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*Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandai, Priest/Superintendent  
Shawn Augustine, Principal*

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*Welcome to St. Xavier Catholic Schools' Newsletter published by the High School Mass Communication Class. The Newsletter will be published several times a year with our purpose to inform you concerning personnel, students, and events at St. Xavier Catholic School.*

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## **Welcome to St. Xavier's Christmas Edition**

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You have probably heard the “12 Days of Christmas” (or “The 12 Days of Christmas”) song—it is a favorite this time of year. Have you ever wondered what it really is about?

On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Five golden rings.  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me

Six geese a-laying,  
Five golden rings.  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me  
Seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying,  
Five golden rings.  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me  
Eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying,  
Five golden rings.  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me  
Nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying,  
Five golden rings.  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me  
Ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying,  
Five golden rings.  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me  
Eleven pipers piping, ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming,  
Six geese a-laying,  
Five golden rings.  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me  
Twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking,  
Seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying,  
Five golden rings.  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

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There is so much more to know about this song!

“The 12 Days of Christmas” is an English carol published in 1780. It was a chant or rhyme which is French in origin—with no music—written by Catholic clerics. But what does it really mean?

Did you know that “The 12 Days of Christmas” is a concept of Christian theology that describes the time period from Christ's birth to the arrival of the three wise men, also called the Magi. This time period begins on Christmas Day, December 25, and is celebrated until January 6, the day before Epiphany. Here is an interpretation of what each of the days' items mean:

A popular theory is that the lyrics to “The 12 Days of Christmas” are coded references to Christianity; the song/chant was written by clerics to help Christians learn and pass on the tenets of their faith while avoiding persecution.

The theory is that each gift symbolizes a different aspect of the faith:

- The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.  
The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.
- The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments.  
These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith and God’s plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.
- The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope, and Charity, the theological virtues.  
These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.
- The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.  
One of the easiest facets of the song’s code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament.  
The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.
- The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.  
These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was “hatched” or formed by God.
- The 7 Swans A-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.  
It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.
- The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes.  
As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.
- The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.  
These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Catholics.

- The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles.  
This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, there were only eleven men who carried out the gospel message.
- The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.  
The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."

Sources:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/christmas-ideas/a29212592/12-days-of-christmas-meaning-facts/>  
and

<https://www.crosswalk.com/>

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We (Yearbook Class: Casey S., Clarissa O., Jakob B., Mrs. Becker--special thanks to Mr. Becker for assisting with this project) decided to create our own St. Xavier version of this song for you to enjoy this Christmas season:

On the first day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the second day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the third day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the fourth day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the fifth day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
Five PreK classes (filled with excited students)  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the sixth day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
A reminder to stand 6 feet apart  
Five PreK classes (filled with excited students)  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
Seven cheerleaders a cheerin'  
A reminder to stand 6 feet apart  
Five PreK classes (filled with excited students)  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the eighth day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
Eight students who wanted to dress like Rowdy the Ram  
Seven cheerleaders a cheerin'  
A reminder to stand 6 feet apart  
Five PreK classes (filled with excited students)  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the ninth day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
Nine activities to choose from (Band, Scholars Bowl, Forensics, FBLA, Choir, Cross Country, Volleyball,  
Basketball, Track)  
Eight students who wanted to dress like Rowdy the Ram  
Seven cheerleaders a cheerin'  
A reminder to stand 6 feet apart  
Five PreK classes (filled with excited students)  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the tenth day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
Ten outstanding high school teachers  
Nine activities to choose from (Band, Scholars Bowl, Forensics, FBLA, Choir, Cross Country, Volleyball,  
Basketball, Track)  
Eight students who wanted to dress like Rowdy the Ram  
Seven cheerleaders a cheerin'  
A reminder to stand 6 feet apart  
Five PreK classes (filled with excited students)  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
Eleven wonderful PreK to Grade 6 teachers  
Ten outstanding high school teachers  
Nine activities to choose from (Band, Scholars Bowl, Forensics, FBLA, Choir, Cross Country, Volleyball,  
Basketball, Track)  
Eight students who wanted to dress like Rowdy the Ram  
Seven cheerleaders a cheerin'  
A reminder to stand 6 feet apart  
Five PreK classes (filled with excited students)  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my Ramily sent to me  
12 days of Christmas break  
Eleven wonderful PreK to Grade 6 teachers  
Ten outstanding high school teachers  
Nine activities to choose from (Band, Scholars Bowl, Forensics, FBLA, Choir, Cross Country, Volleyball,  
Basketball, Track)  
Eight students who wanted to dress like Rowdy the Ram  
Seven cheerleaders a cheerin'  
A reminder to stand 6 feet apart  
Five PreK classes (filled with excited students)  
A grade card with a 4.0 GPA  
Three seniors graduating  
Two great leaders (Father G. and Mr. Augustine)  
and  
A great school for you and me to share.

# St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery



Students with their Veterans Day poster.



Choir members preparing to perform at the concert.



Enjoying refreshments after the concert.



Great performances at the Veterans Day Concert!



Mr. Augustine welcomes all to the Veterans Day Concert.



The band had an outstanding performance at the Concert.



Thanks to the Scouts for their part in the flag ceremony on Veterans Day.



The American flag flying in the wind outside the school.



Saint Xavier Pre-Ker trying on the helmet of a soldier.



Art display in the hallway at St. Xavier.



Saint Xavier students showing their appreciation for veterans.



Honk if you love veterans—we do!



Freshman class at their Harvest Fest booth.



Learning about colors in Pre-K.



Middle school basketball players under the direction of Coach Jahnke prepare for a game.



Ms. Robison festive for Dia De Los Muertos!



Charles Q. working hard at StuCo meeting!



Junior and Senior classes at Fort Hays State University campus visit.



Coach Augustine leads the middle school basketball players in their pre-game drills.



Students and staff gather in the gym participating in the filming of a promotional video of St. Xavier.



**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY THROUGH  
FAITH & REASON**

## December 2021

## Religious Theme: Advent

			<b>1</b> *Winter Sports Pictures *3:45pm PTO Meeting	<b>2</b> *8:20am- StuCo Meeting *3:00pm-HS Girls Basketball @ FHCS *4:30pm- HS Boys Basketball @ FHCS	<b>3</b> *7:45am Rosary Club *8:30am- Mass & Adoration *HS BB Shea Tournament *5:30pm- St. Francis Xavier Feast Day Mass *6:30pm- St. Francis Xavier Day Celebration	<b>4</b> *HS Basketball Shea Tournament
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> *Homecoming Week *4:30pm- MS & HS Basketball @ Heritage	<b>7</b> *Champions Car Wash Fundraiser *6:30pm- Elementary & Beginner Band Concert	<b>8</b> *8:30am- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass *3:45pm- Activities Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> *8:20am- Class Meetings *3:00pm- Pep Rally *4:30pm-HS & MS Basketball Vs. FHCS *Homecoming Crowning at Halftime of HS Boys' Game	<b>10</b> *No Aftercare *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass *9:15am- School Penance Service	<b>11</b> *7:00pm- Homecoming Dance
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> *5:30pm- School Council Meeting	<b>14</b> *4:30pm- MS & HS Basketball Vs. SVHE	<b>15</b> *3:30pm- Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> *8:20am- Art Club Meeting *7:00pm- 7-12 Christmas Concert	<b>17</b> *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass *Baby Jesus Shower *End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> *Christmas Break	<b>21</b> *Christmas Break	<b>22</b> *Christmas Break	<b>23</b> *Christmas Break	<b>24</b> *Christmas Break	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> *Christmas Break	<b>28</b> *Christmas Break	<b>29</b> *Christmas Break	<b>30</b> *Christmas Break		