

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Do You Know the History of this Song?

The Catholic Journal called it their "secret catechism." See why.

Most people associate "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with the song, in which a devoted lover supposedly gives his "true love" a gift every day. But a little research reveals a surprising fact about a holiday tradition that we think of as only a nonsense song. From 1558 to 1829, it was illegal for Catholics in England to practice their faith in public or in private. In order to teach their children the foundation of the religion without upsetting the authorities, church leaders created a "catechism song" that did not sound religious, yet helped young Catholics remember the basics of their faith.

The "true love" was not meant to be an earthly suitor, but God himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every person in the Church. The one "partridge in a pear tree" is Jesus Christ, the one Son of God.

The two turtle doves - were the Old and New Testaments.

The three French hens were Faith, Hope, and Charity. The four Calling birds were the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings were the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch.

The six geese a-laying were the six days of creation. The seven swans a-swimming were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

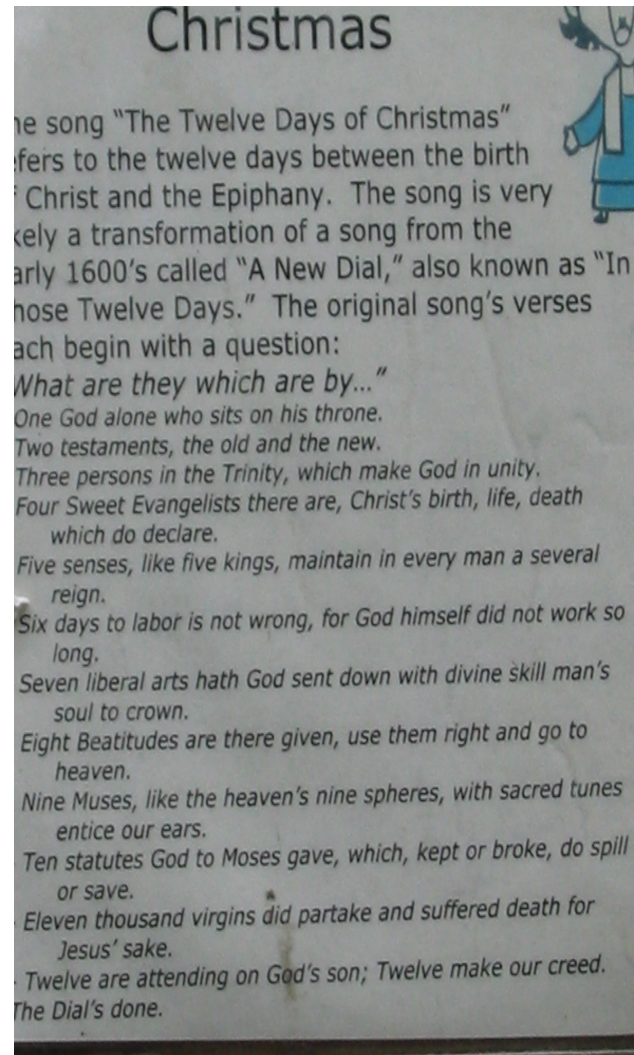
The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. The nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Spirit.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. The eleven pipers piping were the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming were the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

— From Dec 2000/Jan 2001 MOM Sense

We also found this sign at North Pole, Alaska this summer. Try to read it from the picture we took. Notice any differences?



Widows In Touch

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WIT

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Merry Christmas!

He came to become like us
So that we would become like Him.
May we represent Him well!

From the valleys to the mountains this year! And we thank the Lord for His kindness to us and His presence with us.

Summer was especially fun! We gathered with all of our family at Edisto Island, SC to share a week in June before heading to FL for our national conference. What fun to relax and play with grandchildren! What fun to see our kids and grandchildren having fun together!

In July we headed for Alaska. A camp ministry took us there, but it was too far not to stay and enjoy the sights before and after camp. Our son-in-law's mom, Kathy Supplee also joined us for this wonderful venture. In fact, she acted as our tour guide. We read about fun activities, decided what we might like to try, then she set it up for us.

Our travels took us from Anchorage to Fairbanks, the Kenai Peninsula where camp was held, to the Arctic Circle, with several days at Denali National Park. Activities included hikes, bus trips, train rides, even a *mild* raft ride, not to mention the flight to Anchorage & back.

Back in the lower 48, we enjoyed a week in August at Gitche Gumee in the upper peninsula with our Brugel family. In Sept. Mark, Darcie and Noah came to paint for us. They turned the white walls of our LR, halls, and FR into lovely warm colors.

More recently in November, we have enjoyed separate weeks with grandchildren. Cheryl came with Matthew and Lia, then David and Michelle brought the kids to stay while they attended a conference in Indianapolis. And, of course, we enjoy the privilege of living close to one of our families, Janice, Ed, and Benjamin, for whom I babysit.

And how we thank the Lord for you! You have a special place in our lives and hearts. May He always have a special place in each of us.

Lore, Darcie and Pat

Meet our Family

Our Denver Fam
Michelle and David Warren
Alec, William, Sydney



Our Grand Rapids Families



Darcie and Mark Warren
Noah and Molly

Molly Rose,
born Dec. 6,
just in time
for Christmas



To the arctic circle with Ed's Mom, Kathy Supplee.

Our Cedarville Fam
Ed and Janice Supplee
Tassel and Benjamin



and

Cheryl and Steve
Brugel
Matthew and Lia



Grandma's Pumpkins
Ready to Pick



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