Preschool/Mother's Day Out News

The Origin of the "Twelve Days of Christmas"

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas". To most, it's a delightful, nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law – private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged.

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem.

The other symbols mean the following:

1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, Son of God
2 Turtle Doves = the Old and New Testaments
3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
5 Golden Rings = the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10 Lords A-leaping = the Ten Commandments
11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed



Important Notes and News

Breakfast with St. Nick
Saturday, December 5th from 8:30- 11:30 in the Parish Life Center. Register at st-teresa.com/st-nick

Ugly Sweater Day
Tuesday, December 15th
Come to school dressed in your ugly sweater.

Christmas Fun Day
Thursday, December 17th
Please have your child come to school dressed in their PJ's.

Outside Time
Please send in a jacket or sweater for cooler weather. The children enjoy outside play time,

REMINDER
Tuition for December is the full amount you pay each month. Tuition is due by the 10th of each month.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Preschool/MDO Calendar of Events for December 2026

Saturday, December 5th	Breakfast with St. Nick
Tuesday, December 15th	Wear your Ugly Sweater Day
Thursday, December 17th	Christmas Fun Day (wear your Pj's)
Friday, December 18th - Tuesday. January 5th	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
Wednesday, January 6th	Back to School

Preschool/MDO Office:

Nicole Durrwachter
Director of Preschool/ Mother's Day Out Program
706-303-4756
Ndurrwachter@st-teresa.com