

LAS POSADAS

December 16th-23rd
Parish Hall and Portico



Do you know about Posadas?

What is a Posada? This is a question that a lot of people ask as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

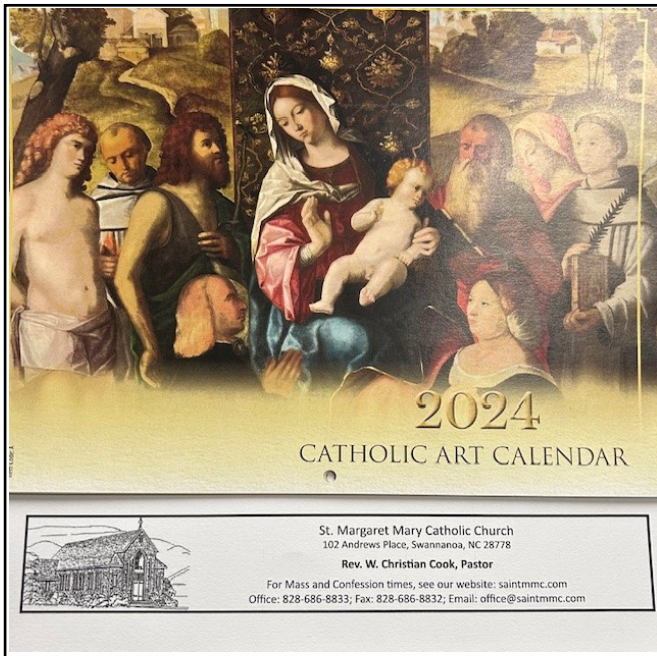
The tradition of the Posadas was brought to Mexico from Spain in the 1500's by Catholic Missionaries. The Posadas commemorate Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a place for the Christ Child to be born. In Spanish, the word means dwelling or lodging. The Posadas are not to be confused with a mere Christmas party. Instead, the Posadas should be seen as a religious event.

In Catholic parishes, parishioners and anyone who wishes to join in meet at the church a specific time during the early evening. The Posada can be led by a small group carrying a manger scene or the Posada can become elaborate with a live donkey and parishioners who are dressed like Mary and Joseph. Our Posada will be held in the Parish Hall (no donkeys), from 7pm-8:30pm.

La Posada dinner includes such Hispanic dishes as tamales and posoli. Each Posada ends with the traditional piñata. Our piñata will be on the patio outside the double doors of the Parish Hall.

The seven corners of each piñata represents the Seven Deadly Sins. The beating of the piñata symbolizes the mortification that Christians exercise in overcoming personal sin. The candy within each piñata characterizes the sweetness of God's grace made available to us through the birth of Jesus.

This Posada information from Catholic Online - Father James Farfaglia is the Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Corpus Christi, TX. You can visit him on the web at www.fatherjames.org.



Our 2024 Calendars are here!

Please take one per household. We are accepting donations to help offset the calendar costs. Please place your donation in the market basket next to the calendars.

What is Advent?

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.



As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar (linked below) can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

~ USCCB.com