

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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‘LAS POSADAS’ CELEBRATED ON OLVERA STREET

Traditional Christmas Procession Portrays the Holy Family’s Journey

LOS ANGELES – The Olvera Street Merchants will hold their annual Las Posadas festivities beginning Dec. 16 through Dec. 24, 2014. The event offers free seasonal entertainment each evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the traditional candlelight procession starting at 7:00 p.m. at the historic Avila Adobe. The nightly procession winds through Olvera Street with the Merchants leading the group singing traditional hymns and holiday songs in both English and Spanish. Free *champurrado* (a Mexican hot beverage) and *pan dulce* (sweet bread) are served each night following the procession. There will also be a festive piñata breaking for the children.

Las Posadas has been celebrated on Olvera Street since the 1930s. In Spanish, *las posadas* means “inns” or “shelters,” and represents the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem and their search for shelter. For nine nights in December the procession stops at different shops on Olvera Street, each one representing a *posada* where the group asks to stay. Many of the founding Olvera Street merchant families continue to preserve this wonderful and beloved holiday tradition, sharing the joy of the season with their children and grandchildren.

Olvera Street is part of El Pueblo Historical Monument and is located between Main and Alameda Streets in downtown Los Angeles. Public parking is available at nearby lots on Main, Los Angeles and Alameda Streets. Public transportation is also available via the Metrolink, MTA rail and bus service to Union Station. For more information on Las Posadas please call (213) 625-7074 or (213) 485-8372 or visit www.elpueblo.lacity.org

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