

Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Lk 2: 4-7

Our Christmas fiesta at Santo Niño always includes a re-enactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter in Bethlehem known as *las posadas*. The weary travelers are positioned “outside” with a group of singers. Knocking on the door they sing their request for lodging and are refused again and again by the rest of us reluctant inn-keepers “inside”. At last we catch on to the message that these importunate travelers are “Maria y Jose” and she is the Queen of Heaven bearing the Divine Word. We welcome the holy pilgrims with joy and the fiesta begins in earnest!



Our *posada* is as special as the children who represent Mary and Joseph for us. For the second year running, Brisa has been cast in the role of Maria and she is dressed as Our Lady of Guadalupe in the traditional red and green of the Mexican flag! Her cousin Jesus also reprised his role as Jose and it is only appropriate that his costume would bear a strong resemblance to San Juan Diego, Our Lady’s side-kick.

This year we had the surprising appearance of Angelito as... the Christmas lamb accompanying Mary and Joseph! How sweet was that?



Remembering the humble travelers who found no room at the inn and the Holy Child who slept in a manger reminds us of our sisters and brothers around the world who are seeking refuge today. It encourages us to continue to create alternative spaces where outcasts are welcome. Our Christmas lamb recalls the Prince of Peace who entrusts to us the work of healing relationships and building community wherever we are.

“It is no use to say that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.”

Dorothy Day

May our celebration of Christmas this year give us the grace to embrace this invitation with joy!

Christmas Blessings from all of us at Santo Niño

