

What Makes The Miracle of Christmas

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What makes the miracle of Christmas? Is it a wreath that adorns the door, is it Christmas presents we buy in the store? Is it the single, lighted tree we come to love so much; is it that candle that burns so brightly for us; or is it that Dear Ole' Saint Nick?

What makes the miracle of Christmas? Is it in a child's eye, a light of joy, a sign of hope, or a baby's face that's all aglow when it sees the first snow? It's a long ago story most ever told, of a Saviour born in Bethlehem, lying in a manger? They all follow the shining star on that special night.

We take this day once a year to celebrate that Christmas miracle. The star they followed that long-ago night was a sign of our Saviour's everlasting love and hope, that night they lay him in a manger, our Saviour was born.

The children's eyes are aglow even when the smallest ones sing "Glory to God in the Highest. Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men!" The miracle of Christmas doesn't just come in a box with a ribbon or a bow, it comes from a child-like heart.

The bells will be ringing in the church yard, snow flakes of fresh white snow, little faces all aglow. We used to go to the woods to cut a pretty Christmas tree; take it home and decorate it with homemade ornaments. We trimmed it with popcorn, paper chains, tinsel and a star, and it was so beautiful.

When I reflect on Christmases past, the love we had for each other, our neighbors, our family and friends, gathering around to enjoy the holidays. That's a Christmas miracle that lasts forever.

Christmases of long ago, I think of cold frosty nights, stars so bright, families trimming the tree, lighted candles, Christmas feasts, a fireplace, singing Christmas carols; going back home in memory and mind, thinking of long ago, brothers, sisters, Mom and Dad.

Snow sleighing over the hills and the valleys. I look up on the old home place, the fields covered with fresh, white snow; the old barn, cows in the fields, oil lamps in the windows of our neighbor's house. We love and cherish it so much.

Christmas services and Christmas plays, we are all in church praying for each one, giving thanks for our blessings. What makes up a miracle of Christmas ... this and so much more. "Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to God in the Highest," they sing. "Glory to the New-born King. God and Sinners Reconciled."

I think of Christmas as the most beautiful time of the year. Frost on the meadows, wreaths on the door, Christmas trees lighted up in the stores. Take to heart the simple things in life most of all. Believe in God, cherish the moment. Be grateful, give thanks, let's all have a blessed Christmas. Give thanks to God for all his blessings. Give a gift of love, peace and joy.

Please don't let no one feel alone or go hungry or be cold or homeless. Give a gift, it could be a blanket, hat socks, gloves, coat, dish of food, a card, a smile, show love, kindness, visit the nursing home, hospital, jails, shut-ins; check on the elderly. Search your heart to find that miracle of Christmas.

Don't forget our veterans, our heroes that gave so much. Remember most of all what Christmas means, it's all about Christ's birth and love He had for all mankind when we set the table this year. Remember the ones who've gone on to be with God. Cherish their memories.

Think of someone that might not have much; do something about it, give that Christmas miracle that comes from the heart. Show love and kindness that lasts all year long. Merry Christmas and God bless everyone. I love you and God loves you, too. Amen.



Woman's Club members Freda Hardy, left, and Francine Bonny decorated the nursing home's Christmas tree to give some holiday spirit to the patients. The Irvine-Ravenna Woman's Club recently decorated the Christmas tree in the dining room at the Irvine Health & Rehabilitation home. It is an annual project of the club. The club is a civic organization with the motto "Committed to Service". It was organized in 1954 and has served the needs of the community through a broad range of projects and programs throughout the years. Membership is open to all women who are interested in community service in an atmosphere of fellowship. Become a volunteer and make new friends. Tina Pasley is the club president.

Estill Middle School Sources of Strength Visits Nursing Home



The Estill County Middle School 8th grade Sources of Strength team partnered with Mr. Fletcher and the Estill County Middle School Chorus to visit the Irvine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on December 3, 2019. The Sources of Strength team passed out cards and candy canes to the residents while the chorus sang Christmas songs. (Photo courtesy of Michael L. Flynn, YSC & GEAR-UP coordinator)



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Your generous support has helped put us on the map.

With heartfelt gratitude and warm wishes to all for the very merriest of holidays ever!

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