

Victor Bartolotta Jr.

A Closer Look



Dark Christmas night

For children, the Christmas season translates into the ultimate experience of everything that is pleasurable. But, for adults who have experienced the confusion, the sorrow or the disillusionment of life, Christmas is a time to be poised for survival. It is a time when many adults grit their teeth and sandbag their emotions to endure, if they can, the imposing "joy" of a season that often brings more sorrow than gladness.

Christmas is a time of happiness for children, for whom limited life experience teaches that the season is exciting if nothing else. For adults, however, Christmas often becomes a "rite of passage," one more event to endure before the final event of death.

While adults may be thankful to God for what they do have, they may also experience Christmas as an event that helps them remember in a distinct way an absent loved one, the pain of joblessness or the apprehension of sickness.

How, then, does an adult survive an event such as Christmas?

Doesn't the hope for survival lie in the mystery of that silent, dark, joyous yet anxiety-filled night when Jesus was born? In the same way adults experience Christmas as a "mixed bag" of thankfulness and sadness, the night of Jesus' birth was a composite of incongruities and inconsistencies, of excitement and joy. The uncomfortably chilly air in the stable was warmed with the breath of smelly animals; the poor Christ child, wrapped in swaddling clothes and born into poverty, was adorned with gold, frankincense and myrrh; the Creator of all existence became as one created.

The night Jesus was born into this world is a night that affected all humanity. That night baptized humanity's fate into life with God.

That night brings hope to today's suffering adults and to today's suffering world because, on that night, God proved to humanity that He knew cold and dirt, pain and sorrow.

Then as now, God pierced this flesh-and-bones world of ours and became one of us one "Dark Christmas Night!"

That wretched night, so dark and dimly lit, A night of worry for travelers whose wit Told them that thieves from rocks and brush would try To steal what thieves refused or could not buy.

That solemn night, dark save for one bright star, Announced to kings and suffering world afar That God in gentle ways was worldly stirred, To show the world what ne'er before occurred.

Brought forth, that night, the proof that God did show That sorrow, pain and fear that humans know Was His pain too, a part of life on earth, God felt it all in time at Jesus' birth.

On that still, dark and strangely deathlike night, God sent his son, Himself, to ease life's blight, And with us feel doubt, hopelessness — decay Jesus became like us on Christmas Day!

How to choose a gift for mom or dad

I want to get dad a key chain for his keys. It says Dad's Limo on the key chain. I know my Dad will like this present.

Carey Barnard
St. Michael, Newark
Grade 2

Getting Ready for Christmas

This is the way we get ready for Christmas. First we set up our manger scene. We do this so my family can remember the real meaning of Christmas. When Christmas day comes my friends and family sing happy birth day to Jesus and bake a cake for him. We go to mass to give God Thanks for the thing that we have. This is the way our family honors Jesus on his birthday.

Jason Herron
St. Patrick, Seneca Falls
Grade 3

How to decorate a Christmas tree

How we put up our Christmas tree. The first thing we have to do is put it together. It is not a real tree. We don't put bulbs on our tree. We use lights, red bows, and animal ornaments. Our family worked on it together.

Michael Huson
St. Patrick, Seneca Falls
Grade 3

How to make a fruitcake

You need 500 eggs, fruit and 700 cherries, two cups of flour, seven cups of sugar, eight gallons of cider. Stir it for 600 minutes. Put it in the oven till it gets hard.

Anne Marie Duttlinger
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 2

How to tell Santa

what you want for Christmas

You cood rut it on a pees uv papr or on a cooky or you cood rut in on a mog nit. Leave it on the table for christmas and wen He cum's he cood look at it.

Nicole Keehley
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 1

First you go to Midtown plaza and you goin. you See Santa Claus and yo go sit on Santa lap. They you tell him what you want for Christmas. You say GoodBye.

Lori Casale
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 1

Christmas At My House

This is how my family celebrates Christmas. On Christmas morning my family gets up and says a prayer to Jesus. After that we get dressed and go to Church. The our friends and relatives come over and we have a big Christmas dinner. Later we exchange gifts, sing Christmas carols, and play games.

Adam Wright
St. Patrick, Seneca Falls
Grade 3

Guess who's open Christmas Day?

Jim

Rund's

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