

LEVELED Book • J

Feliz Navidad, Carlos!



Written by Maribeth Boelts
Illustrated by Angela Kamstra-Jacobson

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School was out for winter break.

Carlos and his family packed
to go to Monterrey, Mexico.

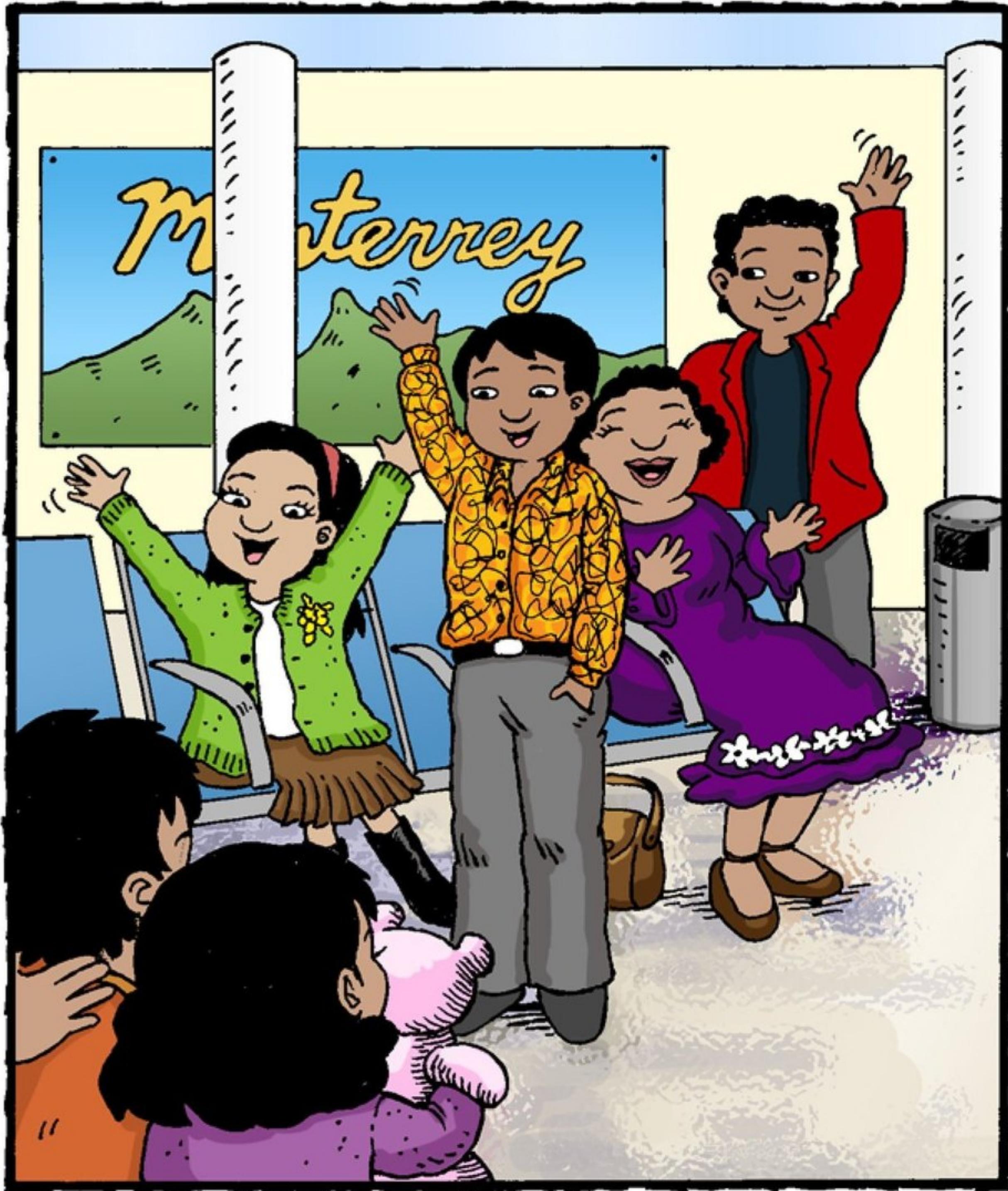
"It's our first trip back since we moved
to America," said Carlos.

"I can't wait to see everyone!"



Carlos sat by the window
on the airplane.
He saw clouds and blue sky.
Then he saw the mountains
around Monterrey.

"We're almost there!" he said.



Carlos's aunt, uncle, and cousins
met them at the airport.

"*Feliz Navidad!*" said his uncle.
"You are home! This will be a
wonderful celebration, now!"



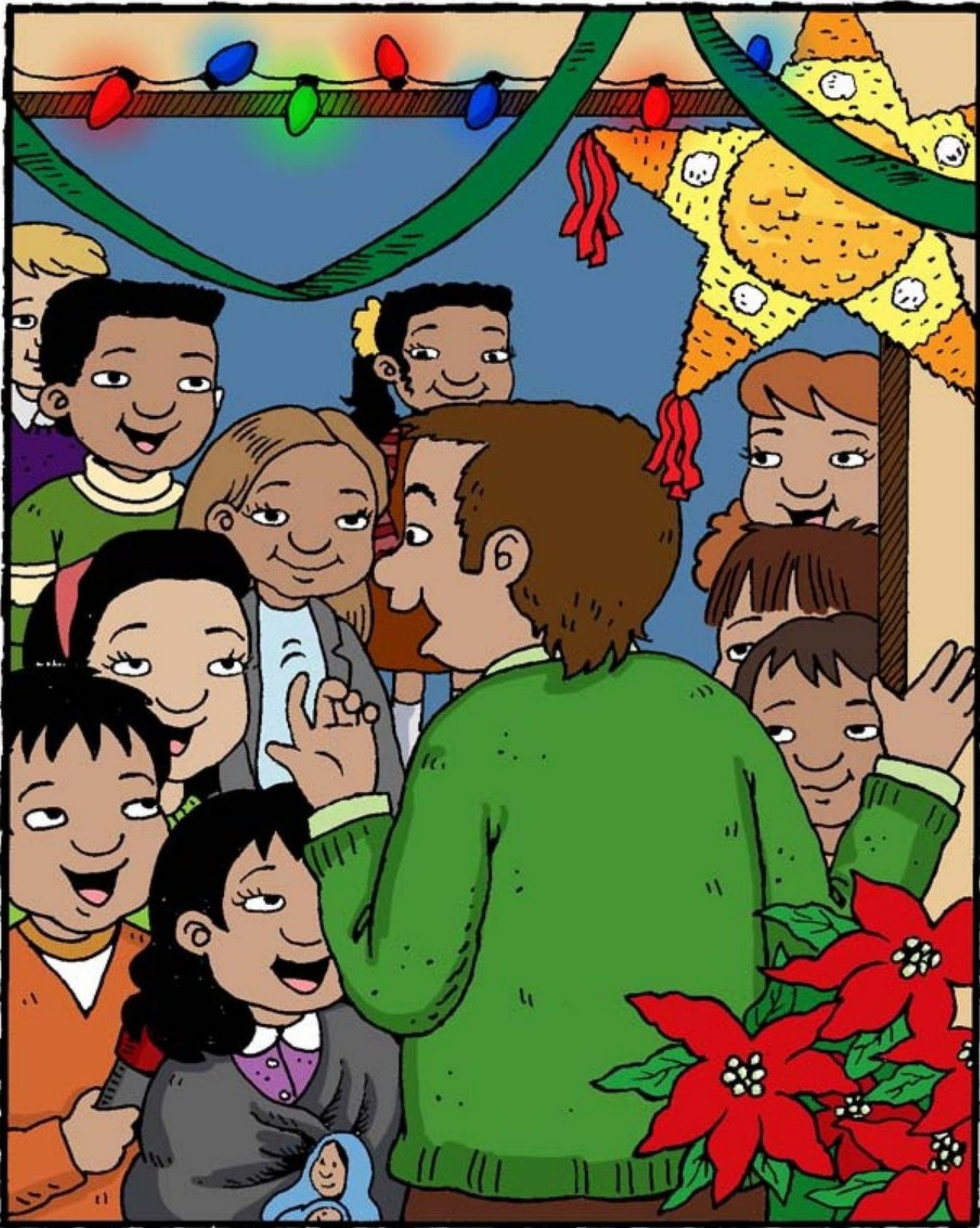
They had arrived in time to join
in *Las Posadas*.

Candles in paper bags lined
the sidewalks.

Neighborhood children acted out Mary
and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.



Carlos, Selena, and Mateo walked
the *Posada* with their cousins.
They knocked on the first door.
They sang a song and asked,
“May we stay?”
They were told “No.”



They knocked on the second door.

They were told “No” again.

They knocked on the third door.

“Come in!” the neighbors said.



A *fiesta* was inside!

There were sweets and hot chocolate
for everyone.

There was even a *piñata*!



"May I try to break the piñata?"

Carlos asked.

"I play baseball at my school.

I can swing hard."



Carlos was blindfolded.
He hit the *piñata* and it split open!
Treats and toys spilled out
everywhere.

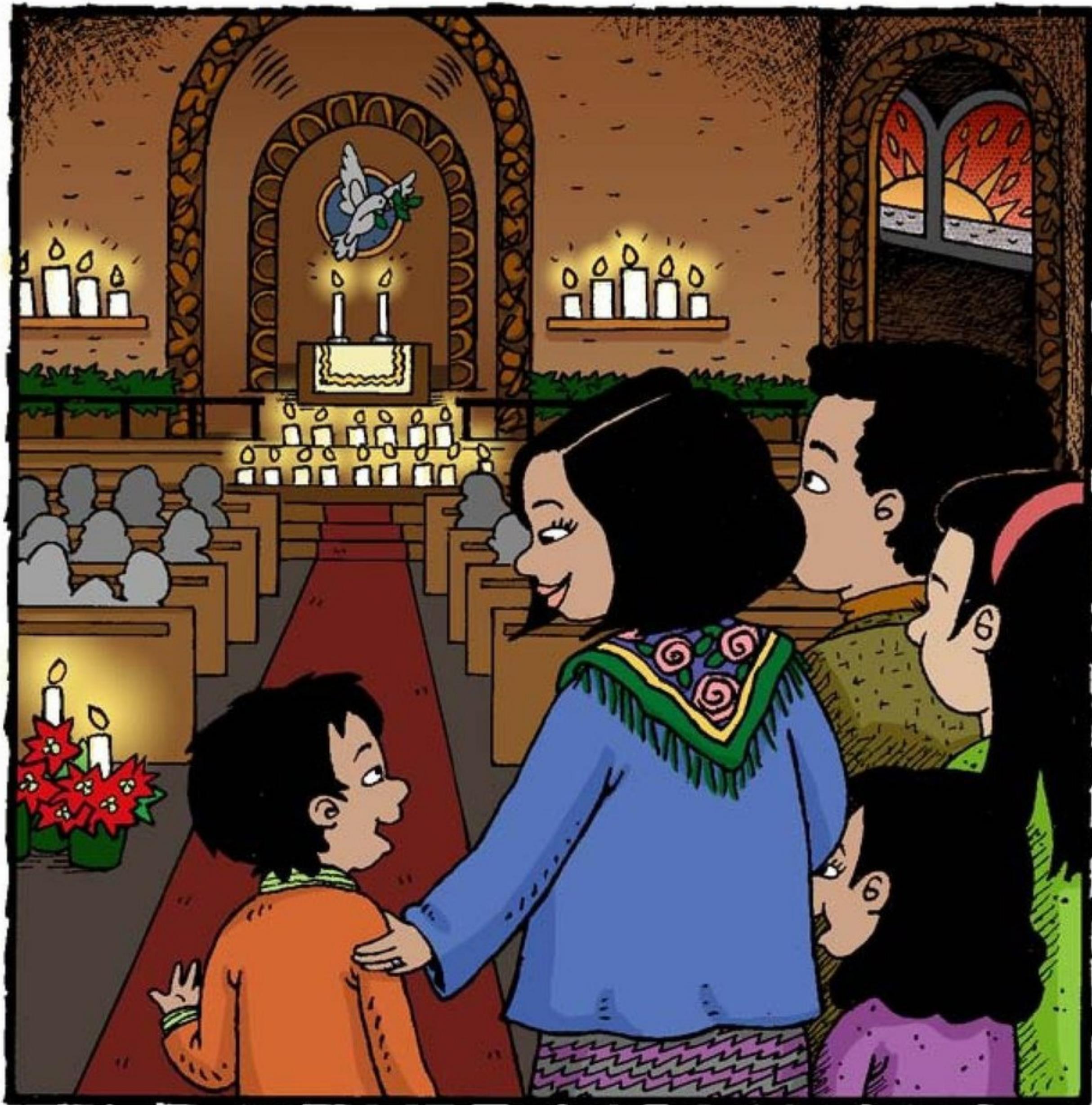


They heard a *boom* and *pop pop*.

“Fireworks!” Mateo yelled.

Red, green, and blue lights filled the night sky.

“It’s so beautiful!” said his cousin.



At midnight, the family walked
to the old church.

Inside, the dark church glowed
from the light of candles.

It was very quiet.

Carlos watched the candles
flicker all around him.



Back at their uncle's home, they found more food and treats waiting for them.

"This *Navidad* has been the best!" said Carlos. "We are lucky."

"We can celebrate with our new friends in America and our family here in Mexico."



Carlos, Selena, and Mateo
were ready for sleep.
But Selena remembered something.

"Papa, when will we open our
presents?" she asked.

"We will each open one tomorrow,
and the rest on January 6,
Three Kings Day," Papa said.



"I hope I get a calendar,"

Carlos said to Mama.

"I'll put a star in December," said

Carlos. "So I know when we'll come
back for *Navidad*, again!"

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