went to the local bishop and asked for his help, Fr. Calloway said. Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme has said he went before the Blessed Sacrament to pray a rosary, and Jesus appeared and offered him a sword.

"The bishop knew what that meant. He reached out to touch it, to take the sword, and as soon as he touched it, it was transformed into a rosary," Fr. Calloway said. "And then Jesus spoke three times and said to the bishop, 'Boko Haram is gone. Boko Haram is gone. Boko Haram is gone.'"

The bishop knew he had to start fervently praying the rosary in his diocese, Fr. Calloway said. "He started rosary crusades, meaning he gathered people and invited them to pray the rosary, and, within a very short period of time, all of a sudden, out of the blue, these Islamic terrorists, Boko Haram, surrendered the girls back to the custody of their parents and surrender their weapons," Fr. Calloway added. While the rest of the world was stunned by this move, Fr. Calloway said the word of God always bears fruit.

Despite his devotion to the rosary, Fr. Calloway said he has never prayed the "perfect rosary," and he is still often overcome by distractions. However, God always understands and is pleased when we persevere and at least try, he said.

"You gotta persevere; love perseveres," Fr. Calloway said. "It hardly ever feels good for me, and most times, I'm distracted, and I'm thinking about an email and what's that smell and what's for dinner ... but see, God is a father. He's a good, good father. He understands. He wants your butterfly kisses. That's what it is to God."

Don't give up on the rosary, Fr. Calloway instructed the crowd; start small and build up, one decade or feast day at a time. Furthermore, in His mercy, God even gave us a "rosary on training wheels," Fr. Calloway said, pointing to St. Faustina's gift of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

"It really has the power to transform you and your marriage," Fr. Calloway said. "I know what it's done for me, and it continues to do for me, and I'm going to be buried with it because it means so much to me, the sacred and saving mysteries that brought me away from vice toward virtue."

Praying the rosary is a pilgrimage to sacred places, he added, free to attend in one's mind and heart. "When you pray the rosary, you go into the sacred saving places associated with the life of our Lord and Our Lady and St. Joseph and the apostles," Fr. Calloway said. "You go to Cana, you go to Calvary, you go to Bethlehem. You go to all those places, and you make a daily pilgrimage that takes 20 minutes to do. You can do it every day, driving to work, getting stuck on the highway, or walking your dog. You can do it. So let's learn to pray the rosary. Begin to pray to God and watch what will happen. You will be blessed."



*Before and after: Fr. Calloway: now and prior to his conversion*

# From an Interview with Marija on the Message of November 25th

From Marytv.tv

**Fr. Livio:** Well Marija I gather this message is extremely full of exhortations and spiritual proposals.

**Marija:** Exactly Father Livio! Thank God Our Lady is still with us and is still guiding us and giving us messages. While we wait for the message we make sure that the day is surrounded and filled with prayer. During the apparition I was thinking how many people came to Medjugorje, began to pray and faith was born in their hearts, and strengthened and many found God again. This is an invitation for all of us to pray even more and testify with our lives. In this time in which we are approaching Advent it is particularly a time of grace in which she wants to teach us to pray by opening our hearts. I begin to realize that many words are often useless and superfluous while prayer remains the most concrete thing. I therefore invite you all to pray because prayer works miracles. We have seen it through the numerous testimonies and I thank Our Lady and the Most High because even today they have not gotten tired of us. By saying: **"The Most High has sent me to you to teach you prayer,"** She becomes our teacher and therefore we do everything with love. I believe that without "love" there is no life, we all become poor. So I invite you above all in this time of Advent, of expectation, of grace, of mercy, of waiting for the Child Jesus, to open your hearts and try to be "prayer".



**Fr. Livio:** Marija surely prayer is the thing that impresses us the most when we arrive in Medjugorje, not only in the Church, but in the open valley area, on the hills and really everywhere! It is a wonderful thing. So, I wanted to ask you this – Our Lady has emphasized the Holy Mass above all other prayer and we especially in the Western world see that many young people are completely absent from Mass. They pray personally but unless they are in a particular group, you don't see young people at Holy Mass: how can this be overcome?

**Marija:** By praying, I think we must become more and more prayer. Many words, many projects are useless, what matters is prayer – the personal relationship with God. The Lord knows that we are not experts, but we can do it with the heart anyway. We are all invited to be love and bring to prayer all those who need it, starting with the families that are destroyed, making a corner for Sacred Reading in our homes as well as for the Nativity Scene. Where there is no prayer there is no love, there is no hope.

**Fr. Livio:** It is also nice, Marija, in this time period to have something that invites us as families to prayer, even as Our Lady invited us for example to read the Holy Scriptures in the family. In this time of Advent with the signs of Christmas, all of this can help us to be more prepared with open hearts.

**Marija:** Yes Father Livio, we who were young during communism experienced Christmas more intensely. Today consumerism in Europe is offering us materialism through unbridled shopping, and we have forgotten the spiritual part of Christmas. This is why Our Lady is guiding us and helping us in what is lacking in many families.

**Fr. Livio:** Once, years ago at Christmas there would be lines of people who went to confession, and so Our Lady now is inviting us to decide for conversion, and she invites us to prepare a renewal of life with a beautiful confession before Holy Christmas.

**Marija:** Exactly! Here we have the beautiful habit of going early in the morning to Holy Mass, the morning Mass that we call "Zornice"! Once we used to light up many candles and place them on the altar, and today it would be nice to take it up again because it would allow us to live even more deeply our relationship with God in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, in the Eucharist, in Adoration.

**Fr. Livio:** Even in our parishes people should be called to confession because I see that in Medjugorje everything is easier while in Italy this sacrament is somehow set aside, neglected.

**Marija:** Our Lady wants us to take the parish of Medjugorje as an example and bring it to our cities; this is holiness, conversion, love that the Lord is giving us through the presence of Our Lady. This is the time of joy, of truth, of an encounter with the Child Jesus who transforms hearts even through a simple gesture such as offering a small flower that Mary wants to offer to her Son and transforming it into a very fragrant bouquet as a sign of us returning like children again.

**Fr. Livio:** Lately Our Lady has referred several times in the messages of the 25th, that without God there is no future. She repeats it to us but it is as if we do not listen, somehow believing that we can go on very well without God.

**Marija:** ...The messages are so demanding and at the same time profound. We know that Our Lady with her presence is a gift which we need to internalize and we expand it with prayer so that the same Spirit that sends Her among us can also make Her be born within us. Instead of talking about it, I would like to start praying and to open our hearts as She asks us to do, so that our faith is strengthened. At the beginning of the apparitions, we didn't know how to do many things but we certainly knew how to kneel down and pray without ceasing day and night. We have had a beautiful experience of prayer that I wish each of you to have and to experience your encounter with God. This is the right time for each of us, waiting for Christmas with confessions, forgiveness, reconciliation, it is time for novenas, special prayers, special gifts and to be a gift ourselves to others. This is how we can rediscover our family now that it is cold here in Europe and this weather also helps us to stay warm in our homes where we make a space by placing a candle, the Holy Scriptures where we can read and meditate together and have a dialogue. Today unfortunately many families no longer speak to each other, they do not speak of God because they consider Him in Heaven while Our Lady is telling us that instead He is here with us on earth. The Lord sent our Mother among us to tell us: **"Convert, return to God"** and for this we thank Her with all our heart. She changed our lives and brought us to Her Son, Jesus! This is an immense gift. My life is a continuous thanksgiving not only for the grace of being able to see Her but also for having received Her teachings. I also thank the Good Lord for every moment we shared with Our Lady, in prayer on Apparition Hill, during Adoration, in front of the Church, behind the Church, on the altar in the open space, late at night when we were tired, when we went before Jesus and we found the strength to say: "Lord, you know our lives, our situations and you know very well what we need." When we open our hearts to God which is so often wounded, when we are in communion with Him, then He works in us through prayer...

*(Sister Emmanuel continued from page 3)*

find themselves at the bottom of Purgatory and suffer a great deal while they are purified before going to heaven. The apostle Saint James already warned us against the harm that can be inflicted by the tongue. "No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be!" (Jas 3:8-10).

### ***A great Italian mystic***

Natuzza Evolo (1924-2009) is a great Italian mystic, declared Servant of God in 2019. A mother and grandmother, a modest peasant woman of Calabria, she radiated goodness and simplicity. She could neither read nor write, but from her childhood she lived in strong union with the Lord. She is one of those rare people who often received visits from the deceased, and they told her about Purgatory, Heaven and hell.



After death, the soul goes through its personal judgment. Enlightened by a divine light, the real state of their soul is revealed to the deceased and they make their own decision to go to one of these three places. They go to Purgatory if they understand that they need to be purified before going to Heaven, in other words to be able to embrace perfect love. But if they also want to go directly to Heaven and come face-to-face with God, they must be similar to Him. These souls then go directly to Heaven, accompanied by their Guardian Angel. Perfect contrition and boundless trust in God's mercy, gives the grace that is necessary.

The souls that came to visit Natuzza always asked for prayers, almsgiving, support and especially Holy Masses, so that their purification in purgatory would be shortened.

Why does the celebration of Mass help the souls of the deceased so much? Because the Mass is the sacrifice of Christ, the perfect sacrifice that reconciles us with the Father. Each Eucharist makes it possible for each soul to receive the graces that Christ's redemption brings. The offering of the Mass for them is the most powerful way to reconcile them with God, for the Father always answers the prayers of his Son!

### ***Many saints have seen Purgatory!***

Thank you, Lord, for giving us such witnesses about Purgatory, for this subject has almost completely disappeared from preaching. However, in the course of my missions, I have seen in people of all ages an immense thirst to know the truth about man's ultimate end. But of course, the enemy of our souls tries to silence the truth of the faith so that he can set traps for God's children. The enemy creates confusion, spiritual vagueness and ignorance in order to push his false doctrines about the afterlife.



In 1981, when Our Lady took the visionaries Vicka and Jakov with her to show them Heaven, Purgatory and Hell, she made it clear that we have only one life on earth, because after death there is eternity. To believe that after death there is nothing, is a grave mistake, she said. Likewise, it is a mistake to believe that we can be born many times on earth, because Reincarnation does not exist.

### ***The best key to Paradise!***

Let us never forget that we were created out of love and for love. The purpose of our life is Heaven! It is our degree of love of God and neighbor that will tip the scales as we move to the hereafter. Saint Peter tells us: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Pet 4:8). Let us never forget that God dreams of filling us with his love, and his great desire is to take us to Him as soon as possible to introduce us into His own happiness. Didn't he shed all his blood for this? His love for us is unspeakable, and the suffering of souls in Purgatory is a suffering of love, a suffering of nostalgia for love. They have experienced this love at the moment of death, they long for it and repent of having so often offended, hurt, ignored or rejected it. Because of their defilements, they must wait before they can finally embrace the One who is only love. Do we want to go straight to Heaven after death? Let us strive on earth to have sincere contrition for our sins, to confess them often, and to adhere to the Lord with all our hearts.

St. Faustina collected these wonderful words of Jesus, pearls to remember, a true remedy against every form of fear: "I have opened my Heart as the living fount of mercy. Let every soul draw life from it! Let them approach that sea of mercy with great trust. Sinners shall receive justification and the righteous shall be confirmed in good. Whoever has put his trust in My mercy, at the hours of his death, I shall fill his soul with my Divine peace." (Diary, §1520) And again: "... When a soul sees and recognizes the gravity of its sins, when the whole chasm of wretchedness into which it has sunk is laid bare before its eyes, let it not despair, but let it trustfully cast itself into the arms of My mercy, like a child into the arms of its beloved mother... (Diary §1541) Advent is here and these words can help and direct us to live it well and purify our hearts!

*(Hour of Grace continued from page 2)*

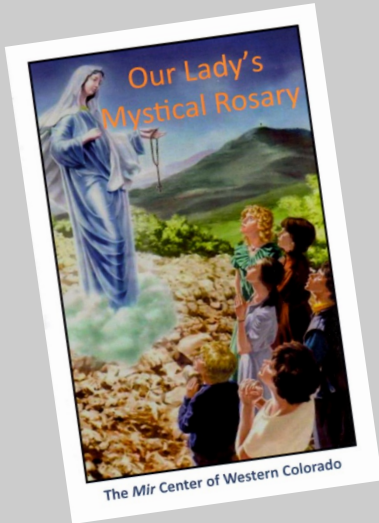
women and children were cured at that very instant. A 26 year old woman who could not say a word for nine months, suddenly began shouting, "I see her, I see the Blessed Virgin." An 18 year old girl with ulcers was instantly cured. A five year old boy who had been paralyzed was told by the Blessed Mother, "**Come to Me, you will be walking now.**" He was on the blessed stones and was able to walk. There were three others who were very sick and were immediately cured. But of course, the greatest miracles taking place were those of the spiritual blessings being shed upon the people gathered in the church.

The Blessed Mother said, "**This is the last time I will appear here. Pray, weep and do penance on these stones, and you will receive the care of My Motherly Heart.**" She then left the little church, but because of the unending Love of Our Heavenly Mother, She has given us "The Hour of Grace", to be spread through the entire world. She had given all the opportunity to demonstrate our love and trust to Her, and to help make reparation for the grievous sins offending her Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## A Perfect Gift!

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## The Stars on Cloak of Our Lady of Guadalupe

from sacredwindows.com

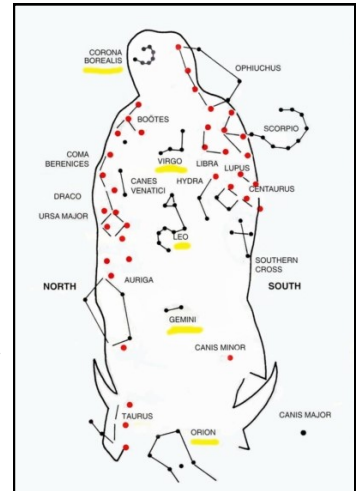
### The Woman of Revelation

Perhaps the powerful draw of the tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe has to do with the way she resembles the biblical image of the heavenly Woman in the book of Revelation: "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." (Rev 12:1) The tilma of Guadalupe contains all of this imagery: she is surrounded by the rays of the sun and stands on a crescent moon. But the image of the stars is what I'd like to focus on. The biblical image describes her as "crowned with stars", which as we shall see is literally true of Guadalupe, but it is also much more.

### An Astronomical Phenomenon

In the 1990s a Mexican astronomer named Juan Hernandez Illescas conducted a series of studies on the configuration of the stars on the turquoise-blue mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Through computer technology, he was able to regress the map of constellations to the very night of Our Lady's appearance almost five centuries ago. What he found was a convergence of astronomical marvels that defies belief. For example:

The forty-six stars visible on Guadalupe's mantle are the exact representation of the constellations in the night sky over Mexico on 12/12/1531. In 1531, Mexico was still using the old Julian calendar, which was ten days off from the modern calendar. That places her appearance on the morning of the 22nd of December – the winter solstice – which is the longest night of the year. After the solstice, the daylight grows longer. Our Lady appeared at dawn that day, bringing "the dawn from on high," Christ Himself and signaling an end to the darkness of paganism. The precise apex of the solstice was at 10:40 am, likely the precise moment when the visionary, Juan Diego, was unfolding the tilma and showing it to the bishop of Mexico. As we view the tilma, the constellations of the Northern sky appear on the right side of her mantle, while the Southern constellations appear on the left side. She actually wears the stars as her cloak!



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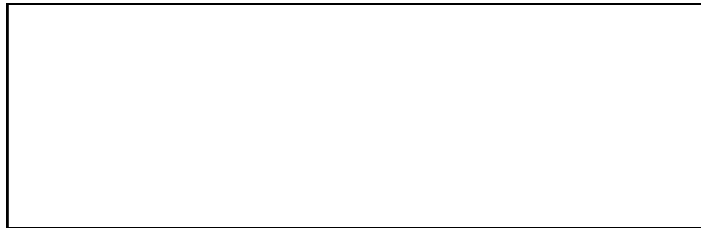
The Mir Center of Western Colorado  
 2574 Young Court  
 Grand Junction, CO 81505

# December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		Medjugorje prayer group St. Francis		1	2	3
4	5	6 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	7	8 <b>The Immaculate Conception</b>	9	10
11	12 <b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>	13 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	21	22	23	24
25 <b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>	26	27 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	28	29	30	31

## Upcoming events:

- + *The Immaculate Conception, December 8th*
- + *Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th*
- + *The Nativity of the Lord, December 25th*



Our Lady's Five-Point Program  
 \*Conversion  
 \*Prayer  
 \*Fasting  
 \*Peace  
 \*Reconciliation

**Return Service Requested**

The Mir Center of Western Colorado  
 2574 Young Court  
 Grand Junction, CO 81505

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*Our primary goal, our main focus, is to bring Jesus Christ to the world and to bring the world to Jesus Christ. To accomplish this task, the MIR Center of Western Colorado was established to provide accurate information about the messages and events originating from Marian apparitions occurring in Medjugorje and elsewhere. We are committed to living and sharing the messages of Medjugorje and helping others to live the messages as well. By living the messages of Medjugorje, which are in essence the message of the Gospel, we hope to spread peace into our families, into our communities, and into our world. As a nonprofit organization, we intend to use any and all funds raised or donations received to aid in spreading the messages of Our Lady to all who will listen. With regard to the apparitions occurring in the world today we humbly submit to the final authority of the Catholic Church.*

MISSION STATEMENT