

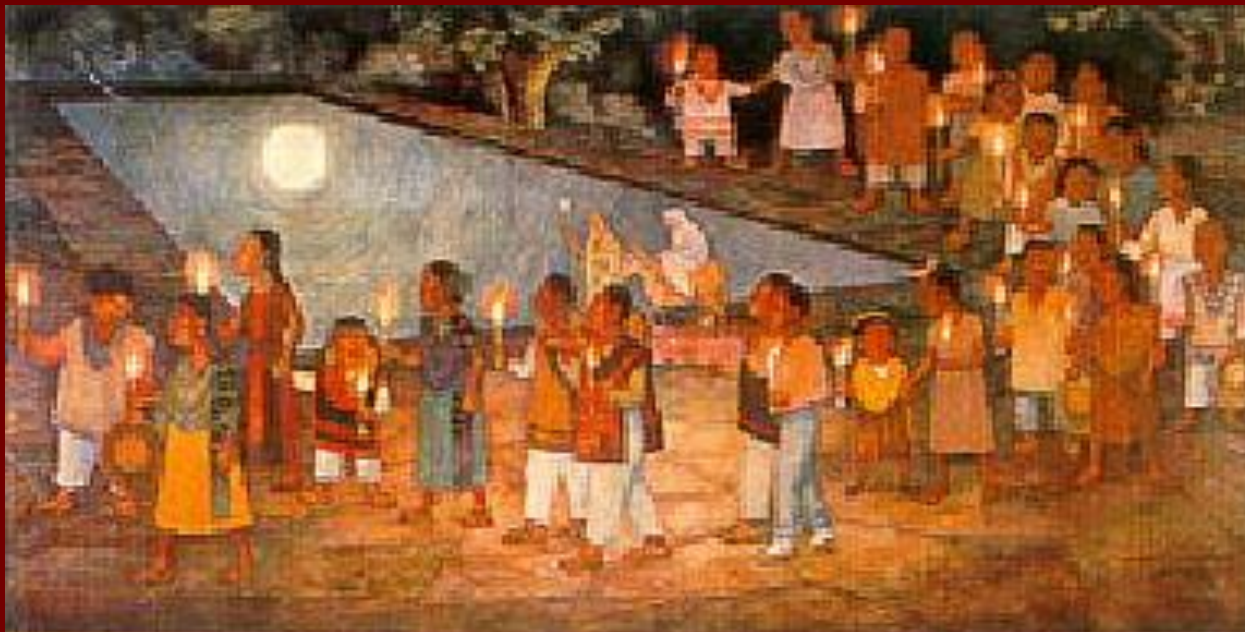
# La Navidad en México

(Christmas in Mexico)

- A variety of activities that span the period from December 16th to January 6th.
- The celebrations are the fusion of indigenous and Spanish traditions.



# LAS POSADAS



- *fiestas*, which represent Joseph and Mary's arduous pilgrimage on their way to Bethlehem, and there are nine *posadas*, from the 16 to the 24 of December, because they symbolize Mary's nine months of pregnancy



# LA PIÑATA



- A tradition that involves breaking a star shaped papier-mâché container full of sweets, Mandarins, and small toys
- A stick is used, and the *piñata* is hung on a cord, which in turn is moved around to make it difficult for the person with the stick



- You will hear the parents and children singing special *Piñata* songs including a verse which says:

"no quiero oro  
ni quiero plata  
yo lo que quiero  
es romper la *piñata*"

*("I don't need gold, nor do I desire silver  
All that I want is to break the piñata!")*

\* \* \* \* \*

"¡Dale, dale, dale,  
no pierdas el tino,  
porque si lo pierdes,  
pierdes el camino,  
Una, dos, tres!"

*("Strike it, Strike it, Strike it,  
don't lose your aim,  
because if you lose it,  
you won't find your way!  
One, two, three!" )*



# PASTORELAS

- The *Pastorelas* in Mexico starts as simple parables of the struggle of good against evil. The light, humor-filled pastorelas are reenactments of the shepherds' adoration of the Christ Child







# NACIMIENTO

Nativity Crèche



# NACIMIENTO

- Nativity scenes in wood, clay, metal, glass, wax, straw and almost any material you can think of, are another rich expression of popular art



# FLOR DE NOCHE BUENA

(Poinsettias)

- native to Mexico
- In *Náhuatl* they were called *Cuitlaxochitl* or star flowers
- in Spanish they are known as **Noche Buena**



# NOCHE BUENA



- **24th December**
- Celebration of a late-night *Misa de Gallo* (Rooster's Mass)
- Modern influences have introduced the Christmas tree and Santa Claus
- Opening of gifts
- *Piñatas* and *luces de Belen* (sparklers)
- Traditional Christmas supper





- homemade *tamales* and *atole* (corn gruel) or other regional dishes
- roast turkey, ham or suckling pig are other popular menu items; as well as *Romeritos* (a herb) in *Mole* (a spicy chocolate sauce) with shrimps and potatoes; and *Bacalao* - cod served *a la vizcaina*, a Basque dish. The traditional dessert is *colación*, a mixture of candies in syrup. *Ponche* (a hot fruit punch), *sidra* (sparkling cider) or other spirits are served for the holiday *brindis* (toast).





# NAVIDAD

(Christmas day)

- A large reunion
- Main meal around three o'clock in the afternoon, what it is known as "*recalentado*", because the Christmas meal is reheated from the previous night

# AÑO NUEVO



- 31st December - 1st January
- Big party, is ushered in with an abundance of noise, of wonderful fireworks and hundreds of skyrockets.
- Friends and families celebrate with huge bonfires, music, food and dancing
- Custom: 12 grapes at midnight, each one on the strike of the bell, for good luck in each one of the following twelve months
- family toasts with apple cider and start to eat (supper is the same as the Christmas)

# DIA DE REYES

- **6th January**
- Twelfth Night, Epiphany, Three Kings Day, January 6th
- The tradition in Mexico for *Día de Reyes*, Kings Day, is for children to leave their shoes outside the door so they can be filled with gifts from the Magi (Three Kings: Melchior, Gaspar and Baltazar), commemorating the gifts carried by them to the Christ Child
- Eating the traditional: "*Rosca de Reyes*"





- Special bread made for the occasion in the form of a crown, decorated with dried fruits and hiding in its midst one or several little dolls
- The guest who finds the doll (representing the infant Jesus) in their slice of **Rosca** give a party on February 2nd, **Candelaria**, with tamales and atole for all.







# DECORATION





¡FELIZ  
NAVIDAD

y

PRÓSPERO AÑO  
NUEVO!