

How the Twelve Days of Christmas Teach the Catholic Faith

1 A Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ~ Luke 13:34

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. ~ 2 Timothy 3:16

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. ~ 1 Corinthians 13:13

4 Calling Birds = The Four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

5 Golden Rings = The First Five Books of the Old Testament

The Torah or the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These give the history of man's fall from grace and God's response.

6 Geese a-Laying = the Six Days of Creation

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. ~ Genesis 1:31

7 Swans a-Swimming = The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. ~ Romans 12:6

8 Maids a-Milking = The Eight Beatitudes

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ~ Matthew 5:3-11

9 Ladies Dancing = the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. ~ Galatians 5:22,23

10 Lords a-Leaping = The Ten Commandments

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.

2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.

4. Honor your father and your mother.

5. You shall not kill.

6. You shall not commit adultery.

7. You shall not steal.

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

~ Exodus 20:2-17

11 Pipers Piping = The Eleven Faithful Apostles

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God.

And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles:

Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and

Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. ~ Luke 6:13-16

12 Drummers Drumming = The Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.

Amen.

A Catholic Moment Blog
2013 all rights reserved