



# DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

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## **'Passion' relics tour set for cathedral showing March 5-6**

**By Ed Lopez**

As part of Lenten observances this year, the "Relics of the Passion" national tour will include a stop in Denver March 5-6 that showcases relics associated with Christ's final days.

"For those who cannot visit the relic shrines in Rome or the Holy Land itself, this is as close as many people will come to artifacts associated with the crucifixion," said Andrew Walther, vice president of the Apostolate for Holy Relics.

The apostolate, a nonprofit organization under the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, also brought to Denver in 2003 the "Tilma of Tepeyac Tour."

The tour featured a piece of the "tilma" or outerwear worn by San (Saint) Juan Diego, an Aztec who had a vision of the Virgin Mary on a hillside in Tepeyac northwest of Mexico City in 1531. That appearance later gave rise to the name "Our Lady of Guadalupe."

"It was a great success here in Denver," remembered Deacon Chuck Parker, director of liturgy for the archdiocese. "There was a procession from Centro San Juan Diego to the cathedral and the tilma was venerated over a weekend."

On the upcoming tour, the "Passion" relics will be displayed at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1530 Logan St., near downtown Denver. The cathedral is typically open from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a 6:30 p.m. Mass on Sundays.

The veneration of relics has long been part of Church tradition. The significance of relics over the centuries has varied from location to location and from person to person. Throughout history, relics have been displayed in churches, taken into battle and even used for oath

taking.

Relics to be displayed during the Denver tour stop include a piece of the True Cross discovered by St. Helena; full size replicas of the nails used in the crucifixion made with shavings from the actual nails; a replica of the Sindonis, the burial cloth of Jesus; and remains from the crown of thorns worn by Jesus.

Thousands of people viewed the relics last year when they were displayed in St. Louis and Washington, D.C. Aside from Denver, the "Relics of the Passion" tour will arrive at five other U.S. cities. The relics return to Los Angeles during Holy Week for display at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

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