



Merry Christmas from all of us
Blue White Scholarship Foundation
Holiday 2024



venmo



**“It is Christmas in the heart that
puts Christmas in the air.”**

W.T. Ellis



**Executive Director
Kate Cellucci**



The USA has gone through a lot this past year and everyone is struggling, but I think Kelly Clarkson got it right when she said “ the thing about Christmas is that it almost doesn’t matter what mood you’re in or what kind of year you’ve had-It’s a fresh start.”

Let this Christmas everyone be filled with Christmas spirit, for the words of Rosiia Thomas ring so true-..... ‘ Christmas works like glue. It keeps us sticking together. “

I hope everyone enjoys this special Holiday Edition of the Newsletter. The students’ worked hard to write you a letter of Christmas CHEER. Some messages are sent by email and some are put into this Newsletter.

You are in for a treat! There is a “hard” Word Search in this issue,, 1 page of corny Christmas Jokes, and 2 pages of Christmas Trivia questions, plus a recipe for Wassail!

Now, “Rejoice” that we are part of another family called the Blue White Club who has done so much good for students over the past 51years.

I hope you enjoy these messages of Good Cheer and Glad Tydings. I wish you a very Merry Christmas to all and to al a Good night!

God Bless you all





Hello! My name is Gianna Altamura, and I am a senior accounting major at Villanova University. As a recipient of the Blue White Scholarship, I am extremely grateful to each and every donor who has assisted in reducing the financial burden for myself and my family. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season!



C – Christmas Tradition

One of my family's Christmas traditions is getting our Christmas tree the day after Thanksgiving and decorating it all together. The last few years this tradition has become even more important as I am at Villanova the weeks leading up to Christmas so we make sure to make time to carry out this tradition so that we can all be together.

H – Hymn or Christmas Carol

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is Silent Night. Growing up, I was a part of my school and church choir from about fourth through eighth grade. Silent Night is a classic hymn that was sang every holiday season and was generally a favorite for all who heard us perform. It was so special to hear the entire church join in in singing this traditional Christmas hymn.

E – Exciting Part of Christmas

The most exciting part of Christmas for me is spending time with family and the overarching theme of giving that is present throughout the season. I enjoy having time off to visit relatives that I have not seen in a long time or spend time with family members that I may see often. One of my favorite Christmas activities is going ice skating, so I am eager to do so every year with friends and family.



E – Entertaining Movie

One of my favorite Christmas movies is "Santa Claus is Coming to Town!" Every year my family and I reminisce as we watch the movie and sing along to all the songs. It is the perfect way to get in the Christmas spirit.

R – Remarkable Childhood Memory

One remarkable childhood memory of mine is baking holiday cookies with my mom and giving them out to all our loved ones. I loved spending time with her and learning how to bake. My favorite cookies were her special peanut butter cookies.



Christmas Trivia

Multiple Choice:

1. In which county are Christmas Trees traditionally decorated with spiders and webs?
A.) Ukraine B.) Russia C.) Poland D.) Germany
2. What were the original lyrics to "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" before being changed?
A) Hark! How the Welkin Rings! B.) Hark! The Angels' Melody!
C.) Hark! The heavenly bells! D.) Hark! The Celestial Chorus!
3. On St. Lucia Day, what do girls in Sweden bring their families?
A.) Twisted Saffron Buns B.) Gingerbread cookies C.) Candy canes D.) Chocolate truffles
4. How many courses are typically in the Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper?
A.) 10 B.) 12 C.) 8 D.) 15
5. In which country do children put shoes by their door before the Epiphany to receive presents?
A.) Italy B.) Spain C.) France D.) Greece
6. Which Christmas single by Bill Crosby is the best selling of all time?
A.) Silent Night B.) Jingle Bells C.) White Christmas D.) Rudolph the Red –Nosed Reindeer
7. Whose voice had to be mechanically altered to play the Grinch in "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas"?
A.) Jim Carey B.) Boris Karloff C.) Eddie Murphy D.) Will Ferrell
8. Which cartoon character is traditionally watched on Christmas Eve in Sweden?
A.) Donald Duck B.) Mickey Mouse C.) Superman D.) Pokémon
9. Who was the first US President to have a Christmas Tree in the White House?
A.) George Washington B.) Franklin Pierce C.) Abraham Lincoln D.) Andrew Johnson
10. In what year did Macy's start having Santa in their department store?
A.) 1842 B.) 1870 C.) 1901 D.) 1925
11. When did England begin adopting the tradition of Christmas Trees?
A.) 1848 B.) 1865 C.) 1873 D.) 1882
12. What does mistletoe translate to in Anglo-Saxon?
A.) Tree of Love B.) Wintergreen C.) Dung on a Tree D.) Bird's Blessing



Answers Below:

12. C
11. A
10. B

9. B
8. A
7. B

6. C
5. A
4. B

3. A
2. A
1. A



Happy Holidays! I am Andrew Abraham, a junior finance major from Baltimore, Maryland. I am extremely grateful to you and the Blue White Foundation for your generosity and support for me to gain an excellent education at Villanova. Your support is vital to my attendance at this amazing university, and I plan to pay it forward as I graduate. I hope your holiday season is filled with blessings and CHEERS!



C – CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Since as long as I can remember, my family's Christmas tradition is to dress up in our festive Christmas clothes as seen above. We also go to Christmas mass as a family every year as you can see us together below. Spending time with my loved ones is my favorite pastime, and having my older sisters, Amanda and Brianna, to bond with is always a highlight to my holiday season!

H – HYMN OR CHRISTMAS CAROL

Out of the many Christmas tunes in the world, there is one that I will always remember and sing along to. "It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas" by Meredith Willson was always a favorite song in our family for the holiday season as its catchy lyrics and melody make it our family's go to Christmas song! This classic isn't well known in India, however, the Indian immigrant community in my area all see it as one of the many and great American holiday songs to sing along to!



My family and I in front of our church for a photo!

E – EXCITING PART OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season is filled with fun and exciting events and traditions to participate in. One of my favorite things and something I look forward to is watching holiday movies with my family! My two sisters and I are all in different parts of the U.S. As the youngest child in college, my parents rarely get to see all three of their kids together in one place. That makes the Christmas season even more special since my whole family gets to spend time together in person! This makes holiday movies with the family even more exciting!



My friends from Villanova and I in matching PJs!

E – ENTERTAINING MOVIE

One of the most iconic Christmas movies of all time in my opinion is A Christmas Carol about Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge. This movie was a childhood favorite for me, and I grew to love it even more as I got older and appreciated the message of thankfulness and generosity that it calls for.

R – REMARKABLE CHILDHOOD MEMORY

I have never been skiing or snowboarding, however I did go snow tubing as a kid when one of my friends' parents took our friend group. It was one of my favorite Christmas season memories as I loved playing in the snow and tubing with my closest friends!

Elf Movie Trivia



1. How does Buddy the Elf get to the North Pole?
2. Who is Buddy the Elf raised by?
3. What was the first rule of the Code of Elves?
4. Who plays Jovie in the movie *Elf*?
5. Who wrote the movie *Elf*?
6. How does Buddy the Elf answer the phone?
7. What is Buddy the Elf's breakfast spaghetti recipe?
8. How did Buddy the Elf get to New York?
9. What are Buddy the Elf's food groups?
10. What toy does Buddy the Elf not like?
11. Where did Buddy the Elf's biological dad work?
12. What was Buddy the Elf's mother's name?
13. What was the name of the department store Buddy the Elf worked in?
14. What was the name of Buddy's half-brother?
15. Where did Santa's sleigh break down?
16. Why did Santa's sleigh break down?

1. He crawled into Santa's toy sack as a boy.
2. Papa Elf
3. Treat every day like Christmas
4. Zooey Deschanel
5. David Berenbaum
6. Buddy the Elf, what's your favorite color?
7. Spaghetti with sugared maple syrup, sprinkles, mini marshmallows, Hershey's chocolate syrup, M&M's, and Frosted Chocolate Pop-Tarts.
8. He passed through the seven levels of the Candy Cane forest, through the sea of swirly-twirly gum drops, and
9. Candy, candy canes, candy corns, and syrup.
10. The Jack-in-a-box
11. A publishing company (Greenway Press) inside the Empire State Building.
12. Susan Wells
13. Gimbels
14. Michael
15. Central Park
16. There wasn't enough Christmas cheer



Merry Christmas and Happy holidays from my family to yours! My name is Alexa Rossi and I am a Senior Chemical Engineering major here at Villanova. I hope this C.H.E.E.R. letter finds you well this holiday season! Because there is lots to be grateful for this holiday season, I wanted to say a special thank you to the Blue White Foundation. This scholarship would not be able to help students like me without your continued generosity, and this Christmas I hope to continue this kindness and generosity to those around me.

C – CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Growing up on the Jersey Shore meant my family rarely got a “White Christmas”. In search of snow and all the fun that comes along with it a new Christmas tradition for my family was born. Each year we drove six hours north to a cabin in the woods where there was plenty of snow. The house was often full of 20+ people sleeping everywhere from couches to the basement floor, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. During the day we would sled down hills and snowmobile. At night we would cozy up on the couch with hot chocolate and a movie. It’s a tradition I look forward to each year. All suited up to snowmobile with my family.



H – HYMN OR CHRISTMAS CAROL

All I want for Christmas is you! Every year when I hear Mariah Carey's voice, I know that Christmas is coming. This most classic Christmas pop song will be back at the top of the Billboard pop chart every December. It was written in 1994, and the interesting thing is it is still the most-played song in the world during Christmas! If this song comes on in my car, me and my friends will belt it out every time.



E – EXCITING PART OF CHRISTMAS

One of my favorite parts of the holiday season is getting to spend time with my family. Each year my family gets together for a cookie exchange party. This event combines my favorite things: baking and family! Some family members opt to create the same delectable cookie every year while others change it up. I like to keep it interesting with a new choice, but if my grandma ever strayed away from making her classic oatmeal cookies I don’t think anyone would be ok.

E – ENTERTAINING MOVIE

My family’s favorite Christmas movie is Christmas Vacation. My grandma and I at the We watch it at least 5 times a year and each one of us can quote annual cookie party! the entire thing. Nothing makes my family laugh harder than this classic film.



R – REMARKABLE CHILDHOOD MEMORY

I was lucky enough to be neighbors with my grandparents for 20 years of my life. My favorite Christmas memory is running next door to my grandparents house right after opening presents to tell them everything we got. After, my family would all sit down and enjoy a huge spread of breakfast food complete with my

What is wassail?

This **non-alcoholic Christmas drink** is essentially apple cider infused with fresh orange, lemon, roasted apples, and lots of spice. Think: cozy cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, allspice, and star anise. It's important here to use both ground and whole spices, so don't skip either. The ground spices flavor the roasted apples through their core and have a stronger aroma than the whole spices while the whole cinnamon sticks and star anise pods couldn't be prettier floating in this drink! The final step before serving is adding in those sweet, tender roasted apples and cranberry juice cocktail. Not only does the cranberry juice add a bright, tart note, it gives the drink a gorgeous rosy hue in your punch bowl.

The tradition of wassailing?

The term "wassail" has multiple meanings. First appearing in the English poem Beowulf in the 8th century, the word has been used as a salutation or toast to good health. In England, it also describes a 12th night of Christmas gathering in fruit orchards where dancing, drinking, and singing encourage spirits to provide a good harvest in the coming year. Wassailing can also simply mean Christmas caroling door to door. But today, wassail refers to the cozy, hot holiday beverage that you'll find here, too. It's the most delicious way to warm up after [How to Make Homemade Turkey Gravy](#) cold night of caroling!



How to Make Homemade Turkey Gravy

1. Separate oil from the liquid in the turkey drippings by pouring the drippings into a clear 4 -cup measuring cup. Allow drippings to settle and separate into oil on top and juices on the bottom.
2. Remove 1/4 cup oil using a kitchen syringe; transfer to a saucepan.
3. Mix flour into oil in the saucepan; cook and stir over medium-low heat until color changes to a light brown, about 5 minutes.
4. Pour 1 cup of juices from the measuring cup into flour mixture (roux); cook and stir, adding more drippings for a thinner gravy, until gravy is heated through and smooth, about 5 minutes.
5. Mix chicken broth into gravy; cook and stir until heated through, adding more broth for a thinner gravy, about 5 minutes.



How to Store Homemade Turkey Gravy

Store in an airtight container (up to a week) in the refrigerator. To reheat, bring to a boil.

Can You Freeze Homemade Turkey Gravy?

Yes! You can freeze this homemade turkey gravy for up to three months. Spoon the cooled gravy into an airtight freezer container. When ready to use, let it thaw in the refrigerator overnight. Transfer it to a saucepan. Heat the gravy over medium heat, stirring with a whisk until heated through and the mixture just begins to bubble.

Wassail

(Makes about 4 quarts, prep time 15 mins, total time 1 hour 45 mins)

Ingredients:

- 6 small Honeycrisp apples**
- 6 Tbsp dark brown sugar, + more to taste**
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon**
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger**
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg**
- 1/4 tsp ground allspice**
- 1 gallon or apple cider, divided**
- 1 navel orange**
- 10 whole cloves**
- 2 lemons**
- 2 cinnamon sticks + more for serving**
- 3 star anise pods**
- 1 cup of cranberry juice cocktail**
- Bourbon or Brandy (optional)**
- Fresh or frozen cranberries thawed**



Credits to Danielle Daly

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. Using a paring knife, cut out the core and stem of each apple, leaving about the bottom 1/2 inch of each apple intact. Using a small spoon or grapefruit spoon, scoop out any remaining core and seeds to form a cavity in each apple. In a small bowl, stir together the brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and allspice. Divide the brown sugar mixture among each apple cavity, firmly packing it as necessary.
3. In the bottom of a pie plate or baking pan, pour 1 cup of the apple cider. Place the prepared apples in the pan. Bake until the apples are very tender and collapsing, 1 hour to 1 hour and 10 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, cut the orange in half crosswise and stick the whole cloves in the peel. Cut one lemon in half and thinly slice the second lemon.
5. In a large pot, add the prepared orange, cinnamon sticks, star anise pods, and the remaining apple cider. Squeeze the halved lemon into the pot and add the sliced lemon. Over medium-high heat, bring the mixture to a boil and reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until aromatic, 1 hour.
6. Add the cranberry juice and the cooked apples with any of their juices to the pot and stir to combine. Taste for sweetness and add more brown sugar, if you like. Serve hot or warm, with alcohol of choice, cranberries, and a cinnamon stick, if you like.

Credits to Leah Perez for the Wassail recipe

Difficult Christmas Word Search - Answers on Page 14



Christmas Word Search



D C A S P F S T Q M A U D E W R X D S W
O O H V G F P G K T E B M J X Q F U U L
E O D T C N S T N E M A N R O S B W O W
L K H T E F I A U Q X U S H O Z J X Q W
H I R T F B S K Z Z Z Y G C G K R D U V
V E G A A G D D C Q J P S X F I M N B P
E S U H V E V E M O D T M E S V E D Q X
O T O N T I R W C D T Q O I L G J L K B
X N P J D S L W I O J S D L S D I K S R
P E C W Z D A E R B R E G N I G N F C F
Z S H Z R D C L X P U A K P R S G A T U
B E E I H M G I Q E X U T M Y F L K C S
H R E I N D E E R P U H E I L O E O L B
Q P R E T M E K T P X T A V O A T W E A
G R L A G Q L W V E O D C W V N K Z R K
Y S A O Q L V C W R R D B W J Q S A V I
K V X D D C E H R M W T R A D I T I O N
U Z T Q M U S I C I T Z K Z N G Q D Z G
P Z A R C J R X Q N B G N I L O R A C G
M L Z N A T I S E T R G J J P U Y T M Z



BAKING
CHEER
ELVES
JINGLE
ORNAMENTS
REINDEER
SLEIGH
TREE

CANDLES
COOKIES
GIFTS
LIGHTS
PEPPERMINT
RUDOLPH
STOCKINGS
WREATH

CAROLING
DECORATIONS
GINGERBREAD
MUSIC
PRESENTS
SANTA
TRADITION



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from my family to yours! My name is DanieMcQueston, and I am an Applied Quantitative Finance Major and Mathematics Minor in the Villanova School of Business. This season of giving has me reminding myself of how grateful I am to donors to the Blue White Foundation which has allowed me to complete my undergraduate degree

Your generosity does not go unrecognized as I hope to follow in your footsteps in the future and “pay it forward”. May this holiday season bring you great health and happiness.

C – Christmas Tradition

One of my favorite Christmas Traditions is what we call ‘cookie baking’. Everyone on my mom’s side of my family (~30 people) gets together a week or two before Christmas and bakes 2000-3000 cookies in a day. Of course, we also watch movies and play games, but the day overall is a great excuse for all of us to get together and celebrate each other’s company. The cookies are delicious too.



Some of my aunts, uncles, and cousins on my mom’s side of the family during cookie baking last year.

H – Hymn or Carol

“Silent Night” is probably my favorite Christmas carol. Every time I hear that song it brings me such peace. It is a song everyone can easily sing along with and bring people together. I remember I used to listen to this with my family on December nights outside when looking at the stars.



Me, my two sisters, my dad, and our dog on Christmas this past year

E – Exciting Part of Christmas

An exciting part of Christmas for me is when my mom’s side of the family all get together. Not only do we get together for cookie baking as I mentioned above, but we also get together on December 26 to celebrate the holiday. It is always a great time when all of us get to hang out together. We have been doing this tradition for as long as I can remember, and it still holds strong today.

E – Entertaining Movie

Is it really the holiday season if you don’t watch “Elf”? “Elf” is hands down one of my favorite movies of all time and my family watches it at least once a year in December. There are so many good moments in that movie but one of my favorites is when Buddy is working in the mail room and all the sudden, he starts a dance party during working hours. The whole room is hype, and it is funny to watch.

R – Remarkable Childhood Memory

Four years ago, before my parent’s divorced, my family decided to change it up for Christmas. No gifts were exchanged that year. Instead, we decided to all go on a big vacation together. That was our Christmas present. All of us made the trip to Costa Rica for a week. Of course, the Costa Rica climate is a little different in December than Pennsylvania, so we spent a lot of time on the beach. That trip was amazing. It was so beautiful in so many ways. One of my favorite parts was one day when all of us were relaxing at the house around dinner time, we noticed a huge pack of howler monkeys right above us in the trees. It was surreal seeing so many of them so close to us. The next day we went snorkeling and we saw some beautiful fish and sea turtles..





Christmas Jokes for Everyone

1. Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Party? He had no body to go with!
2. **How does Darth Vader enjoy his Christmas Turkey? On the dark side!**
3. Who's Rudolph's favorite pop star? Beyon-sleigh!
4. **What do monkeys sing at Christmas? Jungle bells!**
5. **Who is a Christmas tree's favorite singer? Spruce Springsteen!**
6. What cars do elves drive? Toyotas!
7. **What would you call an elf who just has won the lottery? Welfy!**
8. **What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa? A rebel without a Claus!**
9. Why does Santa go down the chimney? Because it soots him!
10. **What did Mrs. Claus say to Santa Claus when she looked up in the sky?**
Looks like rain, dear!

30. **What do sheep say at Christmas? A Merry Christmas to Ewe!**

31. **Why wouldn't the cat climb the Christmas tree? It was afraid of the bark.**

32. How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing, because it was on the house



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! My name is Cara Krien and I am a senior Biology major at Villanova. One of the many things I am grateful for this holiday season is the Blue White Scholarship Foundation. Your generosity ensures that the foundation can continue to help students like me fund our education. As a small token of my appreciation, I hope you enjoy this letter of Christmas **C.H.E.E.R.!**

C – CHRISTMAS TRADITION

My junior year of high school, two of my friends from grade school and I decided to plan a Christmas sleepover where we buy matching pajamas and do all sorts of fun Christmas activities. What started as a one-time fun activity became a tradition, and we have done it every year since! It is truly one of my favorite parts of the holiday season, because I get to catch up with my old friends that I don't get to see very often, as we went to different high schools and now are gone at college most of the year.



My friends and I in our PJs!

H – HYMN OR CHRISTMAS CAROL

It's nearly impossible to pick just one Christmas song when there are so many good ones, both old and new, to choose from. One of my favorites, though, is "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" by Bruce Springsteen. It reminds me of listening to the Christmas music on the radio when I was younger while I decorated the tree with my family. It's also fun and upbeat, which I love!

E – EXCITING PART OF CHRISTMAS

While I used to love opening presents as a kid, my favorite part of Christmas these days is being together with my whole family. I am the third of four siblings, and with us all being in college or graduated and working all over the country, we do not get to spend time together as a family very often anymore. Last Christmas, all of my siblings, along with my sister's now husband, were home and we got to spend Christmas all together as a family!



Recreating an old picture!

E – ENTERTAINING MOVIE

One of my favorite Christmas movies is the live-action version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Jim Carrey is hilarious as the Grinch, and it is such a fun Christmas movie. I was super blonde and outgoing when I was little, so my family always used to joke that I was Cindy Lou Who. Every year when I was younger, we would go to a Christmas party with some of my dad's coworkers, and it was tradition for all of the kids to go down to the basement and watch this movie after dinner, so it holds some great memories for me.

R – REMARKABLE CHILDHOOD MEMORY

I am from Wisconsin, so pretty much every Christmas I can remember has been a white Christmas. There is a large sledding hill in my neighborhood, so my siblings and I spent many Christmases out in the snow, either sledding at the hill or just playing in my yard! Some of my best memories with my siblings are the days we would spend out in the snow, staying outside until we were too cold to keep playing.



Sledding in Wisconsin!

Difficult Christmas Word Search Answers



Christmas Word Search



D C A S P F S T Q M A U D E W R X D S W
O O H V G F P G K T E B M J X Q F U U L
E O D T C N S T N E M A N R O S B W O W
L K H T E F I A U Q X U S H O Z J X Q W
H I R T F B S K Z Z Z Y G C G K R D U V
V E G A A G D D C Q J P S X F I M N B P
E S U H V E V E M O D T M E S V E D Q X
O T O N T I R W C D T Q O I L G J L K B
X N P J D S L W I O J S D L S D I K S R
P E C W Z D A E R B R E G N I G N F C F
Z S H Z R D C L X P U A K P R S G A T U
B E E I H M G I Q E X U T M Y F L K C S
H R E I N D E E R P U H E I L O E O L B
Q P R E T M E K T P X T A V O A T W E A
G R L A G Q L W V E O D C W V N K Z R K
Y S A O Q L V C W R R D B W J Q S A V I
K V X D D C E H R M W T R A D I T I O N
U Z T Q M U S I C I T Z K Z N G Q D Z G
P Z A R C J R X Q N B G N I L O R A C G
M L Z N A T I S E T R G J J P U Y T M Z



BAKING
CHEER
ELVES
JINGLE
ORNAMENTS
REINDEER
SLEIGH
TREE

CANDLES
COOKIES
GIFTS
LIGHTS
PEPPERMINT
RUDOLPH
STOCKINGS
WREATH

CAROLING
DECORATIONS
GINGERBREAD
MUSIC
PRESENTS
SANTA
TRADITION



My name is Michael Ferry, and I am Junior studying Electrical Engineering here at Villanova. I hope this C.H.E.E.R. letter finds you well this holiday season! The Christmas season is one of appreciation and gratefulness, and I wanted to give a big thank you to the Blue White Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship helps many students like me, and it would not be possible without your kindness and generosity! I will be keeping your generosity in mind this Christmas season as I spread joy to those around me!

C: Christmas Tradition

My family's Christmas starts at my aunt and uncle's on Christmas Eve. We all have dinner, the adults participate in a Pollyanna, and my siblings and I receive our gifts from our aunt and uncle. We return home that night and get a good sleep while we wait for Santa to come! On Christmas morning, my dad always records us coming down the stairs to see our presents in the living room. My siblings and I then open our presents with my parents and grandparents watching before eating breakfast. Later, my mom's childhood friend and her family join us for dinner.

H: Hymn or Christmas Carol

I enjoy the holly and merry spirit of all Christmas songs, but my favorite is Joy to the World. It is usually the closing hymn for my parish's Christmas mass, and everyone always joins together in singing it. Between this sense of community and the eagerness for the remaining Christmas activities, it is my favorite Christmas song.

E: Exciting Part of Christmas

My favorite part of Christmas is the time spent with family. Though my family has our usual Christmas traditions, it is always exciting to see what twists there are. Sometimes we will go to another family members' house, and sometimes other family members will join us at our house. Either way, Christmas day is always an amazing time spent with family and friends!

E: Entertaining Movie

My favorite Christmas movie of all time is Home Alone. The idea of being on my own and successfully fending off intruders with traps always fascinated me as a child, and Kevin's tricks always get a laugh out of me. Best of all, the movie's ending encapsulates Christmas spirit with Kevin's mom returning home and Kevin's neighbor, Marley, reuniting with his son.

R: Remarkable Childhood Memory

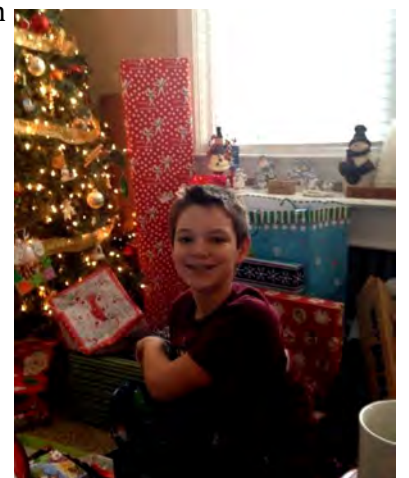
Though I always enjoyed opening presents, my favorite childhood memories of Christmas are rather of my excitedness to open presents and the lead up to Christmas morning. Both my Grandmom and PopPop often slept over on Christmas Eve, and I now know that they and my parents were working hard to make everything perfect while my siblings and I slept. Waiting on top of our stairs with my siblings and then rushing down them once my dad let us is something I will always remember!



Old family photo!



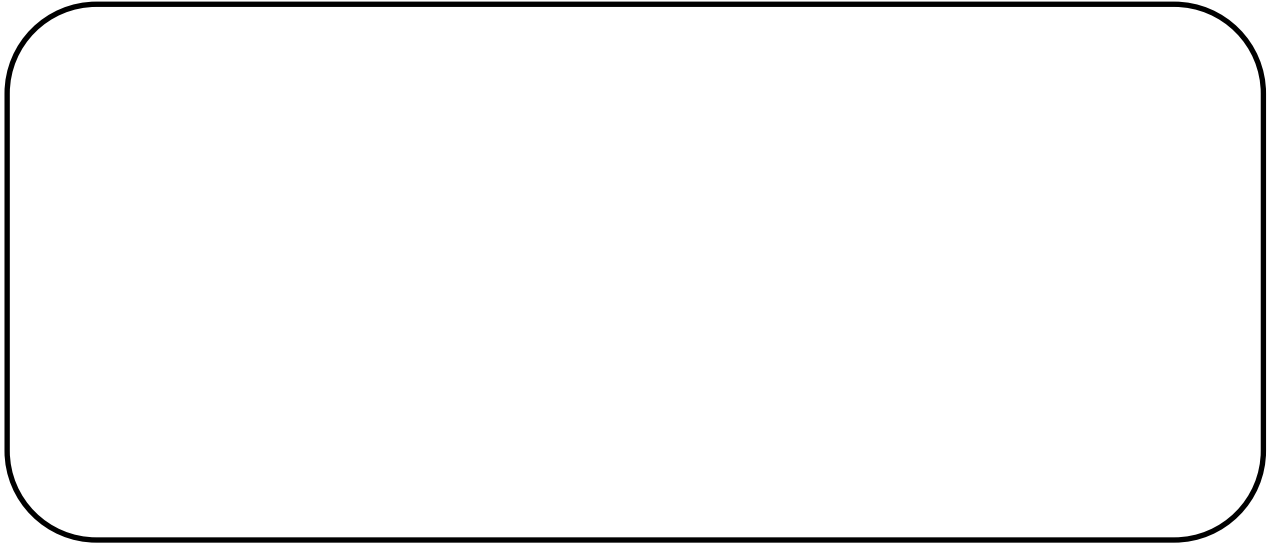
Hanging out with family and friends at a Christmas village!



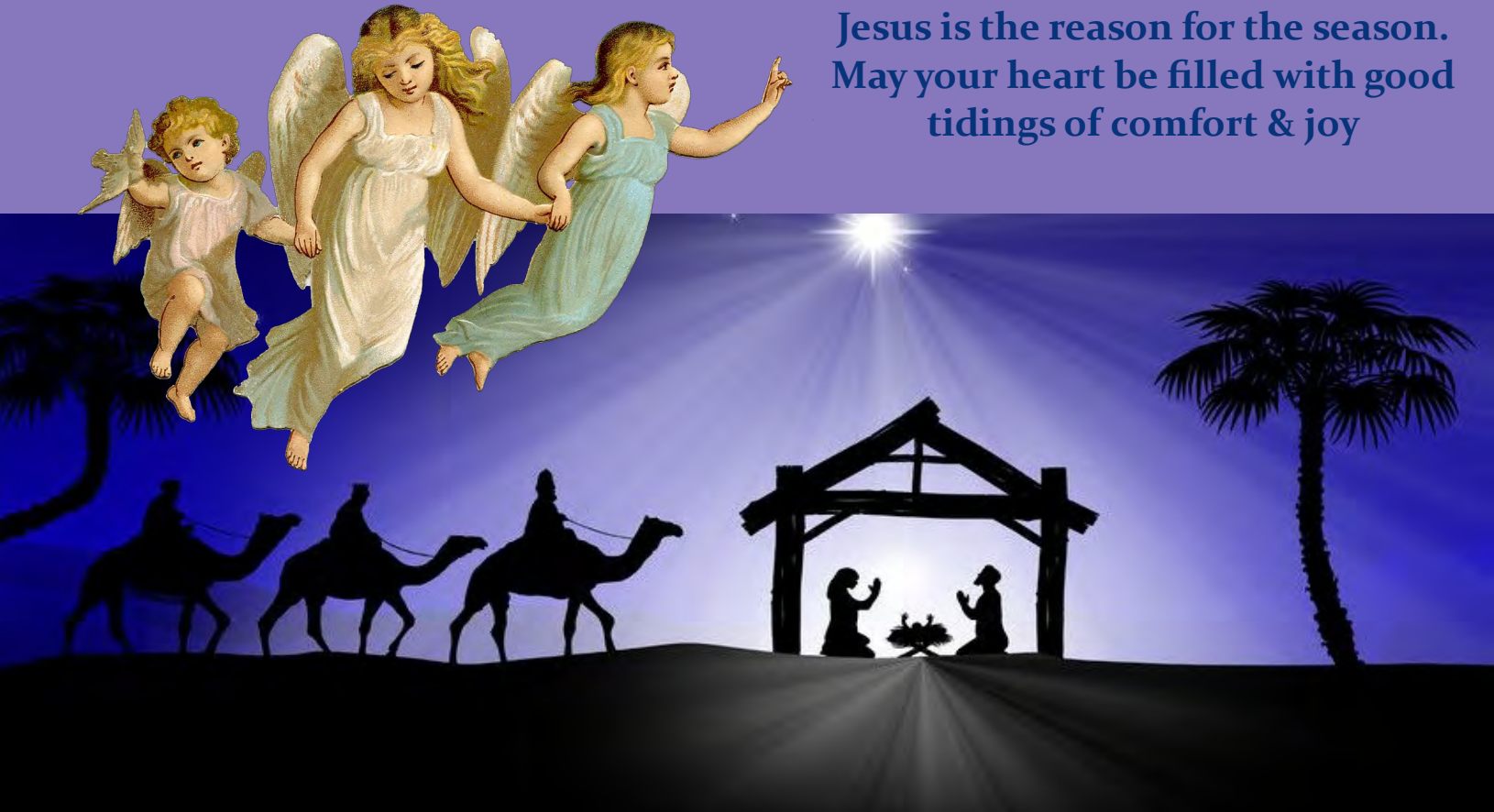
Me excited to open presents!



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**Jesus is the reason for the season.
May your heart be filled with good
tidings of comfort & joy**



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