

The Twelve Days of Christmas

A clever, fun, and secret way to remember important teachings during a time of great persecution!

The 12 Days: December 25 → January 5

Our True Love: God the Father

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1. **A Partridge in a Pear Tree** = **Christ, the Son of God** – We celebrate His birthday on December 25, the first day of Christmas! *In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the bird that is willing to give its life to protect its young.* Jesus said of Jerusalem: ^{NIV} **Luke 13:34** “...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”
2. **Two Turtle Doves** = **Old and New Testaments** – They both tell us about God’s creation, people’s sin, God’s love, Jesus’ saving work, and Jesus’ promised return!
3. **Three French Hens** = **Faith, Hope, and Love** (1 Corinthians 13:13).
4. **Four Calling Birds** = **Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John** – They proclaim the Good News of Jesus conception, birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and return!
5. **Five Golden Rings** = **Torah or Pentateuch – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy** – The first five Books of the OT, containing creation, marriage, the fall, Christ, sacrifice, flood, languages, and a people through whom the Savior would come!
6. **Six Geese-a-Laying** = **Six Days of Creation** – God made us, loves us, sustains us, and saved us; therefore, He is worthy of our love, trust, honor, obedience, and praise (**Genesis 1, Exodus 20:11**).
7. **Seven Swans-a-Swimming** = **Seven Gifts of the Spirit** – They are prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing, leadership, mercy (**Romans 12:6-8**).
8. **Eight Maids-a-Milking** = **Eight Beatitudes** – Blessed are ♦the poor in spirit, ♦those who mourn, ♦the meek, ♦those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, ♦the merciful, ♦the pure in heart, ♦the peacemakers, ♦those who are persecuted because of righteousness (**Matthew 5:3-10**).
9. **Nine Ladies Waiting/Dancing** = **Nine Fruits of the Spirit** – They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (**Galatians 5:22-23**).
10. **Ten Lords-a-Leaping** = **Ten Commandments** (**Exodus 20; Deut. 5**).
11. **Eleven Pipers Piping** = **Eleven Faithful Disciples** – Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James (**Luke 6:14-16; 24:9, 33**).
12. **Twelve Drummers Drumming** = **12 Points of Belief in the Apostles’ Creed** – I believe... **(1)** in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. **(2)** in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. **(3)** He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. **(4)** He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, and descended into hell. **(5)** on the third day He rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. **(6)** He will come to judge the living and the dead. **(7)** in the Holy Spirit. **(8)** in the holy Christian Church. **(9)** in the communion of saints. **(10)** in the forgiveness of sins. **(11)** in the resurrection of the body. **(12)** in the life everlasting. Amen!