

LAS POSADAS

INTRODUCTION

One Advent tradition from Mexico is Las Posadas—“the inns.” This tradition involves a community procession from house to house. Neighbors play the parts of Mary and Joseph and other characters of the Christmas story and walk through the town, carrying candles and singing carols. At each home, the Holy Family looks for lodging but is told, “There is no room in the inn.” Finally, at the last house, the couple is let in. Prayers, singing, rejoicing, and feasting follow.

Here are three suggestions for celebrating Las Posadas with your family.

SUGGESTION 1

Take your children by the hand. Lead them from room to room as you look for a place for Jesus to be born. At the doorway of each room, knock and ask if there is room. Invite a family member to respond, “No, no! There is no room here.” End the search in the dining room or kitchen. Ask if there is room, and have a family member again respond, “No, no! There is no room here.” Then ask, “Then where is there room?” Invite the whole family to reply, “There is always room in our hearts!” End the journey with laughter, hugs, and a tasty treat.



SUGGESTION 2

Extend the celebration to include your neighbors. As a family, go from door to door to tell your neighbors how happy you are to be members of the neighborhood. You could even dress up like the Holy Family. Take a small treat to each family you visit.

SUGGESTION 3

Another option would be to pick an Advent evening to go as a family to a few of your nearby neighbors. Invite them to come over to your house for coffee and hot chocolate and dessert. Be spontaneous! Do not be hurt if nobody comes. You are letting your neighbors know, “There is room in our inn!” You are being a good neighbor family!

