



### **Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at Judge Memorial Catholic High School:**

As part of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, Latinos Unidos is proud to present a public *ofrenda* to share in the celebration of Mexican Catholic heritage and culture. Originating from ancient Aztec rituals, the *ofrenda* was originally a way to honor the goddess *Mictecacihuatl*, the Lady of the Dead. When Spanish conquistadors arrived in Mexico in the 16th century, they brought Catholicism with them. The *ofrenda* was adapted to incorporate Catholic elements as a hybridization of indigenous faiths and colonizing cultures..

The primary purpose is to welcome back the spirits of deceased loved ones, allowing them to reunite with the living for a brief period. It typically consists of multiple tiers, each with symbolic items such as marigold flowers (*cempasúchil*), which guide the spirits home with their vibrant colors and fragrance. It also includes candles to light the way, sugar skulls (*calaveras de azúcar*) to represent death and the sweetness of life, and favorite foods and beverages of the departed to nourish their souls.

The *ofrenda* embodies the Catholic belief in the communion of saints, where the living and the deceased are spiritually connected, making it a fitting and culturally rich addition to our foyer and a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

If you would like to submit photos of deceased loved ones, please use this [Google Form](#), or QR Code (below) and we will print off and add your photos to our community celebration.

