

Cardinal



December Edition

2018

FELIZ NAVIDAD!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

All around the world, families and friends unite to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year, Christmas! The holiday has become well known for a time of gift giving and decorating, but do we know how the holiday was established, or the origins of Christmas celebrations?

Christmas occurs every 25th of December, and for Christian religion followers this day marks the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. During Jesus' life time, there was objection to celebrations of martyrs. Jesus was crucified and died a martyr, and many people believed he should not be celebrated. It is unclear as to why December 25th was made the official day to celebrate the holiday, but it is suggested to be the winter solstice in the Roman calendar. The winter solstice is the day in which the Northern Hemisphere receives the smallest amount of daylight. This was known to be the rebirth of the sun, which many believed tied to the birth of the son, Jesus Christ. Christmas was not yet celebrated as its own holiday, but there were festivities a week prior to the 25th of December known as Saturnalia. During Saturnalia, there were many foods and drinks given to all the people, educational facilities were closed, and shifts in society such as slaves be-

come masters for the duration of the celebration.

The birth of Christ was not Christianity's principal festival, but instead it was Easter. It wasn't until the fourth century when the church decided to acknowledge Christ's birth as a holiday. Pope Julius 1 selected December 25th as the day for commemoration in accordance to the festivities of Saturnalia. During the fifth century, Christianity became the supreme religion and Christmas was known to be a day to give and support the less fortunate in society. This then sparked the idea for gift giving during the 17th century. In the United States, Christmas was established as an official holiday on June 26, 1870.

The idea of Christmas did not begin with the idea of gift giving or receiving, but celebrating the birth of our lord Jesus Christ. Focus on the need to give those less fortunate in our communities, and less about what it is you desire to receive from your loved ones. Spend your time with family and friends responsibly to enjoy the most out of your time with them. From everyone at La Salle, Merry Christmas!

- David Mena



POPULAR CHRISTMAS SONGS

It's finally that time of year again when it's socially acceptable to put up your Christmas tree, hang some ornaments, and most importantly listen to some Christmas music. It has become embedded into the Christian tradition to listen to some uplifting music around the holidays that revolve around the topic of Christmas in order to get into the spirit and mood of the Christmas season as we wait for the much-anticipated holiday. The earliest Christmas songs date all the way back to the Middle Ages and managed to still be popular and relevant to this day. The first known Christmas songs come directly from Bible verses such as "What Child is This?" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Most of the earliest Christmas songs come from unknown writers. Many Christmas songs have a different history attached to them. Some songs come from well-known movies and managed to make their way into several seasonal playlists for years to come. Some examples of this are "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" from the 1944 classic *Meet Me in St. Louis* who was sung by the *Wizard of Oz* Star, Judy Garland and "Baby, It's Cold Outside" from the 1949 movie *Neptune's Daughter* who was sung by Esther Williams, Ricardo Montalban, Betty Garrett, and Red Skelton. Some Christmas songs that are slightly more current include the 1979 classic song "Grandma Got Ran Over By a Reindeer" originally performed by husband-and-wife duo, Elmo and Patsy Trigg Shropshire, "All I Want for Christmas" released in 1994 and song by the musical artist, Mariah Carey, and "Santa Tell Me" which was released in 2013 and sung by Ariana Grande. The idea of the Christmas song tradition even bled into the world of rap. Some Christmas rap songs include "Christmas in Hollis" by Run DMC (1988), "Christmas Rappin" by Kurtis Blow (1979), & "Joy" by Chance the Rapper and Jeremih (2016). Christmas songs are a classic Christmas tradition that dates back centuries and I encourage everyone to get in the Christmas spirit and sit down and listen to some Christmas tunes as we prepare for the holidays.

- David Matos



HOW WE CAN KEEP “CHRIST” IN CHRISTMAS

Well, after an arduous twelve months, we have finally reached the month of December, and with it, the season of Christmas. It's seen as a magical time by many, one where parents run across department store aisles wrestling one another to buy their kids that newly released game or toy that they desperately wanted. Seeing the signs on windows, positively screaming about fifty percent off sales for all items as you pass by, tempt you to buy mom that hair dryer she wanted. It's ironic that that kind of superficial materialism has almost become a staple of the holiday over the years. There's nothing that screams Christmas more than Santa chugging down a bottle of Coca Cola while urging you to buy one yourself.

Often when I think of the state of affairs when it comes to Christmas time and how bleak it may seem, I think back to an old episode of the *Twilight Zone*, titled 'The Night of the Meek.' The story follows one Henry Corwin, a mall Santa who has lost all hope in the season of Christmas and has taken to rampant drinking. In the episode, after being confronted by the manager of the store he was working at, he says this:

“Someone should remind her that Christmas is more than barging up and down department store aisles and pushing people out of the way. Someone has to tell her that Christmas is another thing finer than that...Do you know another reason why I drink, Mr. Dundee? So that when I walk down the tenements, I can really think it's the North Pole, and the children are elves, and that I'm really Santa Claus bringing a bag of wondrous gifts for all of them... I just wish, Mr. Dundee, on one Christmas, only one, that I could see some of the hopeless ones and the dreamless ones. Just on one Christmas, I'd like to see the meek inherit the Earth. And that's why I drink, Mr. Dundee, and that's why I weep.”

Later in the episode, Henry finds a red sack that ejects any item he wants out of it, a veritable Santa Sack. One might think that a man in his position, with little more than a few pennies to his name and a raging bout of alcoholism would

use the magical bag for himself, but it flips that idea on its head. Rather than ask for all the wishes and dreams he'd ever wanted, he instead takes to the streets, handing out all the gifts and presents he can to the poor or needy he could find in his path.

That, I firmly believe, is emblematic of what Christmas is and always should be, and why I believe the episode stands to be one of the greatest Christmas episodes of all time. Whether or not it's Religion or simply the idea of Christmas time that spurs you on to do a good thing, it's the very concept of Christ and his actions that defines what it is. It's finally taking a time out of a year so full of strife to do a loving act, whether or not it's for someone you know or just a stranger on the street. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, but if you have the power—the opportunity—to do something in the service of another, take it and hold on tight. It's the effort to hold on that matters most in the end.

It's put best at the very end of the episode: “A word to the wise to all the children of the twentieth century, whether their concern be pediatrics or geriatrics, whether they crawl on hands and knees and wear diapers or walk with a cane and comb their beards. There's a wondrous magic to Christmas, and there's a special power reserved for little people. In short, there's nothing mightier than the meek, and a merry Christmas to each and all.”

- Joel Dominguez



WHAT CAN WE DO TO KEEP “CHRIST” IN CHRISTMAS?

*Responses from students with the assistance of the Religion
Department*

“What I can do to keep Christ in Christmas is by praying to Him and by going to Church. It is important to keep Christ in Christmas because it is not only for gifts, it is actually to celebrate Jesus’ birthday and appreciate everything He did for us.

- Izzac Garcia (Freshman)

“To keep Christ in Christmas we must remind everyone that Christ entered the world at this time to fulfil God’s covenant and in doing so he saved us from sin.”

- Daniel Estevez (Freshman)

“Nativity scenes are often used as a way of keeping Christmas a Christian Holiday, as well as attending the midnight mass. Another way you can do this is by wishing people you know a “Merry Christmas” rather than “season’s greetings” or “Happy Holidays”

- Juan Luis Paniaqua (Sophomore)

“Christmas over the years has been secularized, but the holiday’s roots lie in Jesus Christ. To keep Christ in Christmas all you have to do is remember and recognize the true meaning of Christmas, which is Jesus. Spread the word, go to Church, or even hang up decorations, as long as it represents Christ, then I believe you are keeping Christ in Christmas.”

- Hunter Colon (Sophomore)



WHAT CAN WE DO TO KEEP “CHRIST” IN CHRISTMAS?

*Responses from students with the assistance of the Religion
Department*

“ To keep Christ in Christmas, you can set up the Nativity to show God that you know about the true story of Christmas and you can always pray before dinner, at the start of the day, and before you sleep.”

- Daniel Ye (Freshman)

“ In order to keep Christ in Christmas, I will pray before feasting and spread the word of God to other people. I will also go to Church on Christmas and the days leading up to it.”

- Aaron Parajon (Freshman)

“ Things you can do to keep Christ in Christmas is to participate in church and to keep Jesus in your mind, heart, and not on the materialistic things”

- Johnson Ford (Sophomore)

“ Throughout the years, Christmas has been heavily secularized. To keep Christ in Christmas, one thing we all can do is send cards saying “Merry Christmas” instead of “Happy Holidays” or “ Season’s Greetings”. Another thing I can do is decorate my house with decorations that remind us about Christ like the Nativity scene.

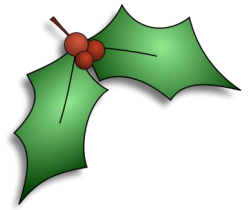
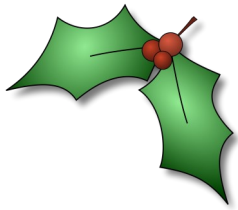
- Eric Yang (Sophomore)



HAPPY READING FOR THE HOLIDAYS



<i>TITLE</i>	<i>AUTHORS</i>
All Through the Night	Mary Higgins Clark
The Bronte's Christmas	Mary Hubert
Catholic Digest Christmas Book	
Charles Dickens' Christmas Ghost Stories	Charles Dickens
The Christmas Blessing	Donna Vanliere
Christmas Box	Richard Paul Evans
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens
Christmas Everywhere	Arlene Eribach
Christmas in My Heart	Joe L. Wheeler
Christmas in New York	Daniel Pool
Christmas Miracles	Jamie Miller
The Christmas Tree	Julie Salamon
Deck the Halls	Mary Higgins Clark
Dickens' Christmas	Charles Dickens
Holmes for the Holidays	Martin H. Greenberg
A Jane Austen Christmas	Jane Austen
A Magical Christmas	Claire Freedman
Murder for Christmas	Frances Duncan
Silent Night	Mary Higgins Clark
Skiping Christmas	Lee Allen
The Special Guest: A Christmas Story	John Grisham
Thomas Hardy's Christmas	Thomas Hardy
Wall Street Christmas	Robert Gambee



WHY DO WE GIVE GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS?

The time to deck the halls is here and one way to show your gratitude is by giving gifts to those that you love. The origins of gift giving can be traced all the way back to the story of Jesus' birth and the Three Kings. By following a star that showed them the way to see Jesus after his birth, the Three kings offered three gifts: gold, incense, and myrrh. Over 300 years later, St. Nicholas, a bishop born to wealthy Christian parents, secretly dropped a bag of gold down a poor man's chimney, saving his three daughters from prostitution. These two instances of early gift giving are the basis of what Christmas is today. Before Christmas was celebrated on December 25th, it was celebrated on December 6th, which is St. Nicholas' feast day. These early gifts were not given out in excess, but in necessity. The Three kings knew that Jesus was special, and they gave valuable currency as a sign of kingship, and perfume that was used for Jewish worship. St. Nick knew that the poor man was in grave danger of losing his daughters, and so he gave his gold to help the family. We can see in today's society that thoughtfulness has taken a back seat in gift giving, and majority of people receive items that they may use once and never use again. In the early 2000s it was estimated that shoppers in the U.S. alone spent over \$4 billion each day during the Christmas shopping season, with an average individual spending over \$1,000 on gifts, according to the book Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas. On some occasions, people even return their gifts the very next day! The meaning behind gift giving has diminished, but we can always retell the stories of how gift giving began. The spirit of Christmas will always be strong, and the act of gift giving is as rich and powerful as the holiday itself. So please, take the time to give someone something meaningful and NOT based on the price tag.

- Michael Suarez



TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Christmas is an international tradition and celebration for Christians. Wherever a Christian is, a tradition for Christmas incorporating regional or cultural concepts is bound to happen. Sometimes based purely on geography, certain regions only really allow what is possible in their specific area. For instance, in Canada there are holiday festive fairs that incorporate the snow provided for them by nature to create new traditions. There are Santa Strongman competitions (How else is he going to move all those presents?) and Maple Syrup Snow Candy. Although these are lovely traditions, it would be hard-pressed to find these traditions in other climates such as in Brazil where there are surfing Santas and giant ornaments. Setting and culture are pivotal in Christmas traditions and celebrations around the world.

- Juan Angos



HOW CHRISTMAS LOST ITS MEANING



Christmas is the celebration of your loved ones with the giving of gifts in appreciation for having special people in your lives. Although this is (objectively) one of the many missions of the celebration, many people find themselves lost in thought about what their loved ones will be getting them instead of the other way around. This increasing confusion with the true meaning of Christmas has led to the overall decline in selflessness and altruism which is usually common during this time of the year. It is for this reason, I would like to give you some tips on how to keep the true meaning of Christmas alive in your celebration.

Most of the time in preparation for Christmas we find ourselves worrying about what we will get, but the energy we use trying to figure out what we will get should be used to think about what we can give to our loved ones. In thinking about what we should give instead of what we should get we prepare ourselves mentally and physically for the letting go of our desires and wants. This progression towards selflessness will help us change into a mindset of charity and kindness where the happiness of others is an charitable goal.

- Emmanuel Amoah Jr.



HOTTEST TOYS OF 2018

Ages 1 - 5

GO! GO! Smart Wheel Mickey Magical Wonderland. Kids can get the thrill of driving, plus riding a Ferris Wheel, and some fun gear to spin plus more. A complete set can be had for \$49.99, but you can score a deal as low as \$29.99.



Age 4+

Fingerlings : they have made their return from last Christmas with Hugs, Fingerlings, and Minis lines of products. These retail for about \$14.99 but with demand increasing, retail pricing seems to be increasingly harder to acquire, with some shoppers turning to common resale sites where prices are anywhere from \$20 to \$70 for a single Fingerling, and a full set costing a heart wrenching \$799.



Age 6+

Laser X Fusion : Bringing two player laser tag to your home for \$49.99 for a complete set of two blasters and accessories. Even though it's a hot toy this Christmas it seems to not be selling out as quickly, but the predictions to buy this item will increase as we approach Christmas.



Ages 10 - 14

Harry Potter Hogwarts Great Hall Building Set by Lego : This incredible set measures 14 inches high, including 10 Harry Potter Mini-figures. This set is a fan favorite by Harry Potter and Lego fans alike. This Lego set is a premium item, with a whopping price of \$99.99.



Ages 15+

Gaming Consoles : A favorite by both Teens and Adults alike, are gaming consoles. Whether it be Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo, gaming consoles always fly off the shelves. The latest Xbox One S series can be had for a mere \$200, and for the gamer in your life that wants more the, Xbox One X series can be had for \$419 featuring 4K Gaming resolution and a butter smooth 30 to 60 FPS depending on the game.



-Raymond Arroyo

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DISHES

There are many traditional christmas dishes that people from different countries eat around the world. These include seven different fishes (Feast of Seven Fishes) in Italy, Roast Turkey with Ham and Pork in Australia, Fried Chicken in Japan, Goose in Germany, Christmas Pudding in England and a Christmas shaped log called “Buche de Noel” in France. Some of the traditional favorite Christmas dishes that are made in my home that I enjoy include Spiral Ham with an Orange Marmalade Glaze, Bacon Wrapped Asparagus, Cast Iron Buttermilk Cornbread and Oreo Trifle. Below are the recipes so that others might try them. Hope you enjoy them as much as I do. Felices Vacacionres, Joyeuses Fetes, Schone Ferien, Buone Vacanze.

Ham with Orange Marmalade Glaze

3 oz. frozen orange juice concentrate, undiluted
 3 cloves of garlic, minced
 ¼ teaspoon paprika
 1 tablespoon orange marmalade
 ½ teaspoon low sodium soy sauce
 3 lbs, spiral sliced (defrost if frozen)
 2 teaspoon cornstarch mixed with 2 tablespoon cold water



Combine the orange juice concentrate, garlic, paprika, marmalade, soy sauce and mix in a small bowl. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place spiral ham cut side down in an oven safe bag. Pour orange marmalade mixture over ham. Seal bag and place in roasting pan. Insert meat thermometer inside ham and bake for 12-14 minutes per pound or until meat thermometer reads 140 degrees.

When done, remove ham from oven and from bag. Place glaze mixture from ham bag into a sauce pan. In a small bowl mix two teaspoon cornstarch with two tablespoons of cold water. Add to marmalade mixture in sauce pan and cook until thick. Serve alongside with sliced ham on a plate.

Bacon Wrapped Asparagus

2 lbs. fresh asparagus with ends trimmed
 12 slices of bacon
 ½ cup light brown sugar ½ cup butter or olive oil
 Parchment Paper or Aluminum Foil



Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Place a baking sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil. Wrap three or four spears of asparagus in each strip of bacon and place on the baking sheet. Continue until all spears have been wrapped and sprinkle a little brown sugar in top of each bacon wrapped asparagus bundle. Bake for 18 to 25 minutes keeping an eye on them to make sure that they do not burn. Let cool on baking sheet for 10 minutes before serving.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DISHES

Cast Iron Buttermilk Cornbread

- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs at room temperature
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 cup yellow corn meal
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon butter



Preheat oven to to 400 degrees. In a bowl combine flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Stir in buttermilk, 1/3 cup of melted butter and eggs and mix just until mixture is moistened. In a cast iron skillet melt the tablespoon of butter and pour the batter into the pan. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Serve warm.

Oreo Trifle

- 1 box store bought brown or cake mix
- 2 containers of Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 package of Oreo Cookies, crushed
- 2 packages of instant pudding
- 2 cups of milk
- Large Bowl or Trifle Bowl



Prepare and make the brownie or cake mix according to the package directions. Once cooled, cut cake into small square like pieces and set aside. Crush the Oreos in a ziploc storage bag and also set aside. Next prepare the instant pudding according to the package directions.

In a large bowl/trifle bowl take some of the brownie or cake mix pieces and place in a layer at the bottom of the bowl. Next place a layer of chocolate pudding followed by a layer of Cool Whip. Then add a layer of crushed Oreo cookies. Repeat the cake, pudding, Cool Whip and Oreo layers. (Trifle bowl will usually make two layers of each.) Top with additional Oreo cookies and refrigerate until ready to serve.

-Andrew Michael Cambram

MS. SANCHEZ

Recently, I sat down with Ms. Sanchez who has been named President of the New York City Catholic Secondary School Counselors Association for the 2018-19 Academic Year. This elite organization consists of a group of caring professionals who are committed to promoting the intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of adolescents within the Catholic tradition.

Ms. Sanchez attended Manhattan College, then began to work at La Salle as a volunteer in 2006, when La Salle was at its old location back at 2nd Street and 2nd Avenue. During this time, she resided with the Lasallian Brothers. Recently, she took a trip to Lake George, New York, for the New York State Counselor Association. She began her counseling career three years ago, and has been very successful.

As I got to know how and what has made Ms. Sanchez a terrific counselor, I got to know some of her interests outside of La Salle. During her spare time, she enjoys making improvements to her home. She also enjoys Mexican food. She is currently reading *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor, a Supreme Court Justice member. She also enjoys watching movies, her favorite one being *Titanic*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. Her favorite actor is Leonardo DiCaprio. Her favorite TV shows are "Game of Thrones" and "Stranger Things". She enjoys a variety of music, with her favorite artists being Beyoncé, Alicia Keys, The Rolling Stones, & Aerosmith.

Ms. Sanchez's favorite quote is "Two

roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by." - Robert Frost. Her hope for LSA students is that "we make the most out of our four years, there will be ups and downs, but we should be determined to succeed, but not be too hard on themselves, and that we become caring and diligent young men."

- Michael Centeno



POLITICS

The Midterm elections have been the talk of the town for a while, even in its passing many are still arguing over the outcome. We ask ourselves, what are the Midterm elections? Why is it so important? The Midterm elections occur halfway between a presidential election which occurs every four years. Each election 435 members of the House of Representatives go up for re-election and one-third of the Senate. Each election control fluctuates.

During the Obama presidency, Democrats had control of both the House and the Senate, giving them control of congress. In the previous election both the House and Senate were ruled by Republicans in majority. In each election 51 seats are needed to control the Senate and 218 are needed for the House. Many predictions were made, such as both the House and Senate would be taken back by Democrats. In the end the results did not prove to be the same as Republicans still hold the majority of Senate with 53 members and the House is now controlled by the Democrats with 234 members.

During this past mid term elections more than ever before, there was a clear divide between what mattered to democrats and republicans. Fueled by the negative and divisive rhetoric of the President of the United States, it seemed that the people of this country had drawn their lines in the sand. Every day we heard arguments, protesters, fights and outward expressions of hate because of individual stances on the social, economic and global issues that affect our daily lives. In early October, I became more aware of the candidates seeking election or re-election.

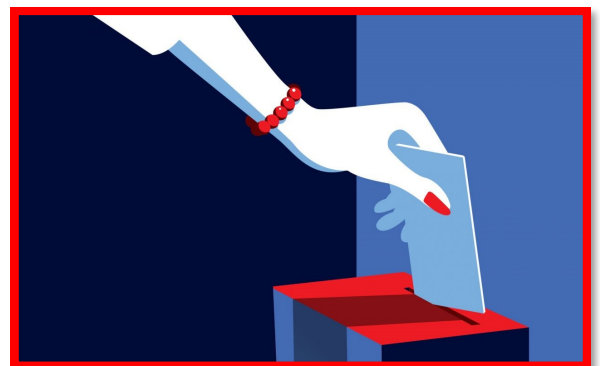
While watching report by CCN journalist, Anderson Cooper, I learned of the growing number of women from various backgrounds who were running for office in the hopes of bringing about change to both the Senate and the House or representatives.

There has been some significant milestones that we witnessed during and after the mid elections. Over 92 women have won in the House and 10 won in the Senate, not including the 10 that have been serving in the upper chamber. There are currently 112 women serving in

congress. This is the largest group of women ever to serve in congress. Deb Haaland and Sharice Davids are the first Native American women elected to congress. Rashida Talib and Ishan Omar are the first Muslim women to represent their states in the house. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and Abby Finkenauer are the youngest women to serve as lawmakers.

The important message here, particularly for young men like ourselves is that we have witnessed the shift in the mindset of our communities, where every individual who is willing to serve the greater good will receive an opportunity to do so. In these midterm elections a growing number of candidates, particularly women of all walks of life regardless of their color, culture, ethnicity or age were able to tell us how they would make changes that will impact our daily lives. We await their actions as we hold them accountable every step of the way.

- Lyndon Inglis



SPORTS

Basketball

On Tuesday, December 4th, La Salle's Varsity basketball team played in their first league game in the 'A' Division in 5 years. The team suffered defeat at the hands of the All Hallows Gaels. Final score was 73-59.

Leading 36-32 at the half, the Cardinals went through an extended scoring drought in the 3rd quarter, creating a deficit that they would not recover from.

The team was led by Josiah Chandler's 21 point and 8 rebounds and followed by Jimmy Romero's 18 points and 15 rebounds.

Bowling

The Bowling Team is on fire !

On Tuesday, December 4th, La Salle Academy's Varsity and JV Bowling teams defeated Archbishop Molloy for their 11th win of the season. The win gave both teams a perfect regular season record of 11-0 as they finish in first place and undefeated.

Devin Flowers led all scores for the Varsity with a high game of 223 and 627 series. Yamil Sanchez led all scores for the JV with a 198 high game.

- Daniel Baimbridge

