

Procession and Mass in honor Our Lady of Guadalupe y San Juan Diego

History



Throughout the years, thousands of people, including Aztec dancers, Mexican equestrian groups and Guadalupano groups from parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, have participated in the outdoor Procession and Mass to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe in East Los Angeles. Traditionally starting at the corner of Ford Blvd. (710 Freeway) and Cesar Chavez Street, participants make a reverential stop at Our Lady of Solitude Parish to receive a blessing from the Archbishop of Los Angeles, then continue the procession through Cesar Chavez Avenue, to end the mile-long walk at the East Los Angeles College Stadium for a Mass.

The annual procession was started by Mexican Catholics in Los Angeles, who fled government persecution in 1931, known as “Cristeros.” They had been welcomed by Catholics in Southern California, after thousands were assassinated in Mexico for their faith and love of Christ and for his mother Mary, known by the indigenous as María de Guadalupe, all which is depicted in the 2012 film, [For Greater Glory](#). To honor these faithful and courageous Mexican men and women, St. John Paul II canonized a group of 25 martyrs of the Mexican Cristero War on May 21, 2000.

Since its inception in 1931, the Catholic faithful of Los Angeles have continued the tradition to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe through the streets of East Los Angeles, except for a couple of occasions when natural events forced to shut it down, including in 2020, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The archdiocesan celebration is held on the First Sunday of Advent (first Sunday of December) to allow parishes to celebrate their own Mass and Mañanitas for La Guadalupana on her feast day, December 12.

Share your photos & stories: If you have participated on the procession or have any photos of the procession taken during the 1950s or earlier, please email them to communications@la-archdiocese.org. Thank you!