



Fab Friday - December 22, 2023 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



I don't know about you but at this time of year I am full of memories of our family Christmas's and I long for the traditions I loved so much.

Christmas was a month-long affair at our house. Shopping with Guffy (my grandfather) and Betty for the annual slippers and robe. Making handmade presents for my family. Wrapping packages on the ping pong table covered with papers, ribbons and real, handmade bows. Decorating the house, the sound of Christmas carols through the house.

Christmas Eve was a very busy time in the Eskridge house. Starting with caroling family and friends - oh so many stops. Mom driving the station wagon, Dad with the accordion strapped to his chest and all of us in the back seats, squirming and excited. I was always in the back of our group so I could que Dad the cord for each carol. Then a trip to the church for communion before we headed home to split-pea soup and saltine crackers. After all, it's green!

Six children in their annual Christmas PJs gathered in the living room with grandmother (Mom's mom) and aunts and uncles of two generations to celebrate Jesus's birthday - Birthday cake with a candle and singing Happy Birthday - and a slice for Santa of course. Then, gathered at the fireplace we would take turns, year after year, reading the Christmas story from the Bible. It was such an honor when one came of age, and reading ability, to read the story of the Miracle of Christ's birth. After we hung our stockings with care, we would take our Christmas tree medicine and march up the stairs singing "This Old Man", climbing into bed to sleep away the night (oh sure).

Then came Christmas morning. Before we could open presents, we had to gather in the

breakfast room and have a big breakfast, which none of us wanted. Dad would set up the flood lights to film us streaming, oldest to youngest, in to see the tree covered with "diamonds" (that Santa had miraculously brought down the chimney) and presents everywhere. Each year Mom would warn us of a "small Christmas" and each year it was huge. The day continued with us tramping to the "big family" Christmas with our cousins and a big family Christmas dinner late in the day.

It is because of these memories that I so cherish Lessons and Carols and the Choral Prelude on Christmas Eve. We no longer go caroling - the thing I miss the most about traditions of bygone years. To hear the beautiful voices of our choir, I am transported to those innocent days when the air was full of music.

So, thanks for indulging me sharing these stories. I hope that this has given you inspiration to take a moment to remember your Christmas's past and favorite memories.

These are the links to your [Lessons and Carols](#) bulletin, your [Christmas Eve Midnight Mass](#) bulletin and [Christmas Day](#)'s too. Hope to see you on Sunday. I'll be singing along.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the Season to you,
Nancy



PLEASE NOTE: The Eucharists scheduled for December 26, 27 and 28 will be held at Noon, not 5:30 pm, in the Mary Chapel.

Isn't this beautiful? **Barbie G is providing luminarias for the 10:30 Christmas Eve service.** She needs a volunteer helper to put them in place before the Mass. Can you meet Barbie at the church at **9:45 that night to help put the luminarias in place? Please text Barbie at 812-453-0607 if you can help!** There is a rain plan in place, just in case of rain.



Sunday School News Update

Correction: Sunday School will break from December 17 through January 7 and reconvene on January 14. Adult formation will, however, begin their exploration of Gospel of Mark on January 7, and continue from Epiphany through Easter season.



We have been invited by the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday Jan. 15! They are doubling the capacity of their volunteer shifts on this day! Our shift is 9:30 - noon. Children as young as 8 can attend. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex through Dec 31.



Cookies, Bars, Cakes, Breads, and Scones, Oh My!

Help us raise money for a new adult-size changing table for St. John's Church. As our congregation grows, we want to be ready to welcome people of all ages and abilities. This is an important addition to our church to make this goal possible.

Bring your favorite sweet treat to sell at our Sunday bake sale and help us with this project.

