



# Merry Christmas



## LISTENIN'

Vol. XII, Ed. 2

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, Boone, Iowa

December, January, 1953

### Is Your Heart Prepared For Christmas?

Putting Christ into Christmas means doing acts of kindness, praying, and making sacrifices. I can show my love for God by going to Mass, receiving Holy Communion, adoring Him and keeping free from sin. If I do all these things and obey God, my parents, my teachers, my parish priests, and all my superiors, I can truly keep Christ in Christmas.

Marilyn Fitzgerald

Suggestions from other members of the class are:

Pray for the sinners in the world and for the poor children in Korea, China, and Russia in your prayers during Advent.

Earl Brice

I should be kind and think of the kindness of Christ at this season.

Carolyn Catron

Let us put love into everything we do.

Delores Headley

Make your cards symbolic of the true Christmas.

Duke Conway

At home, make the Crib and the Advent wreath the center of attraction.

Rosalie Day

The real spirit of Christmas is not in receiving but in giving.

Eileen Ryan

Remember a holier Christmas means a happier one, too.

Richard Rinker

★  
The  
19 52  
Staff of  
Listenin' In  
Wishes to extend  
To you, many joys and  
blessings of the season.  
A Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year!!  
To All  
Of You.

### Students Participate In Advent Ceremony

To help make the pre-Christmas preparations a truly Christian and school affair, the students of Sacred Heart School assembled at the south end of the first floor corridor to light the first candle of their "Advent wreath."

The Advent wreath, one of Europe's ancient Christian customs, has been revived in the United States in recent years.

After the assembling of the entire student body down the corridor and on the stairs, the first candle was lit by Timmy Mahoney, a first grade student, while the students sang the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" accompanied by Patricia Conway. After the hymn, Delores Coffey, president of the senior class, led the special Advent prayer followed by the oration for the first week, taken from the collect of the Sunday Mass. The other three candles, placed one at the north end of the first floor, and the other two at the north and south end of the second floor, were lit in a similar manner on the Monday of each week in Advent.

In this manner the students made a liturgical preparation for the greatest of all feasts.



### School Closes With Candlelighting

To unite all hearts in sheer richness and overflowing joys of yuletide was the prime purpose of the candlelighting ceremony held for the first time in the new Sacred Heart parish hall. The students assembled mid rising carols to kindle the flames of faith, hope, charity, obedience, joy, and innocence. As each representative of a class finished the rite in the class name, his group broke forth into a favorite song.

Concluding the impressive program was the beautiful Bethlehem tableaux carefully prepared by the Seventh and Eighth Grade pupils.

Following the religious program was the delightful PTA treat annually given by the jovial Santa Claus. Vacation then began for the Sacred Heart pupils.

### Freshmen Enrolled in Sodality

Pledges of loyalty and devotion were on the lips of fourteen freshmen at the approach of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception when they were received into the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin.

Standing sponsor for them on this occasion was Patricia Conway, Sodality Prefect for the year 1952-53.

### Youngsters Catch Mission Spirit

In promoting funds for the Pagan Babies, mission-minded Mary Ellen McNertney held open house to all her classmates. Talented groups sang songs, presented "magic tricks", and manipulated Tabby the puppet. Perhaps the most engaging feature was the showing of films by James Lynch. Four cent entertainment, ending with cooky refreshments, can afford fun for youngsters and help for much needed souls.

## Youth Prays for Christmas Peace

O Infant Jesus, Whose arms are extended to receive the world, receive us into your ways of love, peace, and light. Make it possible for all of us to grasp the true meaning of the Christmas season. Let every snow flake and every lighted Christmas tree remind us of the angel's first message, "Peace on earth to men of good will". Make it possible for us to become as shepherds on the first Christmas night adoring You, not at the stable, but in our hearts filled with zeal and love of You. Although we cannot offer You such gifts as those of the Orient kings, we can offer each action of the Christmas season with each little mortification and self denial or even every joy and happiness. Recalling Your words to Saint Thomas, "Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed," we hope that You will accept us as sufficient gifts and help us make this Christmas a truly peaceful one, with all hearts accepting You as the true Savior given to the world not only of yesterday but of today, and tomorrow, and tomorrow!

## Grades Give Their Impressions of Christmas

Visions of Santa Claus, his toys, snow, and the Christmas tree dance with anticipation in the minds of the first and second grade youngsters as the Christmas holidays approach. Asking mother's little helpers, "What do you like best about Christmas?", we received a whole-hearted exclamation of what they like best about their favorite holiday.

Tommy Collins exclaimed, "I like the toys", Vickie McCoy replied, "and Santa Claus too," while Timmy Ferry liked the snow, Michael Culver had reference to the "Crib in which Baby Jesus lays", Philip Seiler loved going to Mass on Christmas morning and Karen Elsberry said she liked Christmas "Because if we hadn't had the first Christmas we wouldn't have Mass or Communion or the holy days", but still to the poetic mind of little Miriam Shaw came this sweet poem:

"Oh my Jesus I like  
Christmas too.  
Not because of Santa Claus  
But because of You."

\* \* \*

Do you know how we came to start giving gifts? Well, in case you don't, it happened when the wise men gave Christ gifts on His Birthday. Since then, however, it has gradually drifted into a pagan celebration. Actually some of us don't even know what Christmas stands for except for exchanging gifts. Quite a shock wasn't it? That's not a very good way of celebrating such a great feast, is it? Well I know one way we can put Christ into Christmas and that is by receiving Holy Communion frequently and going to Mass. I'm sure He would appreciate this more than any other gift we could give Him. Oh! yes, one other thing if you boys don't get that sled you wanted or you girls don't get that doll you asked for, don't complain. You should all ask God to bless what you have and thank Him for what He has given to you.

Dale Elsberry  
Grade 7

\* \* \*  
"Santa Claus is comin' to town."  
Each third and fourth grader is uttering this sound.  
Whether it be girl, or whether it be boy,  
Each is asking for some favorite toy.

I'll be waitin' at our gate  
For a pair of roller skates.  
- Sharon Shuster says -  
I'll have lots and lots of fun  
Waitin' for a B.B. gun.  
- Kirby Flanagan says -  
I'll be watching for the snow  
And my puppet-Pinocchio.  
- Sue Ann Cooper says -  
I'm really too old for a three-wheel  
trike,  
So please, dear Santa, bring me a  
bike.  
- Tommy Conway says -  
Since it is difficult to bring  
a live pet,  
I'll be satisfied with just a  
bead set.  
- Jo Ann Tornabane says -

Now children remember as you anxiously wait  
That Santa is keeping track on his slate.  
Let all that you do be done with not a frown  
'cause-

"Santa Claus is comin' to town."

\* \* \*

The one big question in every one's mind is, "How shall I spend my holidays?" When this question confronted the 5th and 6th grade a great many clever answers were given. Among the many, these were chosen to show that vacation plans took a very wide range variety.

Tommy Payne is going to Chicago. "Don't get lost in Grand Central Station!"

Joey Tornabane is going to travel to Minnesota to go hunting. "Keep that gun pointed the right way!"

Robert Hunter is going to have his tonsils taken out. "We'll be praying for you!"

Janet Steuerwald thinks it would be nice to just stay home and sleep late. "Don't forget to get up in time for school!"

Patty Douroumis is going to stay home and entertain company. "Don't eat too much!"

Jerry Cooper is planning on staying home to deliver his papers and collect. "Don't get lost in the snow!"

Mary Kay Keller wants to stay home and have snowball fights with her brothers and sisters. "Build those forts high!"

Eddie Dittmer hopes he can stay home and play. "Remember, don't get in anyone's way!"

Kathy McDonald wants to stay far away from her brother, so that she can have a peaceful holiday. "Is Jim really that bad, Kathy?"

Kenny Carlson is going to the country to pay a visit to his grandmother. "Don't chase too many chickens!"

Ray Brown says he is going to Work, Work, Work. "Wonder just how much work will be done!"

Gary Mullins is planning on going to Florida to spend his Christmas. "Don't sit in the sun too long or upon your return you will melt all the Iowa snow!"

No matter where you go or what you do during your vacation, may this be the best and merriest Christmas you've ever had.

CAMPFIRE AND BLUE BIRD GROUP



Swing Your Partner



7<sup>th</sup> GRADE LASSIE



"My Dear Boy"



JOANS

Sophomore Lineup





"'Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "Angie the Angel" came into town through a "Marshmallow World" on a sleigh pulled by "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" adorned in his "Silver Bells" to visit little Johnny Jones. Each year Johnny had sent to "The Santa Claus Express" office his list of gifts desired. For the past few years his one big wish was to hear his Dad, who was fighting to save his land, say, "I'll Be Home for Christmas". He also told "Santy He Lived in a Shanty" and because they were so poor they could not "Deck the Halls" with any "Christmas Tree" or even "Jingle Bells", so would "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" send him something that would make this a very "White Christmas".

When Angie arrived she found "Frosty the Snowman" already peering in the window. They began to talk together and decided that if they didn't hurry fast "Santa Claus Would Be Comin' to Town" and Johnny's gifts would not even be aboard. So Angie and sweet Frosty went inside and really surprised Johnny, who was trying very hard to think of a "Merry Christmas." He looked up very bewildered and Angie asked, "What would you really like for Christmas, Johnny?" To their surprise he blushed a little and said, "Well, I really—" "All I Want for Christmas Is my Two Front Teeth", which I lost two months ago while playing with my dog." Frosty gave such a warm hearted laugh that he almost melted, then he said

"Well, we'll try to get those for you, but in the meantime "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and now we must be on our way." They climbed into the sleigh and away Rudolph flew through the "Winter Wonderland" back to Headquarters to report on Johnny's wishes.

When Johnny awoke he "Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" and that old familiar song "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." Then he began to jump and shout for glee, for he saw his Dad at the foot of his bed and instead of those two empty spaces in his mouth he found two brand new front teeth. "Let it Snow", he cried, "for 'Now 'Tis a Merry Christmas' for all of us!"

#### CHRISTMAS

Christmas comes just once a year  
And to our hearts it's very dear.  
It makes us think of the Holy Child  
And of His Mother, sweet and mild.

by Phillip Howard Seiler  
Grade 2

LISTENIN' IN STAFF  
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Reporters-Senior Class

*Honeybugs*

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