

# 12 Days of Christmas:

1 The Partridge in a pear tree was  
Jesus Christ.

2 Turtle Doves were the  
Old and New Testament

3 French Hens stood for  
Faith, Hope and Love

4 Calling Birds were the Gospels of  
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

5 Golden rings recalled the Torah which is the  
first 5 books of the Old Testament:  
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

6 Geese a-laying stood for the 6 days of Creation:  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

7 Swans a-swimming represents the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:  
wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.  
or  
wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, piety, and reverence.

8 Maids a-milking were the eight Beatitudes:

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure of heart: for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

9 Ladies Dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

10 Lords a-leaping were Ten Commandments:

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

11 Pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples:

Simon Peter, Andrew, James (the son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot

12 Drummers drumming symbolized the 12 points of the Apostle's creed:

1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
5. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
6. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
7. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
9. the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and the life everlasting.

Amen.