



Las Posadas Navideñas

Las Posadas Navideñas (the Christmas Inn) is a Mexican religious tradition that commemorates Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their struggle to find refuge there. For nine nights, from December 16-24, neighbors recreate the events described in the Gospels, as Mary and Joseph were denied shelter by many, until one innkeeper at last allowed them to sleep in his barn - and there, Jesus was born. A concluding celebration echoes the rejoicing of the shepherds and angels.

The AMSSND Immigration Committee invites you to participate in this experience by praying a novena to open our hearts to welcoming Christ. While we might be far removed from the Bethlehem of 2000 years ago, Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 that when we encounter strangers, we encounter him - "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Thus, we are graced with the presence of Christ in a very real way by the immigrants who come to us seeking refuge and a better life. In accord with the "inextricable connection" of the SSNDs to the immigrant experience, as affirmed by the AMSSND Corporate Stance on Immigration, join us in praying for immigrants and refugees, and for our hearts to be opened to receiving the grace offered to us by their presence.



December 16, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for our brothers and sisters forced to flee their homelands because of violence, corruption, and poverty. May they find safety, security, and welcome in our land.

Reading

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was ... a stranger and you welcomed me. Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you a stranger and welcome you? And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers [and sisters] of mine, you did for me.’” – *Matthew 25:31-46* (abridged)

Prayer

Who will listen to the cries of the poor –
To the hopes and needs of those seeking a better life?

Who will listen if we don't?

Who will speak so their voices will be heard –
So the wisdom and aspirations of migrant peoples will be heeded?

Who will speak if we don't?

Who will see Christ in our brothers and sisters – in those who reveal new and unique aspects of God's love as they seek to make a home with us?

Who will see Christ if we don't?

Who will be the hands and feet of Christ – the hands that heal and nurture, and the feet that “bring good news?”

Who will be Love if we aren't?

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect on the image below. Click the link to listen.

I saw a stranger yestereen.
I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place.

And in the sacred name of the Triune,
He blessed myself and my house,
my cattle and my dear ones,
And the lark said in her song,

“Often, often, often goes the Christ in stranger's guise.
Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.”



Suggested Action

Today, resolve to make this novena every day and pray intentionally for immigrants and refugees the entire 9 days.

Closing Prayer

God of the journey, God of the traveler, draw near to us. Fill us with the Spirit's desire to shape a future full of hope for our brothers and sisters who are strangers in this land. Give us the courage to open the doors of our hearts and our country to our neighbors, and give us the grace to build a society of justice and compassion.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

Move us to new frontiers as we remember how you crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Remind us of Blessed Theresa and all those who gave all they had so that the immigrants in America might have better lives. Move us to new frontiers, for we are all migrants journeying with you and one another toward your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

December 17, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for all those forced to move because of climate-related events, such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, and tsunamis. May they find security, opportunity, and welcome in their new homes.

Reading

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited. ... There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded. – *Laudato Si'*, 25

Prayer

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To the hopes and needs of those seeking a better life?
Who will listen if we don't?

Who will speak so their voices will be heard –
So the wisdom and aspirations of migrant peoples will be heeded?
Who will speak if we don't?

Who will see Christ in our brothers and sisters – in those who reveal new and unique aspects of God's love as they seek to make a home with us?
Who will see Christ if we don't?

Who will be the hands and feet of Christ – the hands that heal and nurture, and the feet that “bring good news?”
Who will be Love if we aren't?

Time for Reflection/Sharing

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Suggested Action

Today, [learn more about climate change](#) and resolve to live more sustainably ([click here for ideas about changes you can make](#)).

Closing Prayer

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December 18, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for immigrants looking for the opportunity to work and participate in our communities. May we be open to receiving the gifts they hope to share.

Reading

Human beings have the right to migrate to a “political community where [they hope they] can more fittingly provide a future for [themselves] and [their] dependents. Wherefore, as far as the common good permits, it is the duty of that state to accept such immigrants and to help to integrate them into itself as new members” (*Pacem in Terris*, 106). “We must remember that, of its very nature, civil authority exists, not to confine its people within the boundaries of their nation, but rather to protect, above all else, the common good of the entire human family” (*Pacem in Terris*, 98). Thus, “The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and means of livelihood which [he or she] cannot find in [his or her] country of origin” (*Catechism* ¶2241).

Prayer

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Time for Reflection/Sharing

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Suggested Action

Today, raise your voice in support of those who hope to find a home where they can share their unique gifts (and remember to participate in the Voter Voice action alerts in Get WITH It):

- Urge the U.S. government to [process the claims of asylum seekers](#) in a way consistent with international and U.S. law and the dictates of justice.
- Urge the U.S. government to [welcome more refugees](#).
- For those in Canada, visit <http://ccrweb.ca/en/action> for actions you can take!

Closing Prayer

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We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

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We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province
JPIC Department

December 19, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray for all those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination; for those who cannot see the gift that immigrants are to our communities. May they be touched with Your divine wisdom, compassion, and justice.

Reading

Nevertheless various forms of discrimination continually reappear – ethnic cultural, religious, political and so on. In fact, human rights are still too often disregarded, if not scoffed at, or else they receive only formal recognition. In many cases legislation does not keep up with real situations. Legislation is necessary, but it is not sufficient for setting up true relationships of justice and equity. In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society: the more fortunate should renounce some of their rights so as to place their goods more generously at the service of others. If, beyond legal rules, there is really no deeper feeling of respect for and service to others, then even equality before the law can serve as an alibi for flagrant discrimination, continued exploitation and actual contempt. Without a renewed education in solidarity, an overemphasis of equality can give rise to an individualism in which each one claims [his or her] own rights without wishing to be answerable for the common good. In this field, everyone sees the highly important contribution of the Christian spirit, which moreover answers [a person’s] yearning to be loved. “Love for [human beings], the prime value of the earthly order” ensures the conditions for peace, both social peace and international peace, by affirming our universal brotherhood. – *Octogesima Adveniens*, 23

Prayer

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To the hopes and needs of those seeking a better life?

Who will listen if we don’t?

Who will speak so their voices will be heard –
So the wisdom and aspirations of migrant peoples will be heeded?

Who will speak if we don’t?

Who will see Christ in our brothers and sisters – in those who reveal new and unique aspects of God’s love as they seek to make a home with us?

Who will see Christ if we don’t?

Who will be the hands and feet of Christ – the hands that heal and nurture, and the feet that “bring good news?”

Who will be Love if we aren’t?

Time for Reflection/Sharing

Consider listening to [Rune of Hospitality](#) as you reflect on the images below. Click the link to listen.



Suggested Action

Today, resolve to counter any discriminatory, derogatory, or misinformed remarks concerning immigrant people with the truth of their dignity and circumstances.

Closing Prayer

God of the journey, God of the traveler, draw near to us. Fill us with the Spirit's desire to shape a future full of hope for our brothers and sisters who are strangers in this land. Give us the courage to open the doors of our hearts and our country to our neighbors, and give us the grace to build a society of justice and compassion.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

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We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

December 20, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for all those who on this day are unjustly detained. Be their strength and give us the courage to continue to demand an end to the immoral detention of your people.

Reading

You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God. -
Leviticus 19:34

Prayer

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Suggested Action

Today, send a Christmas card to an immigrant detained in the U.S. You could say, “FELIZ NAVIDAD! Que el Señor les bendiga grandemente con Su protección, Su amor y Su luz.” (Merry Christmas! May the Lord greatly bless you with His protection, His love, and His light.)

Below are some addresses to use:

- Annunciation House, 815 Myrtle Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79901
- Humanitarian Respite Center
c/o Catholic Charities, San Juan Office, 700 North Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, TX 78589

Closing Prayer

God of the journey, God of the traveler, draw near to us. Fill us with the Spirit’s desire to shape a future full of hope for our brothers and sisters who are strangers in this land. Give us the courage to open the doors of our hearts and our country to our neighbors, and give us the grace to build a society of justice and compassion.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

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December 21, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for children who live in fear of the loss of their parents, and mothers and fathers who bear the pain of separation from their families. Be their hope as we work to repair the brokenness of our unjust system.

Reading

This is what the LORD Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. – *Zechariah 7:9-10*

As the United States bishops have said, greater attention must be given to “the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests.” We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. – *Laudato Si’, 52*

Prayer

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Suggested Action

Today, read [this fact sheet](#) on immigration (U.S.) or [“Five Myths about Immigrants”](#) (Canada), so you can counter the misinformation offered as justification for the unjust treatment of immigrants.

Closing Prayer

God of the journey, God of the traveler, draw near to us. Fill us with the Spirit’s desire to shape a future full of hope for our brothers and sisters who are strangers in this land. Give us the courage to open the doors of our hearts and our country to our neighbors, and give us the grace to build a society of justice and compassion.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

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We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

December 22, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially for DACA recipients who are worried and uncertain about their future. May they continue to be welcomed in the land they call home.

Reading

You ask: “Why is not the son charged with the guilt of his father?” Because the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to observe all my statutes. The son shall not be charged with the guilt of his father, nor shall the father be charged with the guilt of his son. Justice belongs to the just, and wickedness to the wicked. But if the wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed, if he keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live. He shall not die! None of the crimes he has committed shall be remembered against him; he shall live because of the justice he has shown. – *Ezekiel 18:19-22*

Prayer

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Suggested Action

Today, smile and greet everyone you meet to practice being a welcoming presence to your neighbors.

Closing Prayer

God of the journey, God of the traveler, draw near to us. Fill us with the Spirit's desire to shape a future full of hope for our brothers and sisters who are strangers in this land. Give us the courage to open the doors of our hearts and our country to our neighbors, and give us the grace to build a society of justice and compassion.

We pray for our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation – may they find the wisdom and courage to enact policies that do justice for our country and for those who would migrate here.

Move us to new frontiers as we remember how you crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Remind us of Blessed Theresa and all those who gave all they had so that the immigrants in America might have better lives. Move us to new frontiers, for we are all migrants journeying with you and one another toward your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

December 23, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray for those seeking asylum in our land – may they be welcomed and treated with justice and dignity.

Reading

“Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance; and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked [John the Baptist], “What then should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” – *Luke 3:8-11*

Prayer

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“The United States is the only country in the region that actually enforces its laws protecting women!” - Female asylum-seeker

Suggested Action

Today, converse with someone from a country or culture that is different from yours.

Closing Prayer

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December 24, 2019

Call to Prayer

God of our Advents, once again we enter this season of waiting when we cry out “Come, come Lord Jesus.” We wait for so many things, but deep within our hearts, we wait for the coming of your kingdom of peace and justice, of compassion and love for all peoples.

God of all peoples, today, we pray especially that you will open every heart to receiving the gift of your love – in all its dimensions, as reflected to us in the faces and deeds of our brothers and sisters. Help each of us, too, to make Christ visible in the flesh, as at Jesus’s birth 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.

Reading

An encounter with Christ in his mysteries ... cannot fail to draw attention to the face of Christ in others, especially in the most afflicted. How could one possibly contemplate the mystery of the Child of Bethlehem, in the joyful mysteries, without experiencing the desire to welcome, defend and promote life, and to shoulder the burdens of suffering children all over the world? How could one possibly follow in the footsteps of Christ the Revealer, in the mysteries of light, without resolving to bear witness to his “Beatitudes” in daily life? And how could one contemplate Christ carrying the Cross and Christ Crucified, without feeling the need to act as a “Simon of Cyrene” for our brothers and sisters weighed down by grief or crushed by despair? Finally, how could one possibly gaze upon the glory of the Risen Christ or of Mary Queen of Heaven, without yearning to make this world more beautiful, more just, more closely conformed to God's plan? – *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 40

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Suggested Action

Today, consider making a donation to [Annunciation House](#) or [Catholic Charities' Humanitarian Respite Center](#) – both of which provide basic services and accompaniment to migrants and refugees. Donate by clicking the links above, or mailing donations to the following addresses:

- *Annunciation House, 815 Myrtle Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79901*
- *Humanitarian Respite Center, C/o Catholic Charities
San Juan Office, 700 North Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, TX 78589*

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