



The Joys of Christmas Past

Recently, when the Residents gathered for an activity, they shared stories about Christmas traditions and memories from when they were children.

We hope you enjoy these stories from many years ago, along with pictures from last year's Christmas here in our Home.

Marlene said her family never missed going to Christmas Eve Mass, although she sometimes missed some of it as she often fell asleep before it was over. She also remembered her dad would have trouble with the Christmas tree lights and worked the days leading up to Christmas to get them working in time. He always came through and the tree was lit up for the big day!

Delores's family also went to midnight Mass. She and her siblings would play games to stay awake before leaving for church. She grew up in a small town. Her dad would chop down a tree, and her mom baked cookies to decorate it with. After Christmas, the kids would eat the cookies from the tree. The cookies were very hard, but the kids didn't mind!

Leticia grew up in Ecuador. Her family celebrated La Posada at Christmastime — a procession through the neighborhood carrying a statue of the baby Jesus. All the homes along the way had beautiful nativity scenes out

front. The family went to Mass, and had a special meal on Christmas with turkey and all the delicious side dishes. She had never heard of Santa Claus until coming to the United States!

Johnnie's family had a Christmas tree, and her grandma would bake lots of cookies for the occasion. They had a big dinner with ham and turkey.

Marianna's family had a Christmas tree too—a real one. In fact, all of the Residents said they celebrated with a real tree. Her father would go out and cut one down for the occasion. She and her siblings—there were 5 of them—would leave out cookies for Santa. They opened presents on Christmas day and had a big meal ... followed by naps.

Marie grew up in Ireland. Her father dug up a tree each year to use as a Christmas tree, and would re-plant it after the holiday. The family raised turkeys and would sell them before the holidays, but would keep a couple of them to have for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The kids hung up stockings for Santa, and would wake up to find a small present along with fruit and candy inside. She remembers her parents playing Christmas music on a gramophone that they would wind up. The family would also go to her grandparents' house on Christmas, by horse and buggy. The grandparents lived 50 miles away, so it took several hours to get there. The grandparents had extra *(continued on page 2)*

Christmas Memories



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rooms with big beds, and they would sleep 2 or 3 kids to a bed while visiting.

Barbara remembers putting up a Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. She's not sure where her dad got it, but he would bring one home a couple of days early and hide it behind the garage. The kids would always find it, though!

Under the tree would be lots of presents for her and her two brothers, who were 6 and 8 years older than she. They (the brothers, not her!) would carefully unwrap each gift on Christmas Eve night after everyone was asleep, peek inside, then re-wrap them perfectly so they looked untouched on Christmas morning. So they always

knew what they were getting!

We hope you enjoyed this trip down memory lane, and that it brings back some nice memories for you too. And perhaps it will inspire you to create some new traditions for yourself or your family. As our Residents show, the memories you make now can last a lifetime!

Month of the Holy Souls

November is the month that we remember our deceased loved ones. On the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, we prayed for those who have died — including all of our former Residents. We especially remembered those that passed away in the last year.

This continued throughout the month, and is a tradition that is near to our hearts. We hope you will join us in this tradition by remembering your deceased loved ones during the upcoming Christmas celebrations as well. For you who have recently lost loved ones, be assured of our prayers for your comfort and consolation during what can be a difficult time of year.



A Saint For All Ages

Fifth-grader Eva was looking for a saint to do a report on for her school's All Saints Day assignment. But who to choose? There are so many good ones! Eva learned that her birthday fell on the feast day of the Little Sisters of the Poor's foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, so she talked to her grandma Kate, who works here at our Home and is an AJJ member.

The Little Sisters gave Kate some books to give to Eva to learn more about Jeanne Jugan, and after studying them, she decided Saint Jeanne would be a perfect saint to report on. Her grandma agreed and even offered to sew her a costume that looked just like Jeanne Jugan's habit. Eva helped and they made sure to get every detail just right, even down to a basket like one that Jeanne carried to collect food on her daily begging rounds.

On the big day of Eva's presentation, her grandma came and brought a special guest – Sr. Grace, an actual Little Sister of the Poor! Eva did a great job telling the other students and their parents all about St. Jeanne Jugan and the order she founded. She explained about the Little Sisters' mission of caring for the elderly all over the world, and told a little about our Home here in Kansas City.

She made a beautiful display of things she had learned about Jeanne Jugan, including some of her sayings. Eva said that her favorite saying of St. Jeanne's is, "He is so good. Love God very much, all for Him, do everything through love." We agree, that is a great one!

After a long day of giving reports, she and her classmates were tired and getting hungry. In true Jeanne Jugan fashion, Eva shared her bounty of bread, carrots, and kale from her collecting basket with everyone.

Thank you, Eva, for helping to spread the word about our beloved Foundress. We believe Saint Jeanne Jugan would be proud of how you embraced her caring spirit.

*He is so good.
Love God
very much,
all for Him,
do everything
through love.*

– SAINT JEANNE JUGAN



MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone, and happy holidays!

We hope you had a nice Thanksgiving. This time of year, we are always reminded of our many blessings.

Despite Covid resurfacing every so often, we are grateful to be able to have activities again, and very much enjoyed seeing everyone at the spaghetti dinner. We are happy to welcome volunteers back, too.

Sr. Agnes has resumed her collecting rounds at area businesses, as well as her visits to the parishes. She is happy to be back out in the community.

We remembered our beloved dead throughout the month of November, especially those Residents who have died in the last year. One of our Residents and her family hosted a Dia de los Muertos celebration at the Home. It's a holiday to honor the dead which is celebrated in Mexico and by many of those of Mexican heritage. We are grateful to them for sharing their culture and tradition with us. Everyone really enjoyed it.

Our Home is buzzing with anticipation as we prepare for Christmas. We wish you a blessed Christmas and thank you for your generosity throughout the year. You remain in our grateful prayers.

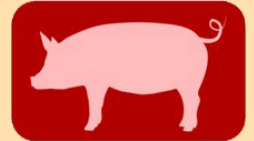
Mother Margaret



Christmas Holiday Breakfast Drive

Saturday, December 16
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Once again, this year we are collecting **ham, bacon, and breakfast sausage** for special breakfasts for our Residents during the holidays and beyond. Please drop items off at our home at 8745 James A. Reed Rd, Kansas City, MO 64138. Just pull up to the front door - Little Sisters will be on hand to greet you at your car and accept your donations. Call 816.761.4744 for more info.



*From Our Family to Yours
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas
and a Joyous New Year!*

SERVING KANSAS CITY'S ELDERLY SINCE 1882

OUR MISSION

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family, and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.



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