

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Preserving Advent



The season of Advent is upon us. Celebration is in the air. On December 8, the Purisima (Immaculate Conception) for many Nicaraguan families will be celebrated, as it is each year with a fervent glee like no other. My mother-in-law's side of the family celebrates the immaculate conception and most everybody in the barrio (neighborhood) passes by to sing, reflect and receive a small gift.

This year, as we sing, reflect on Christ's birth, we will celebrate in a very new and wonderful way, by welcoming our first little baby boy. As I reflect on parenthood, my prayer is that God protect our child and us, not only in this season, but all seasons. As you reflect, sing and pray this season, remember to pray for the stranger, the neighbor, the homeless, the downtrodden. Remember hospitality, for when we do such, we may be hosting an angel and not realize we have. All of us need protection and God's love.

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