

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

Baby Jesus's Birthday Party

Tonight is all about throwing a birthday party for the Baby Jesus. We have been preparing for this day since October this year. That was when I heard my first Christmas Carol on the radio. Actually Christmas is the church throwing a birthday party for the infant Jesus on December 24/25. When those days come many people respond to the open invitation to celebrate Jesus's birthday by going to church and starting the celebrations. After church, many people continue the party at home with family and friends.

Seems like birthday parties and Christmas have a lot in common. Tonight we are all about celebrating Jesus and the day He was born. Most birthdays celebrations only last for one maybe two days. No so with Jesus and His birthday. Officially Christmas is actually celebrated for 40 days. It goes from December 25 to February 2. In that time we greet those celebrating with the phrase, Christ is born and the response is, Indeed He is born. Most people stop celebrating Christmas when their tree comes down or after the Feast of the Three Kings. I could not imagine celebrating my birthday for 40 days.

Most birthday parties have a cake with lights on it. We celebrate Jesus's birthday with a lot of lights. We decorate our churches with

light, our homes and our yards. We decorate our Christmas trees with lights and then top it off with a star or angle. WE use so much light to celebrate Jesus's birthday because He was the light of our world.

When we celebrate some ones birthday we usually do it with lots of food and with friends and family. We make a special meal to mark the importance of the day. Christmas is no exception. People celebrate Jesus's birthday with big feasts and banquets of food. We make special dishes that we only eat at Christmas to remember how special the day is. Even our stomach gets to celebrate. Sometimes we will cook a ham or turkey or meat pies. Sometimes all of the above.

Like most birthday parties, we bring a present for the person celebrating their birthday. You cannot have a birthday without presents and gifts. Jesus's birthday is no different. Sometimes how the gifts are given is a bit different. The greatest gift Jesus gave us and continues to give us is eternal life. The greatest gift we can give back to Jesus is being good and treating people kindly. In honour of Jesus's gift to us, we give gifts to people around us. To show them that we love them very much. This reminds us that Jesus loves us very much too.

Instead of singing happy birthday to the baby Jesus, we sing Christmas carols. The very good ones remind us of how and where Jesus was born. The really good carols are most often prayers set to music. These carols also celebrate the goodness inside of our human nature. These carols retell the birth of Jesus through music. They tell us who visited Him at the manger. Like the shepherds in the field, the little drummer boy and the Three Kings with their gifts.

Christmas is a huge birthday celebration with a great festive atmosphere. Retelling the story and celebrating helps to pass it on to

the next generation. So that they do not forget. We celebrate with light, giving gifts, singing carols and eating. Seems like all of our senses are involved. Continue the party on at your home after you leave this party. God bless, stay safe and healthy on into the New Year. Pass your traditions on to your children and grandchildren and explain what they are.