

Scholar's Gazette



Reflection on the Season

Alyssa Dixon

We often get side tracked on all the blessings that we have during this busy time of the year. One of our many blessings is Christmas, not the gifts, but CHIRSTmas. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, we have the opportunity to reflect on the greatest gift that was ever given to us, Jesus Christ! This gift is SO great that God sent His one and only Son to the world, to eventually die, so that we may be able to be perfect again and join God in heaven when it's our turn to die. This CHRISTmas give the gift of this beautiful message, and also remember the reason why He came - that we can receive the gift of eternal life.

Let's reflect on how how this gift came to be. God sent an angel to come to a woman named Mary in a dream. The angel said to her that she would have a child, and he would be the Savior. God also sent an angel to Joseph telling him to not be afraid of this baby and to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.

It was getting close to the time of the birth of our greatest gift, and this is what happened, as the account reads in Luke 2: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



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Supervising Editors:

Mrs. Kacmarynski & Mrs. Hein

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARCUS

Ring Out the Good News St. Marcus Middle School Christmas Service

Thursday, December 18th at 5:30 pm in the Wehr Center

St. Marcus K3 & K4 Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21st at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary with Pastor Jeske

St. Marcus Early Childhood Center Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21st at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary with Pastor Steinberg

Emmanuel Lux Illuminated with Koiné

Sunday, December 21st at 5:30 pm in the Wehr Center with Pastor Huet

Come and See (a Candlelight Christmas) with Koiné

Wednesday, December 24th at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary with Pastor Huet

Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Thursday, December 25th at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary with Pastor Jeske

New Year's Eve Vesper with Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 31st at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary with Pastor Steinberg

Christmas Traditions Around the World!

Iyonna Bradley

I thought it would be interesting to learn how other countries celebrate Christmas. Do they put Christ first, or is it all about the presents!? I hope you learn something new!

The first country I researched was Mexico. In Mexico, Christmas is celebrated from December 12-January 6. During this time, children often participate in a dance called the "Posada." Posada is a Spanish word that means inn or lodging. The Posada celebrate the Christmas story, reflecting on the part where Mary and Joseph looked for a room in the inn. During this time, houses are traditionally decorated with lanterns, evergreens, and moss.

The next country I chose to research was China! In China it is a little different because only about 1% of their population is Christian, so only a few people know about the true meaning of Christmas. In fact, in some places in China, you can't even talk about Jesus because their government says it's illegal!

The last country I chose to research was South Africa. In South Africa it doesn't snow around Christmas, so it feels like summer here for us! Since there is no snow during this holiday, the people "Braai" which means barbecue for their meal. The families also let the children decorate the "Fir" which we know as the Christmas tree.

I hope you were able to learn a little something new too!

Christmas in Milwaukee

If you're looking for some Christmas festivities in the area, here are some great ideas!

Festival Light Displays Downtown!

When: November 21 - December 29

Where: various downtown parks

Cost: FREE

Candy Cane Lane

When: November 28th thru December 26th

Where: 96th Street to 92nd Street & Montana Avenue to Oklahoma Avenue

Cost: FREE/ Donation to the MACC fund

A Grand Avenue Christmas at the Pabst Mansion

When: November 22 - January 5

Where: Pabst Mansion, 2000 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Cost: \$10 adults; \$9 students and seniors; \$6

children; free for children 6 and under

Slice of Ice - Skating Season Opens at Red Arrow Park

When: November 29 - spring thaw

Where: Red Arrow Park, 920 N. Water St.

Cost: \$8 for skate rental, free with your own skates

Milwaukee Ballet: The Nutcracker

When: December 14 - 27

Where: Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St.

Cost: \$30 - \$75

Milwaukee Repertory Theater: A Christmas Carol

When: November 27 - December 24

Where: Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St.

Cost: \$20 - \$65



Why do we Decorate Christmas trees?

Dejanee Brooks

As I was putting up my Christmas tree, I was wondering why do we decorate Christmas trees? Having a decorated tree is definitely prettier, but why do we do this for Jesus's Birthday?

In ancient times, the evergreen tree represents a "symbol of life in the midst of winter" (reference: christianitytoday.com). There are many legends around the why we use trees during Christmas, but there isn't anything documented about them until the 1500s, about the time of Martin Luther.

We know that Christmas is all about Christ! By decorating a tree, we are reminded of the upcoming birth of our Savior. Early Europeans called the Christmas tree, "a tree for God's Son" (reference: everythingchristmas.com). I hope you enjoy decorating your Christmas tree. Remember the REAL reason for Christmas, and reflect on that as you are making your family's tree beautiful.

The Legend of Santa Claus

Julia Rehm

Have you ever wondered who created the Christmas character we know as Santa Claus? Hundreds of years ago the legend of Santa started with a Saint named Nicolas. Saint Nicolas was born on March 15th, 270 AD Somewhere near what we now know as Turkey. He was said to be very kind, although not much is truly recorded about him. Many legends were made about him, some were farfetched and some were likely to be true.

One legend was about Saint Nicolas sneaking into the childrens' orphanage and putting presents under their tree. He did this to bring joy to the children's hearts for Christmas. He became very well known as a protector of the people as well as a generous man. For a some years, a feast was held on the anniversary of his death, December 5, 343 AD. During the Renaissance he was very popular, probably the most popular Saint in all of Europe! By the end of the 18th century the legend had spread to America when some Dutch families moved here and started to celebrate the loved tradition.

Santa Claus came from Saint Nicolas' Dutch name, Sinter Klaas. In 1881 Thomas Nash made the first cartoon of a jolly man with a red suit, elves, and flying reindeer based on a poem a man once made for his three daughters. The poem's title was "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas". All around the world Santa-like figures exist, giving children presents. Many of these ideas were mixed up, and now form the jolly white bearded man we know as Santa. As you can see Santa Claus didn't become popular right away, it took time for his legend to even spread to America.



OPINION:

Should parents tell their children that Santa Claus is real?

NO: St. Nick was a real person, but he did not ride around in a sled at midnight giving gifts with flying reindeer and have little elves helping him with the gifts. Parents should not lie to their children, saying, "Santa Claus is real." If parents want their kids to believe in something, then tell them about "Jesus". Tell them the true reason of Christmas, not a lie. I'm pretty sure you want your kids to trust you. - Jalynn Tolbert-Jones

YES: Parents should tell their children that Santa is real. He was real at some point in time, so parents aren't lying to their children if they say, "Santa Claus is real." The reason for the sled and reindeer is to allow kids' imagination to go free and believe in the magic of Santa Claus. With no imagination, the world around us would be too dull and dead. The magic of Santa Claus means making more and more kids believe and have hope. Santa is a tradition that many people embrace every year, so why take that fun away from Christmas? - EnJolie Smith

What do YOU think? Did you believe in Santa when you were younger? Would you encourage others to believe in Santa Claus?

GO TO SLEEP

Alyssa Dixon

Go to sleep, don't weep,
Santa comes at night!

He's scared of lights, it's just his fright,
in them he finds no delight.

The chimney is his best friend,
and in it he descends,
to find his way, to the tree,
to empty out his friends!

Before he departs, his eyes spark,
his favorite cookies - aye!

You want to be part of this?!

Awesome! We would love to have guest writers for the student newspaper! If you have an idea or want to submit something, please talk to Mrs. Kacmarynski or Mrs. Hein for more information.

Chocolate Covered Pretzels

Ingredients:

1¼ lbs white or milk chocolate

8 ounces Pretzel Twists

"Jimmies" and/or colored sugar (optional)

Directions:

Melt the chocolate in the top of a double boiler, stirring constantly.

OR

Melt the chocolate in a microwave safe bowl on 50% power until melted, stirring often.

Dip the pretzels halfway into the chocolate, completely covering half of the pretzel.

Roll in topping if desired

Lay on wax paper.

Place in refrigerator for 15 minutes to harden.

Store in an airtight container.



The 12 Days of Christmas - St. Marcus Version - Tevelis Winslow

On the twelfth day of Christmas
my teacher gave to me,
Twelve Bible verses,
Eleven homework passes,
Ten passport points,
Nine slices of pizza,
Eight behavior merits,
Seven historical documents,
Six science equations,
Five Christmas carols!
Four reading assignments,
Three college visits,
Two math packets,
and my very own special school key!

Christmas Playlist

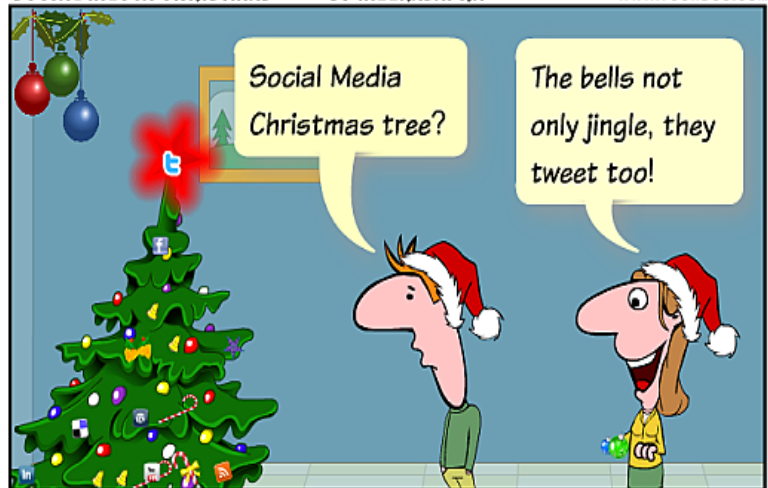
Everyone has a favorite Christmas song, whether it is a hymn, traditional song, or a song from a movie or TV show. The Journalism team put our favorite songs together in a playlist just in time for you to take home for Christmas break!



1. Silent Night - Mariah Carey
2. This Christmas - Chris Brown
3. It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas - Johnny Mathis
4. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus - Jackson 5
5. Jingle Bell Rock - Jim Boothe & Joe Beal
6. All I Want For Christmas Is You - Mariah Carey
7. This Is My Wish - Kevin Ross
8. Silent Night - Mariah Carey
9. Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow - Dean Martin
10. All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth - Spike Jones & His City Slickers
11. Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer - Elmo & Patsy
12. Go Where I Send Thee - Ralph Stanley
13. Christmas Canon - Trans-Siberian Orchestra
14. Deck the Halls - Manheim Steamroller

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Top 10 List: Christmas Movies

Tremerell Jones-Robinson

Everybody loves a good Christmas movie! Here are some of my family's favorites that you might also enjoy:

1. Elf
2. Home Alone
3. Fred Claus
4. The Polar Express
5. Santa Claus 2
6. The Miracle On 34th Street
7. Jingle All the Way
8. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer
9. A Charlie Brown Christmas
10. How the Grinch Stole Christmas



Name: _____

Homeroom: _____



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Rules:

- 1) Write your name and homeroom on the blanks.
- 2) Decorate and Color your Christmas Tree!
- 3) Turn this finished page in to Mr. Condia's mailbox on the middle School 3rd floor by **2:00pm on Friday 12/19.**