

The *Interim Plus* is a periodical dedicated to educational matters and specifically designed to assist teachers in integrating relevant life issues in their lesson planning.

Editor: Dan Di Rocco

Editorial Board: Dan Di Rocco, Shantel Jose

Design & Production: David Bolton

The Interim Plus is published Bi-Monthly by

The Interim Publishing Company

104 Bond St. Toronto, ON M5B 1X9

416-204-1687

interimplus@theinterim.com

Date: November/December 2018 Edition: Volume 19 No. 2

Contents:

Some Reflections on the Meaning of Christmas	1
More Quotes on Christmas for Discussion and Reflection	5
Christmas Facts and Fun	6
Crossword Puzzle	10

Some Reflections on the Meaning of Christmas

It is mid-semester and the school year is progressing as per expectations. Hopefully! This curriculum supplement is devoted to the meaning of Christmas. We always have celebrations at Christmas, but we often forget the reason why we are celebrating and how to truly celebrate. We need a reminder so that we are aware of why Christmas is indeed a special day. This is the focus of this curriculum supplement, a look at Christmas, its meaning and ultimate importance in the universal history of creation itself.

We present a variety of statements intended to stimulate thinking, reflection and to help everyone prepare for the holy feast, but one accompanied by merriment. We also pose some questions to help in discussions and reflection.

Is Christmas becoming passé? Is the feast losing its vitality and force? Just like any plant, for it to thrive it needs to be solidly connected to its roots. So with Christmas, we need to be connected to the person for whom we throw the birthday party, the Christ Child born to Mary in Bethlehem.

If we go to someone's birthday party we go because we are invited and we want to be there for the birthday boy. The capacity to live out the Christmas spirit really depends on our desire and willingness to ask the question: Who is Jesus? Why did he come into this world?

Christmas serves to keep this question foremost in our minds and hearts. Let us ask this question seriously on his birthday and be mindful of the fact that to celebrate Jesus' birthday we do not have to be powerful, nor rich, nor clever, nor popular. We just need to stop, reflect, pray and be humble and thankful for the great present of his coming as a child of flesh and blood. We need to accept the ultimate gift and surprise of Jesus coming to us from on high, and being the light that illuminates the darkness.

Yes, Christmas is partly about giving and receiving gifts, and it is about celebrating the family and friends in our lives, warm greetings extended to neighbours and fellow workers at office parties. There are people all over the world who love their friends and family and exchange gifts, but who do not celebrate the spiritual meaning of Christmas. The real meaning of Christmas is something much greater and infinitely better than all of that giving and receiving. We can accept all that but we would be missing the real reason why we should celebrate and make a big deal of it. Christmas is about the miracle of "totally pure, unconditional, irrepressible, inconceivably awesome, self-denying true love. *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16)



NOTE: We are only two weeks from the closing deadline for the Father Ted Colleton Scholarship sponsored by Niagara Region Right to Life. Please remind your classes of the opportunity. They can visit <http://www.theinterim.com/category/fr-ted-colleton-scholarship/> or <http://niagararegion-righttolife.ca/> and obtain all the essential details.



Several Short Reflections and Quotes About Christmas

Here are a number of brief reflections on Christmas. A few questions follow. Have students read the papers and then answer the questions posed. The exercise could be carried out in groups or whole class discussion. Students could be asked to write their own half page reflection on what they have learned from the process.

A. How to Slow Down Christmas by Ann Voskamp

<http://qideas.org/articles/how-to-slow-down-christmas>

Power plays and big takeovers and loud commercials. That's the way the world turns and Wall Street rolls.

But God, when He comes, He shows up in this fetal ball. Just this seed unfurling, impossible power contained in the small.

The beginning of December, that is what I set out on the counter: just a bowl of seeds.

Through Advent, through all these crazy, waiting days, waiting for the Bread of Heaven to come down, we plant seeds of wheat for every seed of kindness, try to remember to just smile, breathe, laugh and clean up the next mess.

God, He gestated. God was a seed. I think this, holding a seed in the palm of my hand.

"Just one seed at a time." My youngest with the mop of ringlets tells her older brother in her sing-song voice.

"One small kindness? One small seed."

She's put away her brother's strewn shoes, a secret gift, a little thing planted in the expanse of a day. So she's planting her seed, a little love that grows big. She uses her index finger to press her seeds down into the dirt and the dark.

This is what we have to do: push back all this dark.

Because the economy scrapes its dark underbelly too low and who can breathe with the squeeze? And some phone call can hang up on all our dreams and everything goes dim. And one kid, one parent, one hope, can fall into shadows overnight.

And this Gospel? It doesn't come wrapped in twinkling lights and satin bows; it comes straight into our pitchest black. The Gospel of Christ, it's a messy, bloody thing and this is how God was born, bloody and bruised, and that's how God chose to die, bloody and beaten. And our God, He knows the comings and goings of our blackest bloody battles, and this is exactly where He meets us.



B. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

<http://qideas.org/articles/surprising-christmas-perspectives-from-lewis-and-bonhoeffer/>

What Is The Purpose Of Advent?



For the great and powerful of this world, there are only two places in which their courage fails them, of which they are afraid deep down in their souls, from which they shy away. These are the manger and the cross of Jesus Christ. No powerful person dares to approach the manger, and this even includes King Herod. For this is where thrones shake, the mighty fall, the prominent perish, because God is with the lowly. Here the rich come to nothing, because God is with the poor and hungry, but the rich and satisfied he sends away empty. Before Mary, the maid, before the manger of Christ, before God in lowliness, the powerful come to naught; they have no right, no hope; they are judged.

C. Have a very merry celluloid Christmas by John Whitehead

http://www.desototimes.com/opinion/editorials/have-a-very-merry-celluloid-christmas/article_0b31c76c-e3af-578d-82d7-40448745cd44.html

When I was a child in the 1950s, Christmas glowed. My parents didn't have much money to spend at Christmastime, but being poor didn't really matter all that much because there was magic in the air. And the magic of Christmas, which hinges on the spiritual nature of the holidays, was promoted in the schools. We sang Christmas

carols in the classroom. There were cutouts of the Nativity scene on the bulletin board, along with the smiling, chubby face of Santa and Rudolph. We were all acutely aware that Christmas was more than a season to receive — it was a special time to give.

Unfortunately, times have changed. Christmas has become something altogether different from when I was a boy. Schools across the country avoid anything that alludes to the true meaning of Christmas—such as angels, the baby Jesus, stables and shepherds. As a result, the celebration of Christmas is largely devoid of any spirituality, having been overtaken by corporate greed, materialism and political correctness.

D. C.S. Lewis on Xmas and Christmas

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. “CS Lewis on ‘Xmas and Christmas’.” *Denver Catholic Register* (December 8, 2005)



Most Reverend Charles J.
Chaput, O.F.M. Cap

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/cs-lewis-on-xmas-and-christmas.html>

Fifty years ago C.S. Lewis published an ironic little essay called, “Xmas and Christmas: A Lost Chapter from Herodotus.” In it, he reverses the letters of his home country, “Britain.” Then he writes about the strange winter customs of a barbarian nation called Niatirb.

It’s worth reading, as we get deeper into Advent. I’ll share with you just one passage.

“In the middle of winter when fogs and rains most abound, (the Niatirbians) have a great festival called Exmas, and for 50 days they prepare for it (in the manner which is called,) in their barbarian speech, the Exmas Rush.

“When the day of the festival comes, most of the citizens, being exhausted from the (frenzies of the) Rush, lie in bed till noon. But in the evening they eat five

times as much as on other days, and crowning themselves with crowns of paper, they become intoxicated. And on the day after Exmas, they are very grave, being internally disordered by the supper and the drinking and the reckoning of how much they have spent on gifts and on the wine.

“(Now a) few among the Niatirbians have also a festival, separate and to themselves, called Crissmas, which is on the same day as Exmas. And those who keep Crissmas, doing the opposite to the majority of Niatirbians, rise early on that day with shining faces and go before sunrise to certain temples where they partake of a sacred feast.

“But (as for) what Hecataeus says, that Exmas and Crissmas are the same, (this) is not credible. It is not likely that men, even being barbarians, should suffer so many and so great things (as those involved in the Exmas Rush), in honor of a god they do not believe in.”

What Lewis wrote about in Britain half a century ago is increasingly true about our own country today. We’re already half way through Advent. What have we done to really *live* it?

The world has an ingenious ability to attach itself to what Christians believe; tame it; subvert it — and then turn it against the very people who continue to believe. Too many people, even Christians, don’t really celebrate Christmas. They may think they do, but they don’t. They celebrate Exmas.

The world — left to its own devices — has no room and no use for the birth of Jesus Christ. It has contempt for Christians who seriously strive to be His disciples. So we have nothing to lose and everything to gain by being the saints God intended us to be. We can at least *seek* to be holy by tithing our time to sit quietly with God; allow Him to fill our actions and our choices with His Son; and let Him shape us into the men and women He needs. We can get up and experience the dawn in silence as a reminder of what Advent and Christmas mean. We can prepare ourselves to be alert for the voice of God and to receive God’s word afresh and proclaim it anew.

We need to understand that in many ways [North] America is no longer a Christian culture. Of course, that can change. Many good Catholics and other Christians still live in it. But if people really understood and acted on the meaning of Advent, the world would be a different place.



C.S. Lewis

Advent means “coming.” What’s coming in the reality of Christmas is an invasion. The world needs the invasion but doesn’t want it. It’s an invasion of human flesh and all creation by the Son of God; by the holiness of the Creator Himself.

All of us in the Church were baptized to be part of that good invasion. The doubts, the failures, the mistakes of the past don’t matter. Only our choices now matter. How will we live our Christian faith from this day forward? How will we make our Catholic witness an icon of Christ’s Advent?

For our own sake, and the sake of the people we love, we need to pray that our yearning for God will truly reflect God’s yearning for us. And when it does, then the world *will* be a different place.

Questions

1. Sum up in one sentence what the core message was in each reflection. Compare and contrast the simple messages contained in each reflection. How do they converge and share a point of view, and how do they differ.
2. Which message do you find most appealing and why?
3. Which celebration are they making a case for, Crissmas or Exmas? Which one will you celebrate?

Writing Assignments

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for student writing. There is a very high level of student motivation! Student interest and motivation stays high when students write about Christmas coming from different points of views and with different purposes.

Here is a great list of Christmas essay and story writing ideas! These are suitable for students from grade 7 to senior grades of high school. They could also be assigned in English class or as topics in foreign language classes and even ESL. Perhaps a limit of two pages would be recommended (450-500 words) long enough to develop a proper theme and utilize a fair range of vocabulary. The questions posed at the end of the quotations about Christmas could also be essay topics.



Christmas Essay Topics that could be descriptive, argumentive, simple expository.

1. Christmas is a time to be thinking of others.
2. We should have the Christmas spirit all year round.
3. Christmas is always a big surprise.
4. How to make Advent a true preparation for Christmas.
5. How to make Christmas a special day for the entire family.
6. The real meaning of Christmas is lost today.
7. The Christmas spirit is alive and well.
8. What is the effect that Christmas has on society?
9. My most wonderful Christmas memory before the age of ten.
10. The joys of Christmas shopping.
11. Funny happenings on Christmas day.
12. My favourite Christmas movie.
13. How I feel when I give on Christmas Day.
14. How the birth of Jesus affected our world.
15. How the Christmas spirit affects people’s behavior and attitude.
16. The first Christmas as reported by the shepherds.
17. Describe the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas.
18. Christmas traditions in my culture.
19. Salvation Army kettle and Christmas.
20. Feeding the hungry at Christmas.
21. Travelling to celebrate Christmas.
22. My favourite Christmas story.

23. Christmas editorials.
24. Christmas poems.
25. My favourite Christmas foods.

More Quotes on Christmas for Discussion and Reflection

a)

Let Us Keep Christmas
 Whatever else be lost among the years,
 Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing;
 Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
 Let us hold close one day, remembering
 It's poignant meaning for the hearts of men.
 Let us get back our childlike faith again.

• *Grace Noll Crowell*



Question - Is this a case of wishful thinking or a genuine plea to return to a true faith, the kind that children would express, firm, unquestioning belief? Is this possible today with all the distractions around?

b)

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;
 The spirit of Christmas which is peace;
 The heart of Christmas which is love.

• *Ada V. Hendricks*

Question – Hope, peace, and love: what could be more precious? Is there room for justice, appreciation and gratitude for all that we received on that first Christmas?

c)

A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.

• *Garrison Keillor*

Question - Is the sentiment sympathetic or pedestrian? Is he suggesting that it is such a trying time that we have to brave ourselves, like surviving a terrible storm? But doesn't a storm actually bring a certain cleansing, light following darkness?

d)

I heard the bells, on Christmas Day,
 Their old, familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet
 The words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

• *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow "Christmas Bells"*



Question - Has Longfellow mistaken the translation? Is it "Peace to men of good will" or "goodwill towards men"? What is the difference?

e)

We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice.

• *Pope Paul VI "Christmas address 23 Dec 65"*

Question - What does Pope Paul VI mean? Why does he repeat the word encounter four times? What does that repetition achieve? What is the nature of the encounter?

f)

I hear that in many places something has happened to Christmas; that it is changing from a time of merriment and carefree gaiety to a holiday which is filled with tedium; that many people dread the day and the obligation to give Christmas presents is a nightmare to weary, bored souls; that the children of enlightened parents no longer believe in Santa Claus; that all in all, the effort to be happy and have pleasure makes many honest hearts grow

dark with despair instead of beaming with good will and cheerfulness.

- *Julia Peterkin "A Plantation Christmas" (1934)*

Question - Has much changed since these words were uttered in 1934? Were they ever true even back then? Is it the words of someone who can't be bothered or rather of someone who truly cares and regrets hearing the opposite? What about your approach?

g)

Christmas is the one time of year when people of all religions come together to worship Jesus Christ.

- *Bart Simpson "The Simpsons" 1989*

Questions - Has this cartoon character unwittingly hit upon the actual simple truth? Is the statement reality for the U.S.A. and perhaps Canada, or is it the case all over the world despite the consumerism that prevails? Is Christmas a unifying event?



h)

Christmas begins about the first of December with an office party and ends when you finally realize what you spent, around April fifteenth of the next year.

- *P.J. O'Rourke*

Question - Is this attitude cynical because it focuses on the materialistic aspect or is it correct to point out the costs of the merriment? Do some people go overboard in spending foolishly without regard to affordability?

i)

Christmas is the day that holds all time together.

- *Alexander Smith*

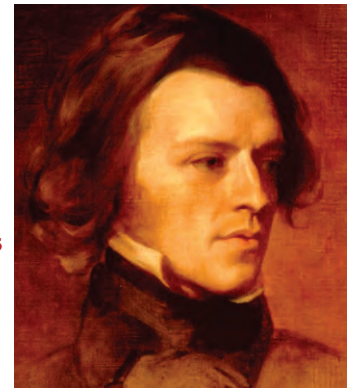
Question - What profound insight is Smith putting into words? What is time? Who created time? Who came into time?

j)

The time draws near the birth of Christ;
The moon is hid; the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.

- *Alfred, Lord Tennyson "In Memoriam"*

Question - How does Tennyson let the bells do the talking and why? He says that bells are answering, but what was the question posed? By whom?



Part C. Christmas Facts and Fun

In this section we want to highlight a bit of fun information about tangential items that deal with the Christmas theme. There are plenty of traditional bits of news and general happenings that could make students more knowledgeable about life before their times, before the internet or social media. Challenge them with these trivia quizzes. Some may argue that a lot of the information shouldn't be placed in the category of trivia, just nice things to know.

Choose the correct answer by circling the appropriate letter.

1. The first song broadcast from space when Gemini 6 astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra sang it 1965 was a) Jingle Bells b) Telstar c) Happy Trails to You d) Dark Moon
2. Electric tree lights were invented by Edward Johnson in 1882 in a) New Zealand b) Australia c) U.S.A. D) Canada.
3. Which one of the following names does *not* belong to one of the Three Kings? a) Caspar b) Balthazar c) Telemachus d) Melchior
4. James Pierpont's 1857 song *Jingle Bells* was first called *One Horse*



Open Sleigh and was written for what celebration? a) 4th of July Independence Day b) Thanksgiving c) New Years d) Christmas

5. What is the Irish custom of “feeding the wren” or “hunting the wren” on December 26? a) taking one’s in-laws out to dinner b) carrying a wren door to door, to collect money for charity c) leaving a basket of cakes at the door for passers-by d) putting out suet and seeds for the wild birds.
6. The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from a) Corsican shepherds who ate tangerines as they watched their flocks b) Spanish converts who imported the tangerines from Tangier c) 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor d) Lebanese innkeepers who served tangerines to children on Christmas eve.
7. Postmen in Victorian England were popularly called “robins.” This was because a) they carried red pouches as mail bags b) they chirped along the way happily as they delivered mail c) their bill caps were festooned with robins d) their uniforms were red.
8. Silent Night was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that a) the church organ was broken and would not be prepared in time for Christmas Eve b) the hired musicians could not leave Vienna c) mice had chewed through the harp strings d) the Bishop wanted a new carol to be written for the occasion.
9. The modern Christmas custom of displaying a wreath on the front door of one’s house, is borrowed from a) Greek tradition of victorious olympic athletes placing their laurel wreath on the door of their home for neighbours to see b) ancient Rome’s New Year’s celebrations when Romans wished each other “good health” by exchanging branches of evergreens c) Druids who worshipped the ivy and the holly as sacred greens d) medieval French troubadours who sang Christmas ballads at castle gates adorned with wreaths.
10. The poem commonly referred to as “The Night Before Christmas” was originally titled a) “Children’s Christmas Wishes” b) “A Visit From Saint Nicholas” c) “The Night of Silence” d) “A Child’s Christmas Fantasy”.
11. The shape of the candy cane is modeled after a) a fish hook b) a constellation of stars c) St. Nicholas’ cane d) a shepherd’s crook.
12. In Dr. Seuss’ book “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” the dog that belonged to the Grinch was named a) Dagwood b) Pluto c) Max d) Gufus.
13. Which star led the Three Kings to Jesus? a) Star of David b) North Star c) Star of Bethlehem d. Blue Star.
14. Yuletide originates from a) the Norse in Scandinavia who celebrated winter as each family burnt a giant log and feasted until it turned to ash b) people of Yule, an outpost on the coast of Iceland, known for their eggnog c) the large ice capped waves that form off Newfoundland d) a period of celebration noted for spirited drinking.
15. The Canadian province that sells the most Christmas trees annually is a) Nova Scotia b) British Columbia c) Quebec d) Ontario.
16. The image of Santa Claus flying his sleigh began in 1819 and was created by a) Washington Irving b) Mark Twain c) Daniel Defoe d) Samuel Adams
17. In 1939 the Montgomery Ward department store in Chicago created Rudolph the Reindeer as a) a means to promote a new film b) a marketing gimmick to encourage children to buy their Christmas coloring books c) their entry in Macy’s parade d) part of a marketing program to sell more toys.
18. If you gave all the gifts listed in the *Twelve Days of Christmas*, it would equal a) 144 gifts b) 78 gifts c) 156 gifts d) 364 gifts.



19. The first company that used Santa Claus during the winter season for promotional purposes was a) Canada Dry b) Coca Cola c) Dr. Pepper d) General Mills.
20. Which of these events did not occur on December 25 a) the Statue of Liberty was gifted to the US by the French in 1886 b) Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 800 c) Mikael Gorbachev resigned as President of the Soviet Union in 1991 d) the last spike was driven as Canadian Pacific Railroad was completed in 1883.

**Answers: 1. a 2. c 3. c 4. b 5. b 6. c 7. a 8. a 9. b 10. b
11. d 12. c 13. c 14. a 15. a 16. a 17. b 18. d 19. b 20. d**

Christmas Songs and Carols Quiz

Suppose Christmas songs and carols had to be described scientifically or literally, can you identify the familiar songs and carols by such alternate names? Have some fun and try guessing these riddled names.

1. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres.
2. The lad is a diminutive percussionist.
3. Festoon the entryways.
4. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element.
5. Oh small Israel urban center.
6. Far off in a haybin.
7. We are Kong, Lear, and Nat Cole from the East.
8. Duodecimal enumeration of time equal to the time elapsed two consecutive returns of the same terrestrial meridian to the sun during the yuletide season.
9. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your nativity season.
10. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are vocalizing melodically.
11. As the guardians of the woolly animals protected their charges in the dark hours.
12. I beheld a trio of nautical vessels.
13. Jubilation to the entire terrestrial globe.
14. Do you perceive the same vibrations which stimulate my auditory sense organ?
15. May the Supreme Being bestow refreshing inactivity to happy male humans.
16. Uncouth dolf with short rose-colored proboscis.
17. Celestial attendants of God we perceived with our ears on extreme elevation.
18. Cheerful wish for December 25 en espagnol.
19. Hymn of the NorthWestern branch of the Iroquoian family.
20. Arrived at twelve o'clock when the sky was pellucid.
21. Allow precipitation of water vapor in the air.
22. Male infant of Joseph's betrothed.
23. Approach, approach You who art with God.
24. Dark time of the day is muted.
25. Interrogatory concerning progeny?
26. Adult male person composed of packed ice crystals lacking warmth of feeling.
27. The original yule season.
28. Sacred period of darkness when the sun is not out.



29. An area of ground noted for its trifles for diversionary purposes.

30. Join us thou long-anticipated Saviour.

Answers to songs and carols riddles

1. *Jingle Bell Rock*
2. *The Little Drummer Boy*
3. *Deck the Halls*
4. *Silver Bells*
5. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
6. *Away In a Manger*
7. *We Three Kings of Orient Are*
8. *Twelve Days of Christmas*
9. *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*
10. *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*
11. *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*
12. *I Saw Three Ships*
13. *Joy to the World*
14. *Do You Hear What I Hear?*
15. *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*
16. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*
17. *Angels We Have Heard on High*
18. *Feliz Navidad*
19. *The Huron Carol*
20. *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*
21. *Let It Snow*
22. *Mary's Boy Child*
23. *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
24. *Silent Night*
25. *What Child Is This?*
26. *Frosty the Snowman.*
27. *The First Noel.*
28. *O Holy Night.*
29. *Toyland*
30. *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*



True or False: Myths and Scriptural Facts about Christmas

1. The Bible doesn't specify what animal carried Mary to Bethlehem.
2. The Bible doesn't state anything about a stable or a cave only mentioning a manger.
3. Choirs of angels sang praises when Jesus was born.
4. The the wise men came from countries to the east of Israel.
5. An innkeeper turned away Mary and Joseph.
6. Mary gave birth to Jesus the day she arrived in Bethlehem.
7. The Bible does not record a single word spoken by Joseph.
8. All the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob etc., were shepherds.

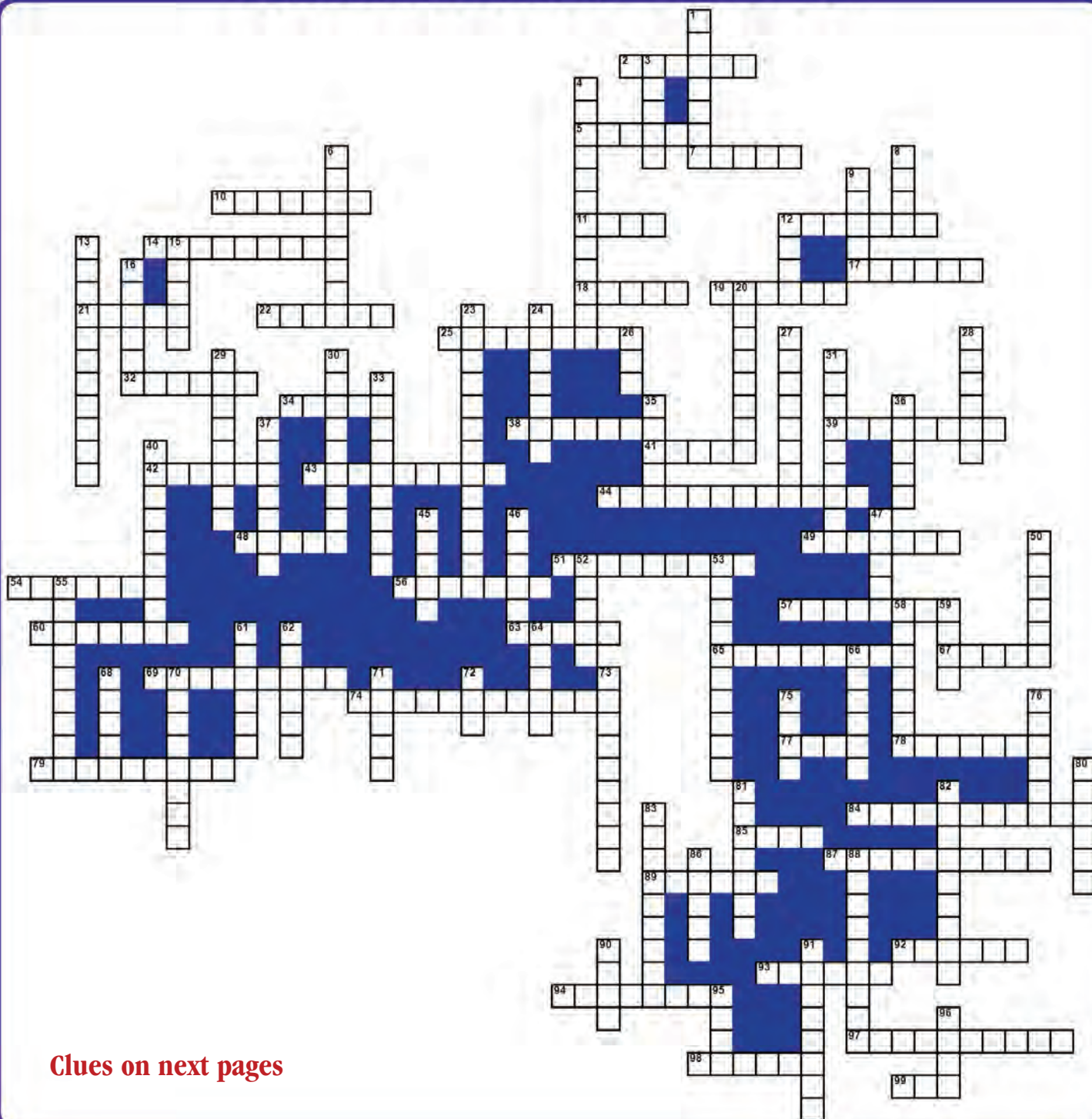
9. Jesus was circumcised when He was 40 days old.

10. The Magi provided the Holy Family with a large sum of money in gold that was essential for a move to Egypt.

Correct answers

1. True 2. True 3. True 4. True 5. False (scripture says only that there was no room at the inn) 6. False (scripture says only that it happened "while they were there") 7. True 8. True 9. False (No, he was only 8 days old.) 10. True

Christmas Crossword Puzzle 2018



Clues on next pages

Christmas Crossword Puzzle 2018

Across:

- 2 "_____ in Excelsis"
- 5 she was the first shepherdess mentioned in the Old Testament
- 7 the land to which Mary and Joseph took Jesus to escape persecution
- 10 entryway for Santa.
- 11 What Mount Etna spews occasionally
- 12 French location for Mary's apparition
- 14 bird in the pear tree
- 17 Dr. Seuss character hears a Who
- 18 evergreen flowering plant in the family Aquifoliaceae
- 19 long period of reflection preparing for Christmas
- 21 A movie where child is left behind by accident at Christmas, Home_____.
- 22 The imperial decree that took Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem
- 25 these night watchers were the first people to come to see Jesus upon his birth
- 32 colour of city bells
- 34 traditional number-based game
- 38 Handel's great composition
- 39 St. Paul was fond of writing them
- 41 a branch was brought back to Noah
- 42 St. Oscar _____, archbishop of El Salvador, was murdered while saying Christmas mass.
- 43 Cowboy who sang about Rudolph's exploits. (two words)
- 44 surgery undergone by baby Jesus
- 48 author of the Chronicles of Narnia
- 49 the first book of the Bible
- 51 roasted around yuletide
- 54 Sound of Music nation
- 56 The angel who appeared to Mary
- 57 Hometown of Jesus
- 60 author of Lord of the Rings
- 63 Gave the order for murdering the holy innocents.
- 65 Mary visited her immediately after an angel appeared to her.
- 67 "Once in _____ David's City"

Down:

- 1 "_____ on 34th Street" took place in New York.
- 3 radiant energy visible to the human eye
- 4 Carols weren't sung in churches until introduced by _____ in the 16th century (two words)
- 6 what children look for under the tree
- 8 saintly grandmother of Jesus
- 9 one of the gifts brought to baby Jesus
- 12 this gospel writer was a doctor by profession.
- 13 God made flesh
- 15 celestial messenger
- 16 aggregations of woolly animals
- 20 one of the 70 sent forth by Christ
- 23 ballet featuring sugar plum fairies and soldiers
- 24 entryway for Santa
- 26 Jesus came to save us from its consequences.
- 27 served with cheese as appetizers.
- 28 an animal trough used as baby's bed
- 29 they pull the flying sleigh
- 30 the fortieth day after Christmas
- 31 delicious Italian Christmas bread
- 33 This Frank Capra Christmas film starred James Stewart, It's a _____ Life
- 35 an organized band of singers.
- 36 type of song attributed to David
- 37 what children like to build when it snows
- 40 the sale of this product is a Campaign Life tradition.
- 45 the means by which Joseph was warned to leave Israel
- 46 patron saint of Canada.
- 47 fragrant tree native to Lebanon
- 50 very shiny thin decorations for trees
- 52 The _____ Carol by Jean de Brebeuf
- 53 German for Christmas fir tree
- 55 soft piece of frozen water that falls from the sky
- 58 town where Mary spent her last earthly days.
- 59 heavenly instrument

Christmas Crossword Puzzle 2018

Across:

- 69 a royal personage who went out for winter fuel
- 74 Asian aromatic bark used as spice
- 77 a round sign of holiness.
- 78 protagonist of Dickens' A Christmas Carol
- 79 the place name literally means "house of bread"
- 84 spicy cookie
- 85 home for Adam and Eve
- 87 a showy Mexican flowering plant
- 89 postal code for Santa Claus
- 92 "_____ in excelsis Deo".
- 93 the fowl most welcome to Christmas dinner
- 94 Roman emperor at time of Christ's birth
- 97 old Roman feast replaced by Christmas
- 98 Dr. Seuss character who tried to steal Christmas
- 99 the surface on which hockey is played.

Down:

- 61 round decoration hung on door
- 62 _____ Vigneault, Quebec singer who sang Mon Pays
- 64 little helpers at the northpole workshop
- 66 Canadians consume millions of litres of this special drink at Christmas.
- 68 the first five books of the Bible
- 70 feast of the _____, when the wise men visited Jesus
- 71 cross in French
- 72 twelve to Catullus
- 73 "It's _____ To Look A Lot Like Christmas"
- 75 wrote Book of Revelation
- 76 number of tribes of Israel
- 80 gift in French
- 81 This saint's feast day is celebrated on the day after Christmas.
- 82 In Quebec the Christmas Eve banquet is called a _____.
- 83 father of St. John the Baptist
- 86 "I'm dreaming of a _____ Christmas"
- 88 baubles to hang on Christmas tree
- 90 these visitors had to take a round about way home
- 91 last name of Scrooge's clerk
- 95 heavenly orb that guided the Magi
- 96 Dies _____.

**May You Have A Very Merry
and Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

**From
The Interim Staff**

Christmas Crossword Puzzle 2018

Possible Answers:

Advent, Alone, Anne, Augustus, Austria, Beginning, Bethlehem, Cratchit, Eden, Egypt, Elizabeth, Ephesus, Epiphany, Gabriel, Gene Autry, Genesis, Gilles, Gloria, Gloria, Grinch, Herod, Horton, Huron, Incarnation, Irae, John, Joseph, Lewis, Lourdes, Luke, Magi, Martin Luther, Messiah, Miracle, Nazareth, Rachel, Romero, Saturnalia, Scrooge, Stephen, Tannenbaum, The Nutcracker, Tolkien, Torah, Wenceslas, White, Wonderful, Zacharias, angel, bingo, cadeau, candlemas, cedar, census, chestnuts, chimney, chimney, choir, circumcision, crackers, croix, disciple, dream, eggnog, elves, epistles, flocks, frankincense, fruitcake, gingerbread, halo, harp, hohoho, holly, ice, lava, light, manger, myrrh, olive, ornaments, panettone, partridge, poinsettia, presents, psalm, reindeer, reveillon, royal, shepherds, silver, sin, snowflake, snowmen, star, tinsel, turkey, twelve, wreath, xii

Christmas Crossword Solution 2018

