

## EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

**Zion** is the name of a hill in Jerusalem where the Temple was built by King Solomon. Eventually, the city of Jerusalem itself came to be called Zion.



## WINNOWING

Winnowing is a process by which chaff (which is unneeded) is separated from the grain (which was wanted.) Often the process involved allowing wind to blow the chaff away as it was lighter.



## SEEDS FOR CONVERSATION

- Does John's news strike you as entirely good?
- In what way (and for whom) might it not seem like "good news"?
- Why does the crowd ask what they should do?
- How does the John reply?
- If John were talking to you, right now, what might he tell you in answer to that question?
- Earlier John told people to repent. What do you think John sees as evidence of true repentance?
- When the crowd asks if John the Baptist might be the messiah, how does the John respond?
- What are some reasons John might have said that he wasn't good enough to untie Jesus' sandals?

*What Does This Mean to you?*



When I ran across this artwork a few years ago, I thought it was a brilliant commentary. But, to my surprise not everyone saw the same message in it that I did. Since then I've had a great time sharing it with people of various ages ; it's a great discussion starter around the holidays.

What do you see?

What do you think the artist was trying to say?

Do you agree?

*Have fun!*

*Rejoice in the Lord Always, Again, I say rejoice!*



# Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

by Father Johann Roten, S.M.

The 450-year-old image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a picture which reveals, in symbols, part of the message the Blessed Mother brought to the Indians of Mexico and to all the people of the Americas. But the symbols had a special meaning to the Indians, who because of their culture could decipher the code in the image.

**Eyes** - The eyes of the image are looking down, a position of humility - as great as she is, she is not a god. Indian gods never looked down.

**Face** - The woman's face shows great compassion. A good woman to the Indians was one whose femininity showed in her face. The head of the woman in the image shows her with dark skin and dark hair like that of the Indians.

**Hands** - Her hands are poised in the Indian manner of offering, indicating that something is being offered.

**Maternity Band** - The maternity band around the woman's waist was the sign of a woman about to give birth, it was a sign to the Indians that someone is yet to come.

**Stars** - The stars on the mantle are a sign that a new civilization, or era, is beginning. The Indian tradition recognized the end and the beginning of different eras throughout the ages, and the destruction of a particular civilization or era was always accompanied by a comet, or a body of stars.

**Sun Rays** - The rays of sun in the image recalled for the Indians that the sun played a key role in their civilization. But the woman in the image is greater than even the sun. She hides the sun but does not extinguish it.

**Mantle** - The predominant color in the image's mantle is a blue-green color reserved for the great god Omecihuatl. Omecihuatl was considered the supreme god - a source of unity for everything that exists.

**Moon**-The woman is standing on the moon, indicating that she is greater than the god of night, the moon god.

**Angel** - The "angel" at the bottom of the image was seen by the Indians as an "intermediary god" carrying in a new era, the beginning of a new civilization.



# GROWING CATHOLICS

Leaflet 

## 3rd Sunday in Advent

Sunday Gospel • December 12, 2021 Luke 3: 10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist,  
"What should we do?"

He said to them in reply,

"Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him,

"Teacher, what should we do?"

He answered them,

"Stop collecting more than what is prescribed."

Soldiers also asked him,

"And what is it that we should do?"

He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

