

The Cardinal



Nov/Dec 2021, Vol XCVI, Edition # 3 | Produced by Lasallians, for Lasallians | www.LaSalleAcademy.org



Merry Christmas



Last Christmas was a difficult period for most people. The pandemic made almost every aspect of life difficult, whether it was shopping for gifts, going to the grocery store, or caring for a loved one. This year, Lasallians intend to celebrate Christmas with much joy.

Teachers have decorated their classrooms with Christmas trees, wreaths, and lights. As you pass by some classrooms, you can hear soothing Christmas songs. The Advanced and Studio Art classes prepared wonderful Christmas art work under the direction of Ms. Mollie O' Mara to welcome Advent. The Religion Department had everyone thinking about Christmas when students shared their thoughts about the true meaning of Christmas.

The student government prepared an entertaining Christmas Spirit Week. Each day of Christmas Spirit week, between December 15 to 17, was a themed dress-down day. Students wore their comfiest clothes on Mellow Monday (December 13), favorite team colors on Team Tuesday (December 14), workout clothes on Work Out Wednesday (December 15), old fashioned clothes on Throwback Thursday (December 16), and Christmas gear on Festive Friday (December 17).

Merry Christmas!
Feliz Navidad!



Inside This Edition

Christmas Music

3

Dr. Drama Lopez - A Holy Night

4

Christmas in Puerto Rico

5

Christmas Movies

6

Christmas Gift Ideas

7

Putting Christ Back Into Christmas

9

Christmas Music

BY ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ LUNA



Christmas music begins as early as December 1. La Salle faculty and staff enjoy the various genres such as classical, rock, jazz, rhythm and blues, pop, and modern music. Here are some favorite Christmas songs that La Salle faculty and staff enjoy to get into the Christmas spirit.

Ms. Carlsen	<i>A Holly Jolly Christmas</i>
Mr. Chin	<i>The Most Wonderful Time of the Year</i>
Mr. Cygan	<i>O Tannenbaum</i>
Ms. Dowd	<i>O Holy Night</i>
Mr. Flax	<i>Hallelujah</i>
Mr. Krause	<i>Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)</i>
Dr. Orama Lopez	<i>O Holy Night</i>
Ms. Masullo	<i>All I Want for Christmas is You</i>
Mr. Murphy	<i>Christmas Time is Here</i>
Mr. Neering	<i>Little Drummer Boy</i>
Mr. Pannell	<i>Joy to the World</i>
Mr. Pena	<i>Feliz Navidad</i>
Mr. Perez	<i>Jingle Bell Rock</i>
Br. Richard	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>
Ms. Ritziu	<i>Santa Baby</i>
Ms. Santiago	<i>All I Want for Christmas is You</i>
Ms. Santos	<i>Last Christmas</i>
Mr. Stark	<i>We Three Kings</i>
Br. Thomas	<i>O Holy Night</i>
Ms. Toney	<i>I'll Be Home for Christmas</i>
Coach Washington	<i>Christmas in Hollis</i>

Dr. Orama Lopez - O Holy Night

ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ LUNA

O Holy Night is a captivating song with a very sublime tone that highlights the night when Jesus was born. That night is holy and divine and the song is a beautiful invitation to worship the most precious child in the world.

Originally, the lyrics from *O Holy Night* were based on a French poem written in the mid-nineteenth century by Placide Cappeau, whose first verse was "Minuit, chrétiens! Minuit, chrétiens! c'est l'heure solennelle". Later, Adolphe Adam composed the music which was sung by Emily Laury, a famous opera singer.

Dr. Orama Lopez stated that she had the opportunity to be part of the Puerto Rico Lyric Choir at the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra's Christmas concert when they performed *O Holy Night*. The Puerto Rican soprano, Hilda Ramos, sang as a soloist. This warm piece was and is usually included in the Christmas repertoire and is performed in French, English, and Spanish.

For a rendition of *O Holy Night* by Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo, click here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7uiqRCW6I8>

Minuit, chrétiens,

c'est l'heure solennelle,

Où l'Homme Die descendit jusqu'à nous

Pour effacer la tache originelle

Et de Son Père arrêter le courroux.

Le monde entier tressaille d'espérance

En cette nuit qui lui donne un Sauveur.

Peuple à genoux, attends ta délivrance.

Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur,

Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur!

O holy night!

The stars are brightly shining,

It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees!

O hear the angel voices!

O night divine,

O night when Christ was born:

O night divine,

O night, O night Divine.



Christmas in Puerto Rico

ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ LUNA

Christmas in Puerto Rico is filled with lots of joy and merriment. As soon as Thanksgiving has been celebrated or simultaneously with Thanksgiving Day, El Centro de Bellas de Santurce and the Orquesta Sinfonico Pablo Casals (the media) use their platforms to showcase ballet dances, musical groups, orchestras, singers, and troubadours that foster the Christmas spirit. The cultural agenda in Puerto Rico becomes a cathedral of art.

The troubadours sing melodious tunes that focus on the heritage of Puerto Ricans. The Cuatro Puertorriqueño (a musical instrument like the guitar) renders a catchy rhythm. A most delightful Christmas tradition is the Los parrandos. These are groups of friends, neighbors, and families who visit friends' homes during the early morning as a serenade. They usually wake up their friends with a repertoire of Christmas songs. The visitors do not leave until the hosts lavish the visitors with food and drink.

From a religious perspective, the Catholic Church celebrates the traditional Misas de Aguinaldo by opening its doors to parishioners from December 16 to 24 for mass at 5:00 am. The parish priest usually invites professional singers or the troubadours to sing Christmas carols or "aguinaidos navidenos" with improvised verses on baby Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On January 1st, Puerto Ricans continue to celebrate as they ring in the new year with rice and pigeon peas, pernil, marcillas, arroz con dulce, tembleque y coquito. January 5 and 6 are also days of merriment. Puerto Ricans celebrate the Three Kings Day. Children are excited to receive and open the gifts the Three Holy Kings have left them. In Juana Diaz, the southern area of Puerto Rico, the improvised Three Holy Kings ride on horseback through the streets.

Puerto Ricans end the Christmas holidays with Las Fiestas de las Calle de San Sebastian on the third week of January. At this celebration, there are wonderful performances in music, dance, and art. Everyone goes away optimistic that the new year will bring as much joy and merriment.



Dr. Orama Lopez by her classroom Christmas Tree



Christmas Movies



BY CHRISTOPHER HURLEY

During the holiday season there are many traditions such as exchanging gifts, decorating a Christmas tree, attending Christmas shows and concerts. One of the best traditions, however, is watching Christmas movies.

Some of the most popular movies are *Elf: Buddy's Sing & Cheer Along*, *The Home Alone* movies, *The Polar Express*, *Miracle on 34th Street* and *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. All these movies are favorites and are still aired yearly on television during the Christmas season. These movies usually finish with a happy ending which helps promote the happiness of the joyful season.

In a recent survey among students and faculty, *the Home Alone* series ranked as the most popular. The first *Home Alone* movie was released in 1990 and was an instant success as movie goers loved watching 8-year-old Kevin McCallister navigate his way through the Christmas season alone. A second popular choice was *The Polar Express*, an inspiring adventure movie based on the 1985 children's book of the same name. *Elf: Buddy's Sing & Cheer Along* was another film that came up often in the survey. The movie follows Buddy the Elf as he heads to New York City to find his biological father.

The Cardinal encourages Lasallians to continue the tradition of watching a Christmas movie this season.



Elf



Polar Express



Home Alone



Christmas Gifts

BY JOSHUA A ROCAMORA

This coming Christmas, everyone is once again scrambling to find the best gifts for their loved ones. This tradition of gift giving can be traced back to the birth of Jesus when God gave his only son to save us from our sins. The Three Wise Men also demonstrated gift giving when they brought baby Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This tradition has continued on for hundreds of years following the birth of Jesus.

Gifts are given with the intent of bringing joy to others. With the increase of technology in every aspect of our lives, tech gifts have become more popular. The best tech gifts are those that improve a person's life.

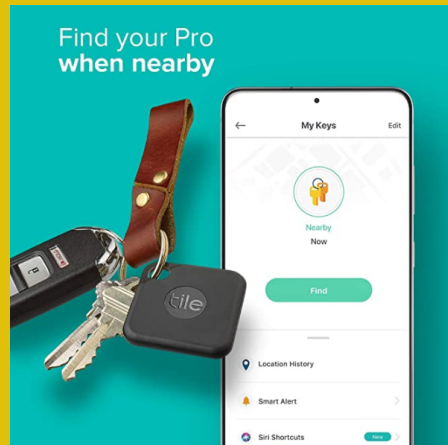
Here are some nifty tech gifts that are affordable and will surely be useful. Hopefully, these recommendations will help inspire you to choose the right gift for your loved ones.

Links to the products listed:

- 1.) <https://amzn.to/3lu53Dl>
- 2.) <https://amzn.to/3dvUtgU>
- 3.) <https://amzn.to/3rKmhB>
- 4.) <https://amzn.to/3lGbBor>
- 5.) <https://amzn.to/3rHj0rC>
- 6.) <https://amzn.to/31Gy5im>

(Numbers do not indicate ranks).

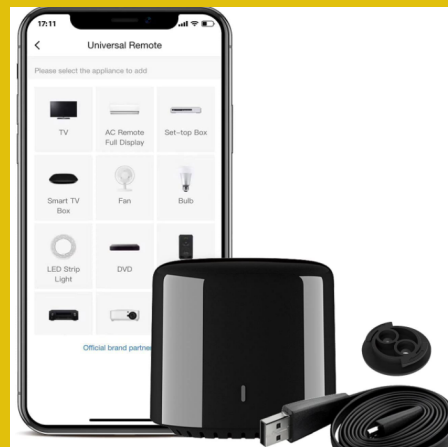
1. Tile Mate Tracker



\$25.00

Do you know someone who always loses their belongings? This gift will help them keep track of their valuables and spare them hours of searching. The tile tracker can simply be attached to things such as your keys and its location will be displayed on you phone.

2. Bestcon Universal Remote



\$29.00

Nowadays, we do a lot of tasks on our phones. With this gadget, you can turn your phone into a universal remote for your remote controlled devices such as your tv or air conditioning. This is a good gift that will simplify someone's life at home.

3. Echo Dot Smart Speaker



\$19.99

Amazon's echo dot is a virtual assistant that will help you do things such as know the weather or turn on your lights at home. This can be a good gift to help a person do tasks at home.

4. Divoom Pixoo-Pixel Art Digital Picture Frame



\$64.99

This cute little gift can be customized to display a variety of art. It can serve as a small reminder to a special someone about how much you care about them this holiday season.

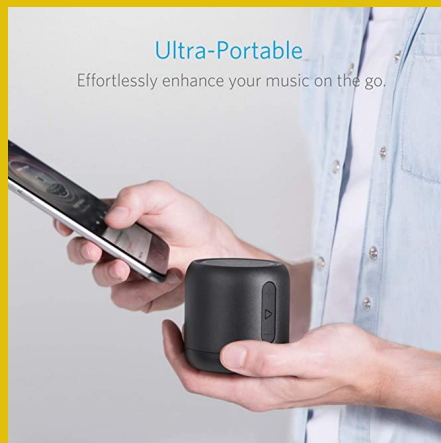
5. Fujifilm Instax Mini 9 Instant Camera



\$69.95

This neat small camera automatically prints pictures straight out of the device. This is a good gift to someone who loves to take lots of photos. The printed photo can be immediately given as gifts to loved ones.

6. Anker Soundcore Mini



\$24.99

Anker Soundcore mini is a compact bluetooth speaker that delivers clear sound. Music is an important part of the holiday season and sets the mood. This item is a perfect gift for music lovers especially during the Christmas holidays.



Putting

CHRIST

back into Christmas



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

"To keep Christ in Christmas, I can remind everyone, like my family members, about what we're actually celebrating. I can lead prayer before we feast and talk about Jesus Christ and how he's our savior."

Alexander Lopez
(Grade 9)

"I know the reason for Christmas. I know the birth of Jesus is a gift to mankind. I do not need additional gifts. I simply want to pray and be thankful that Jesus is in my life."

Nicholas Cortez
(Grade 11)

"We can keep our Lasallian values and help those who are less fortunate. By following the footsteps of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, we can keep Christ in Christmas by ensuring the poor have something to celebrate too."

Jerome Jose
(Grade 11)

"I can keep praying to Jesus for the poor to become richer and the sick to become well."

Devin Mouzon
(Grade 9)

"My family and I keep Christ in Christmas in our own special way. When we put up the tree we always put baby Jesus under the tree. Also on Christmas Eve before dinner we pray with the whole family."

Brian Trejo
(Grade 12)

"To keep Christ in Christmas, we can keep in mind the importance of Christmas and how it involves the birth of Jesus. Additionally, we pray and go to church on this day."

Frank Reyes
(Grade 12)

Christmas Greetings from *The Cardinal*

