

Trending Articles

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Popular downtown Rochester restaurant to close

CRIME AND COURTS

Rochester woman mourns child's father found dead in quadruple homicide in Wisconsin

CROSS-COUNTRY

Z-M/K-W's Natasha Sortland wins Mayo Invite

EDUCATION

Dr. Fauci tells Mayo Clinic Biomedical grads that the world badly needs their skills

FAITH

Riders make pilgrimage in honor of Virgin of Guadalupe

Rochester drivers may have seen an unusual sight on the southeast streets on Saturday morning.

Written By: Jeff Kiger | 1:58 pm, Dec. 12, 2020



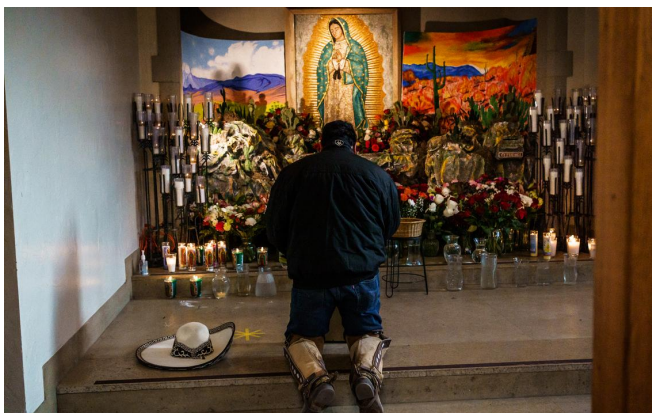
Riders arrive at the church after an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

A local group led by Juan Esparza didn't let chilly morning temperatures stop them from riding their horses into Rochester on Saturday morning to ceremonially present an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe to the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

The riders, preceded by a truck displaying U.S. and Mexican flags, rode their horses for about an hour from a farm near Chester. They covered about 8 miles to make the pilgrimage to the church.

When they arrived at the Southeast Rochester church, Esparza took off his sombrero and carried the framed image of the Virgin Mary into the church with his spurs jangling. It was placed on display during the Mass.

RELATED: Photos: Riders make an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe



Juan Esparaza bows his head in prayer while presenting an icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a shrine during an 8-mile pilgrimage on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

YOUR NEWS, YOUR WAY

jobsHQ It's more than a career search. It's your future.

Information Security Engineer Work with us in Owatonna...

Classroom Support Technician New Richmond Campus ...

CNA Full time \$5000 Sign on Bonus Carry out direct care to ensure that the highest standard of nursing services is maintained at all times....

MDS Coordinator Carry out direct care to ensure that the highest standard of nursing services is maintained at all times....

Facilities & Procurement Technician-LTE Rice Lake or New Richmond Campus...

Search Today!

Businesses To Follow

time he had done it in the U.S.

The day is a very important national holiday for Mexican Catholics. Vargas explained that the Virgin Mary is believed to have appeared on the hillside by the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City on Dec. 12, 1531.

Riders depart from an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)

The annual pilgrimage of believers to the basilica to celebrate the day is considered one of the largest such events in the world. Many Catholics outside of Mexico honor the day by making ceremonial pilgrimages to their own churches.

Presenting an image or statue of the Virgin Mary is always part of such a pilgrimage.

"The church is the center of the celebration, and the Virgin of Guadalupe is displayed at the center of the church," Vargas explained.

For Esparza, his joy of making the annual pilgrimage with his friends showed in his big smile as he rode his horse into the church's parking lot.

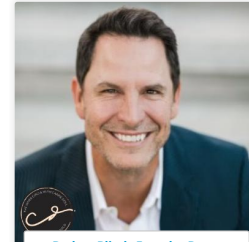
"It was a great ride," he said, stressing how thoughtful the City of Rochester and the drivers along the route were as the riders made their way to the church.



Cecilo Gomez feeds his horse Royal in preparation for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)



A horse is pictured on Saturday, December 12, 2020, in Eyota. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)



Budget Blinds Founder Brent Hallock: Five friends Turn \$5,000 into a \$500 Million Business

Budget Blinds of East & West Rochester

Like

In a recent interview with Brent Hallock, he shares the story of how Budget Blinds grew from the five guys into the billion dollar... (View post)

10:36AM





Cecilo Gomez cleans Royal's hooves in preparation for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Stella the horse is pictured on Saturday, December 12, 2020, in Eyota. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Mary Seltun prepares her horse Gorgeous for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Cecilo Gomez saddles a horse in preparation for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Cecilo Gomez saddles a horse in preparation for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Cecilo Gomez installs the Mexican and American flags in preparation for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Cecilo Gomez installs the Mexican and American flags in preparation for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Carlos Esparaza Garcia, 16, waits to depart for a pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Carlos Esparaza Garcia, 16, waits to depart for a pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Cecilo Gomez, left, and Mary Seltun prepare an Our Lady of Guadalupe icon for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Cecilo Gomez, left, and Mary Seltun prepare an Our Lady of Guadalupe icon for an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Juan Esparaza, left, Onofre Huizar, and Carlos Esparaza Garcia ride during an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Juan Esparaza, left, Onofre Huizar, and Carlos Esparaza Garcia ride during an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Juan Esparaza waves during an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Juan Esparaza waves during an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Riders take an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Riders take an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Riders make an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

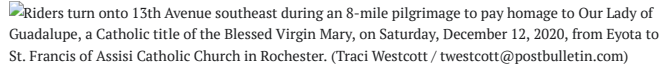
Riders make an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Onofre Huizar carries an icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe during an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Riders make an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Riders turn onto 13th Avenue southeast during an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



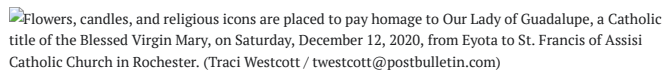
Riders arrive at the church after an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Riders arrive at the church after an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Riders arrive at the church after an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Flowers, candles, and religious icons are placed to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)



Juan Esparaza departs from an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday, December 12, 2020, from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Sign up for the Daily Delivery newsletter.

Get the top headlines of the day delivered to your inbox.

Your email address

By submitting, you agree to our [terms of use](#) and [privacy policy](#)

Related Topics

- VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE
- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
- JUAN ESPARAZA
- PB INSTAGRAM

Suggested Articles

FAITH

From the Pulpit: Retirement doesn't mean service ends

Isaac Landsteiner

FAITH

Catholic Charities names new parish social ministry director

The Asatru Folk Assembly established a church known as Baldrhof in Murdock, Minnesota. The church was dedicated on March 27, 2021. C.S. Hagen / The Forum

Leader claims whites-only Asatru church in Minnesota not a hate group, but extremist trackers say otherwise

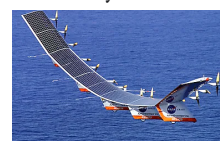
FAITH

On this day, especially, we need a blessing

Roxane Salonen

FAITH

Salonen: Admitting we are in exile can help us endure



SPONSORED CONTENT

Forget Extensive Solar

Menu



E-Paper

Benefits

Account

Account

- Manage My Account
- Privacy Policy
- Terms and Conditions

News

- Subscription Options
- Email Newsletters
- E-Paper
- Our News Network

Contact

- Get Help
- News
- Advertising
- Work with Us

More

- JobsHQ
- Motors
- HomesHQ

Social

Also of Interest:

- Online Auction Helps Secure Semva's Future
- 2020 Rochester Record Roundup
- Netflix Series An 'Extraordinary Experience'...

© Post Bulletin and Forum Communications Company  
 1700 Greenview Dr SW, Rochester, MN 55902 | (507) 285-7600