



Christmas

December 23rd
3:30pm - 5:20pm
Host: Michael



What's Christmas All About?

- ❖ Where does Christmas originate?
- ❖ When do people celebrate Christmas?
- ❖ Who is Santa Claus?
- ❖ Why do we have Christmas Trees?
- ❖ Will you find someone to kiss under the mistletoe?

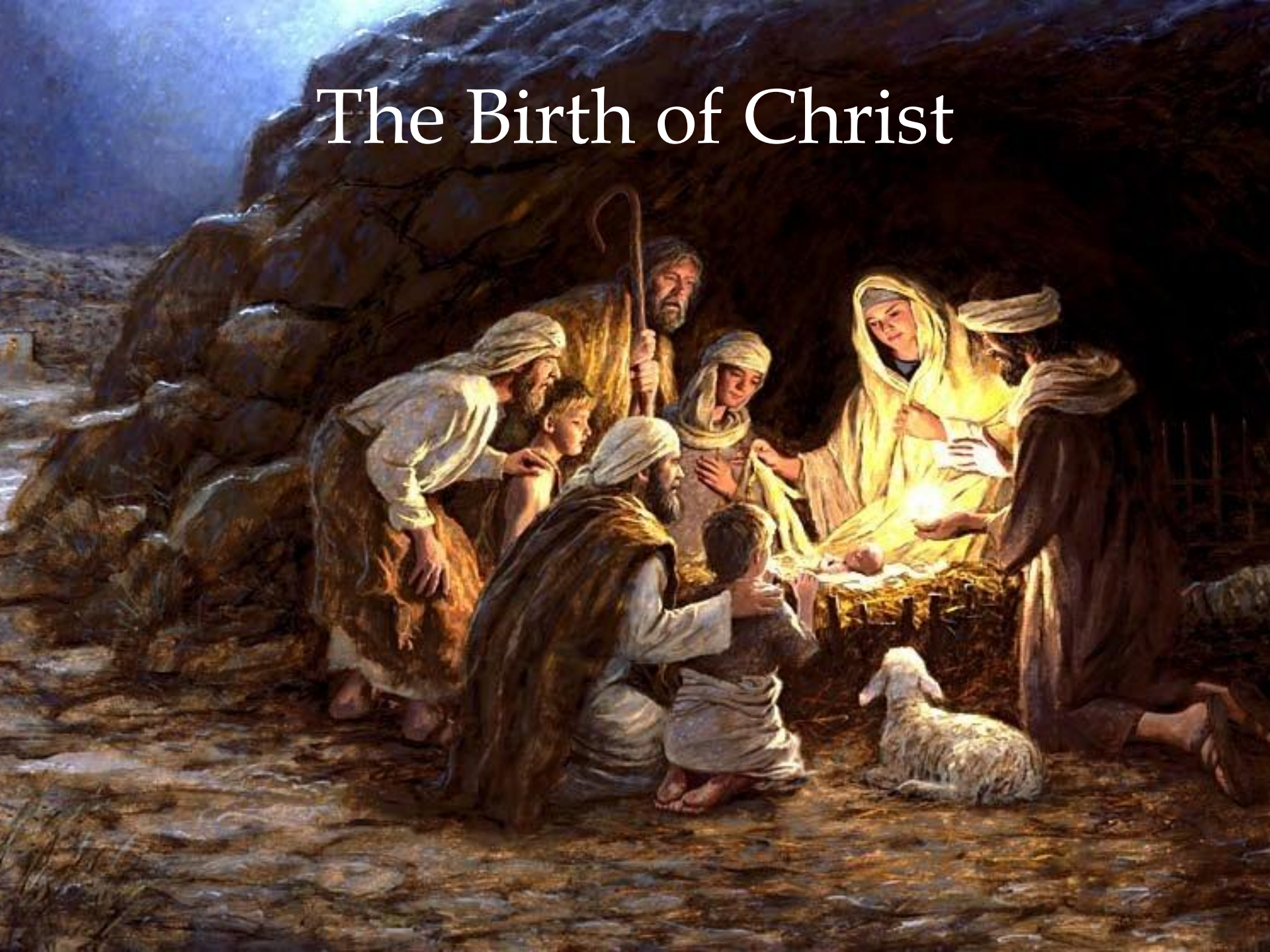


Christmas Origins

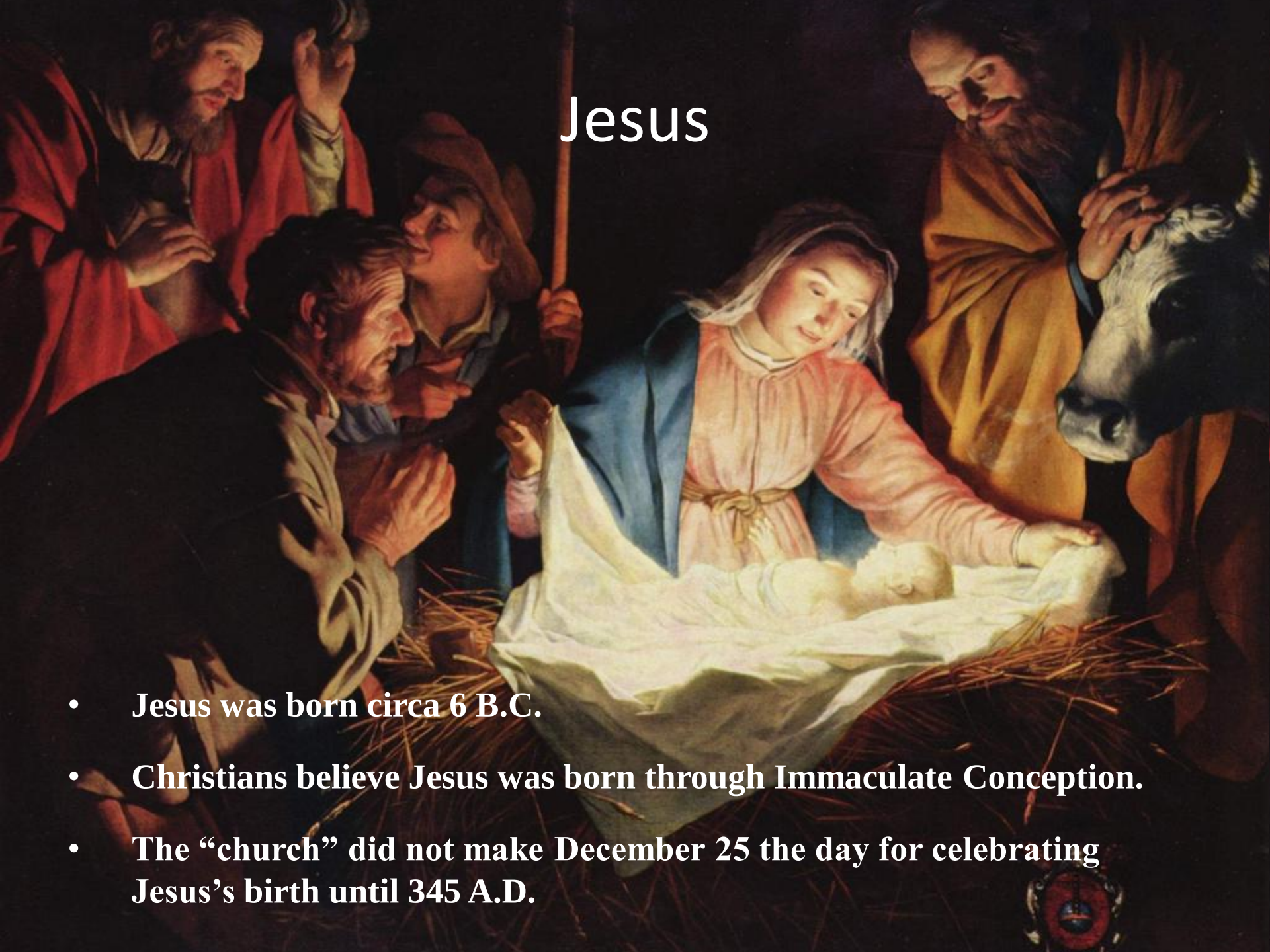
- The word Christmas originated as a compound meaning "Christ's Mass". "Cristes" is from Greek Christos and "masse" is from Latin missa.
- In Greek, the letter X (chi), is the first letter of Christ, and it, or the similar Roman letter X, has been used as an abbreviation for Christ since the mid-16th century.
- Hence, Xmas is often used as an abbreviation for Christmas.



The Birth of Christ







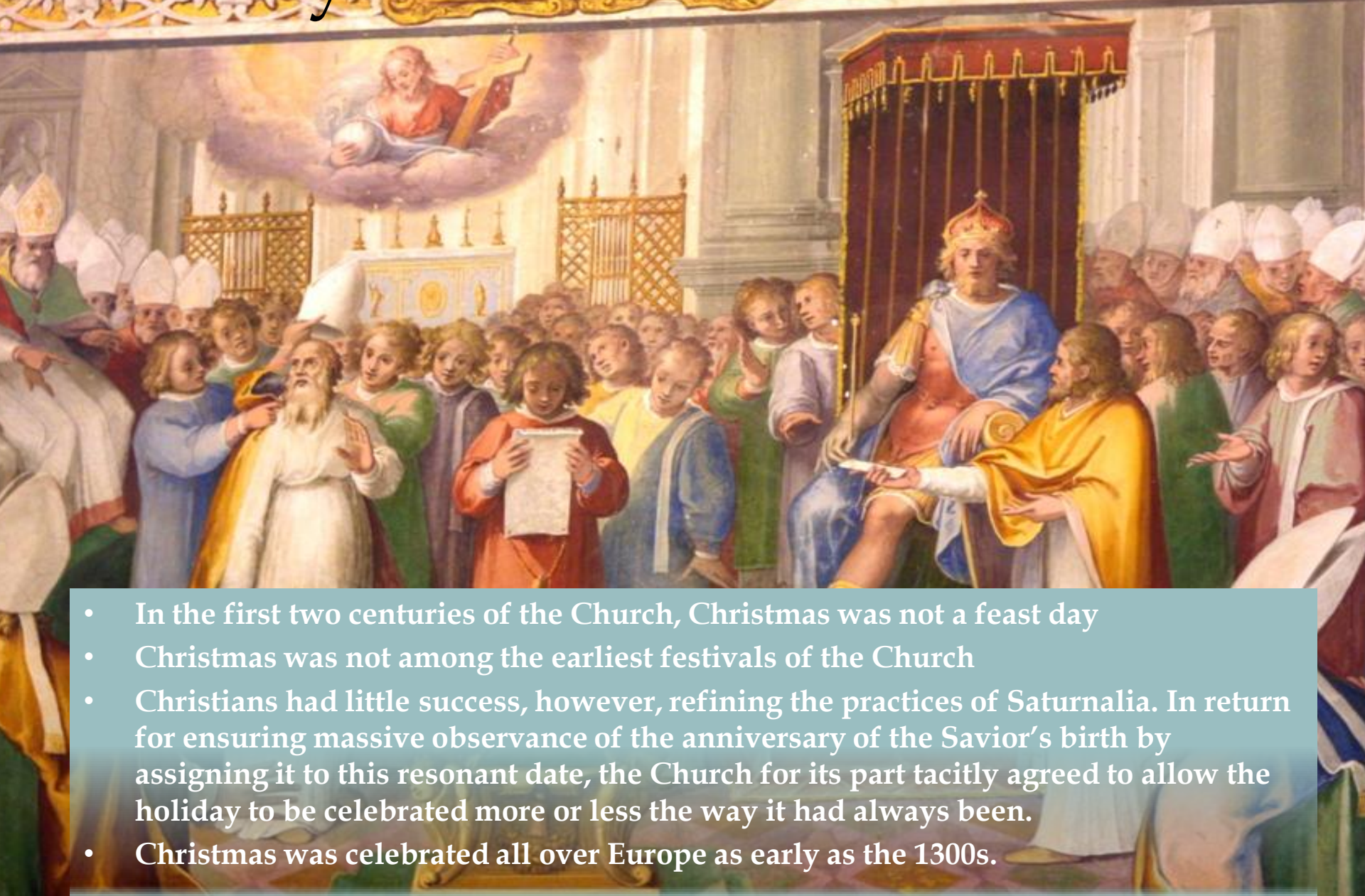
Jesus

- **Jesus was born circa 6 B.C.**
- **Christians believe Jesus was born through Immaculate Conception.**
- **The “church” did not make December 25 the day for celebrating Jesus’s birth until 345 A.D.**

Saturnalia

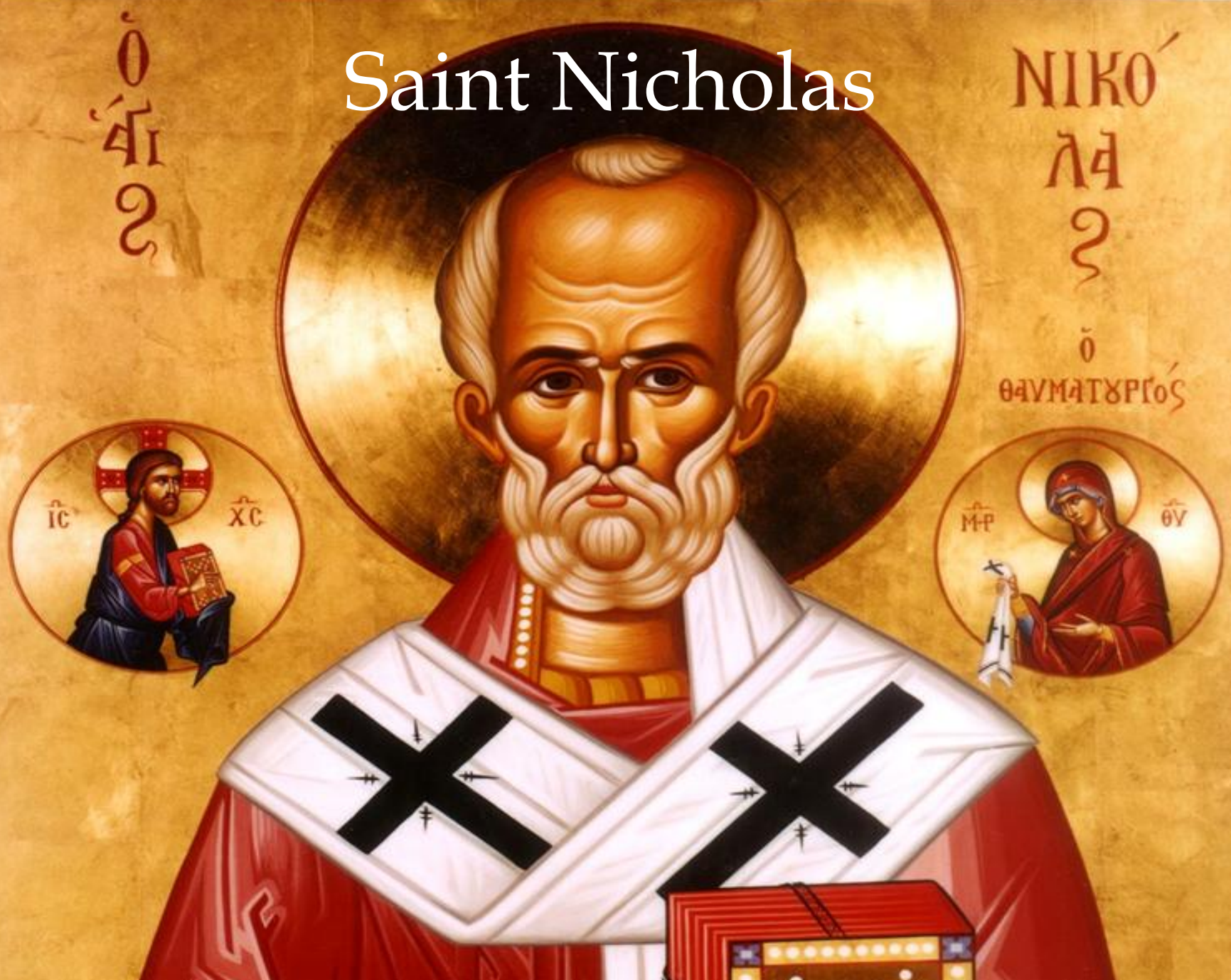
- Honors the Roman God Saturn from December 17-25
- Saturnalia is a winter solstice festival of light.
- The Saturnalia included the Juvenilia, which was a feast for children, and which borrowed from the Pagan ritual of hanging toys upon a tree, marking an early precursors of the Christmas tree.
- Presence of candles symbolizing the quest for knowledge and truth
- In the 4th century CE, Christianity imported the Saturnalia festival hoping to take the pagan masses in with it.
- The problem was that there was nothing intrinsically Christian about Saturnalia. To remedy this, these Christian leaders named Saturnalia's concluding day, December 25th, to be Jesus' birthday

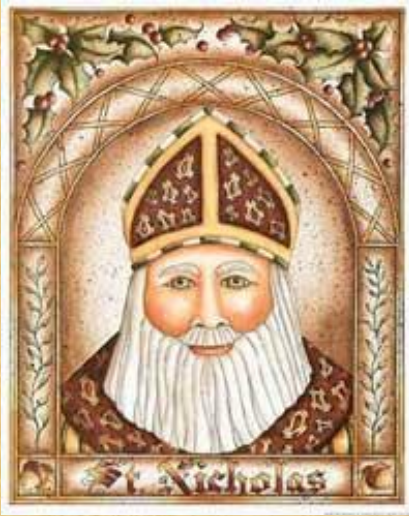
Early Christian Observances



- In the first two centuries of the Church, Christmas was not a feast day
- Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church
- Christians had little success, however, refining the practices of Saturnalia. In return for ensuring massive observance of the anniversary of the Savior's birth by assigning it to this resonant date, the Church for its part tacitly agreed to allow the holiday to be celebrated more or less the way it had always been.
- Christmas was celebrated all over Europe as early as the 1300s.

Saint Nicholas





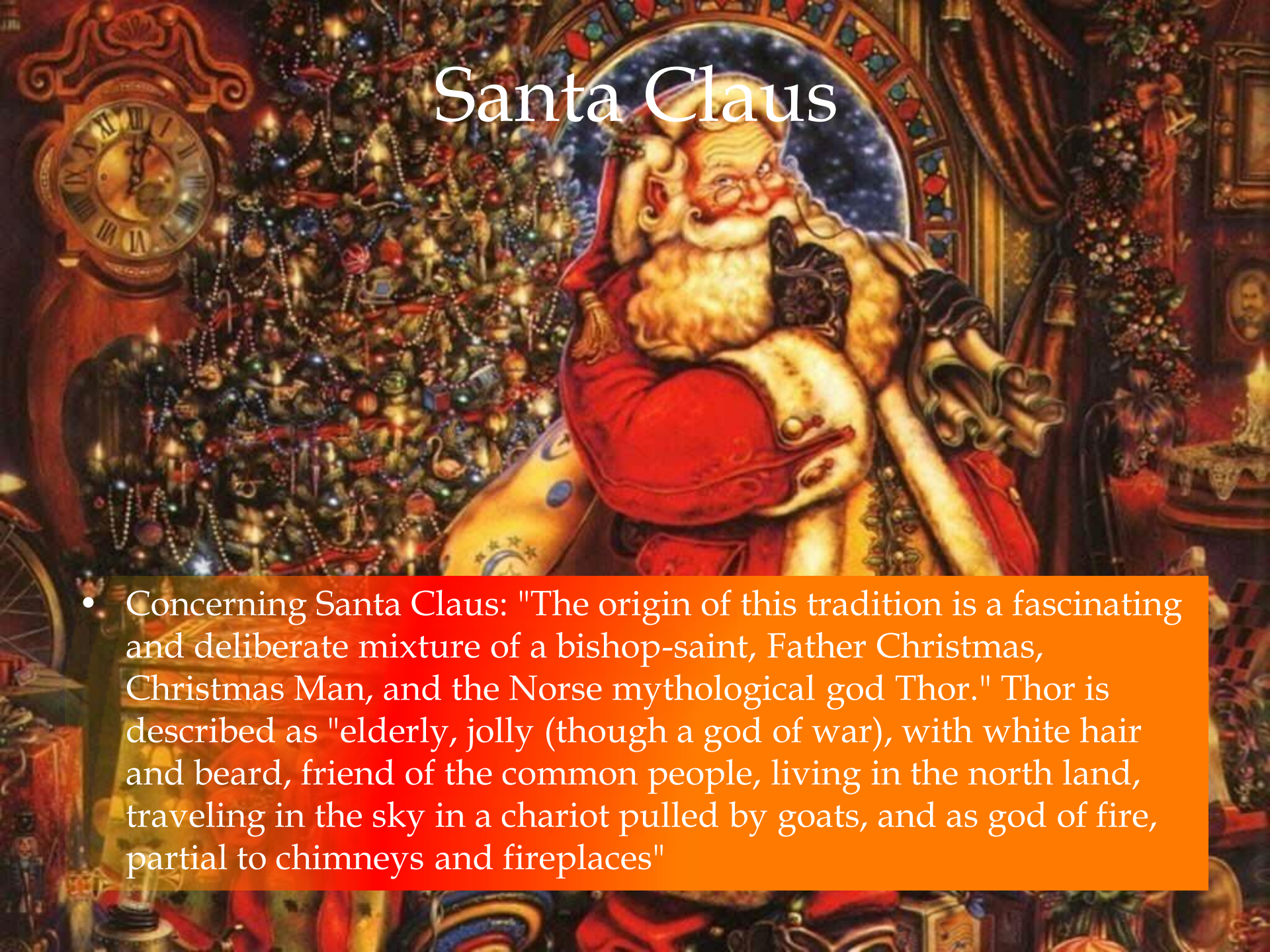
St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas' Day is celebrated in many countries around the world on 6th December every year.

St. Nicholas was born during the 3rd century, about 700 years ago. His parents were very wealthy and he was raised to be Christian. While St. Nicholas was still young both his parents died and left him all their money. Nicholas obeyed Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor" and he used ALL the money his parents had left him to help the poor, the sick and the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to serving God and became known throughout the land for his generosity to the those in need and for his love for children.



Santa Claus

A detailed illustration of Santa Claus sitting in a red armchair, holding a scroll, with a Christmas tree and a clock in the background. The scene is festive and warm, with various holiday decorations and lights.

- Concerning Santa Claus: "The origin of this tradition is a fascinating and deliberate mixture of a bishop-saint, Father Christmas, Christmas Man, and the Norse mythological god Thor." Thor is described as "elderly, jolly (though a god of war), with white hair and beard, friend of the common people, living in the north land, traveling in the sky in a chariot pulled by goats, and as god of fire, partial to chimneys and fireplaces"

Wodin (Odin)

- ❖ The Nicholas cult spread north until it was adopted by German and Celtic pagans. These groups worshipped a pantheon led by Woden –their chief god and the father of Thor, Balder, and Tiw. Woden had a long, white beard and rode a horse through the heavens one evening each Autumn. When Nicholas merged with Woden, he shed his Mediterranean appearance, grew a beard, mounted a flying horse, rescheduled his flight for December, and donned heavy winter clothing.



Cromwell Religious Reformation



- In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday.

New England Puritans



- In New England, for the first two centuries of white settlement, most people did not celebrate Christmas.
- It was actually illegal to celebrate Christmas in Massachusetts between 1659 and 1681
- Only in the middle of the nineteenth century did Christmas gain legal recognition as an official public holiday in New England.

Christmas in America



- Christmas fell out of favor in the United States after the American Revolution, when it was considered an English custom.
- As late as the 1840s Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.
- In 1809, the novelist Washington Irving wrote a satire of Dutch culture entitled Knickerbocker History. The satire refers several times to the white bearded, flying-horse riding Saint Nicholas using his Dutch name, Santa Claus and other Christmas related stories.

Washington Irving

Stories about the celebration of Christmas.



Old Christmas
Washington Irving

Changing Christmas

Irving made Christmas into a celebration about
PEACE, FAMILY, LOVE, and BRINGING
TOGETHER all groups of people of all different
social classes

*Americans began
to celebrate Christmas!*



Early Christmas in America



- Dr. Clement Moore, a professor at Union Seminary, read Irving's Knickerbocker History, and in 1822 he published a poem based on the character Santa Claus.
- President Ulysses S. Grant declared Christmas a legal holiday in 1870.
- There are many different nationalities in America. Therefore, there are many different Christmas traditions.

Clement Clarke Moore



A Visit from St. Nicholas Clement Clarke Moore



*Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.*

*The stocking were hung
by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas
soon would be there.*

A Visit from St. Nicholas

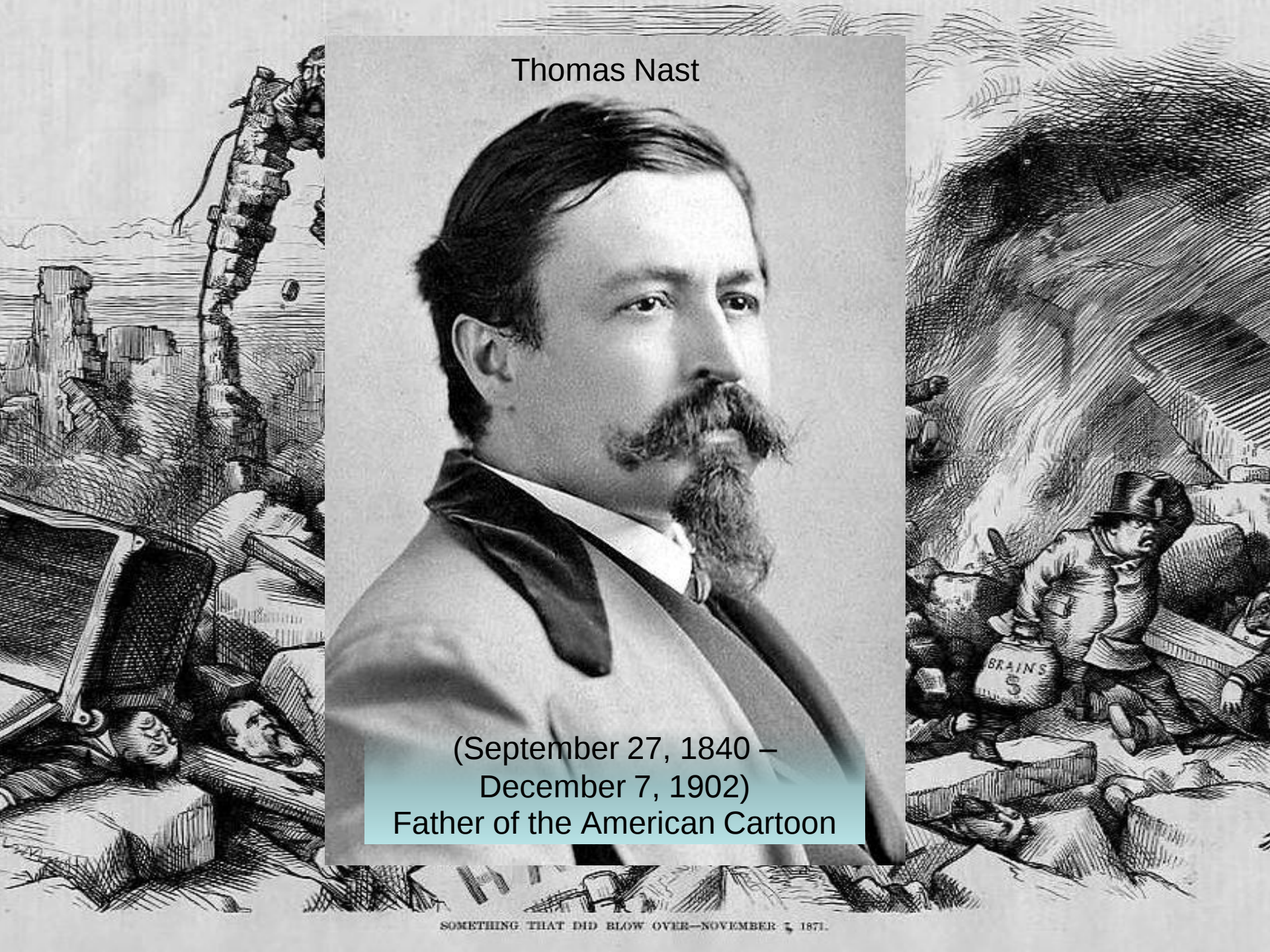
'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!* now *Prancer* and *Vixen!*
On, Comet! on, *Cupid!* on, *Donder* and *Blixen!*
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;

So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too —
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.
His eyes — how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight —
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

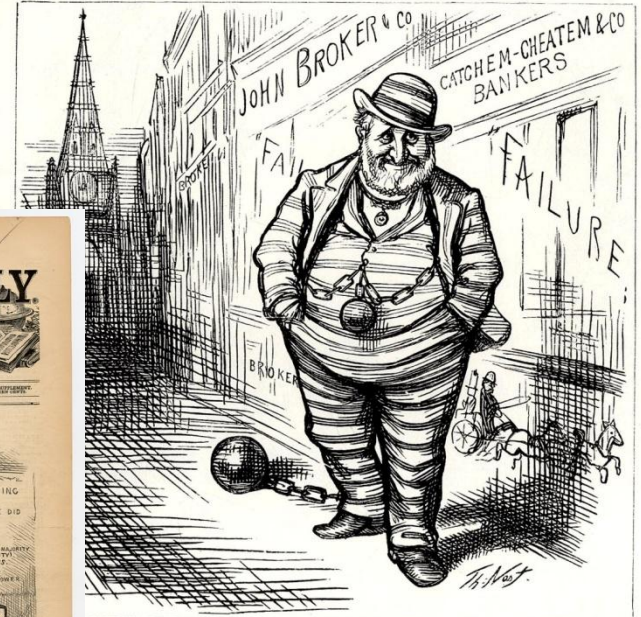
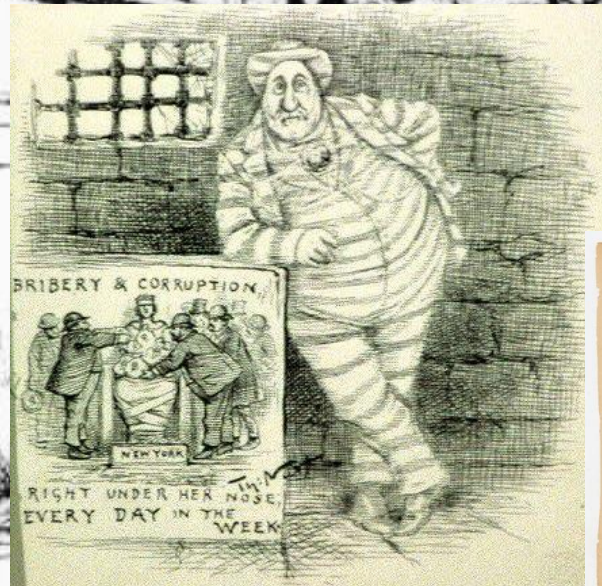


Thomas Nast

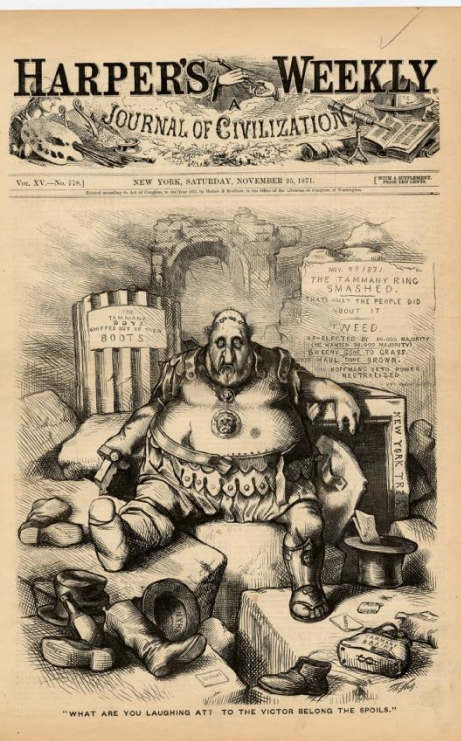
(September 27, 1840 –
December 7, 1902)
Father of the American Cartoon



Political Cartoons



THE STREET.
WILLIAM M. TWEED. "Why, a fellow feels quite Honest in this Neighborhood."



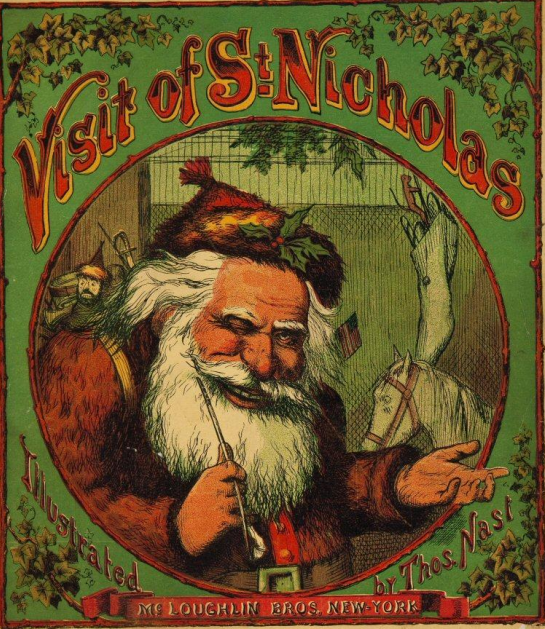
"What are you going to do about it?"
(cartoon by Thomas Nast)

Christmas Drawings for the Human Race

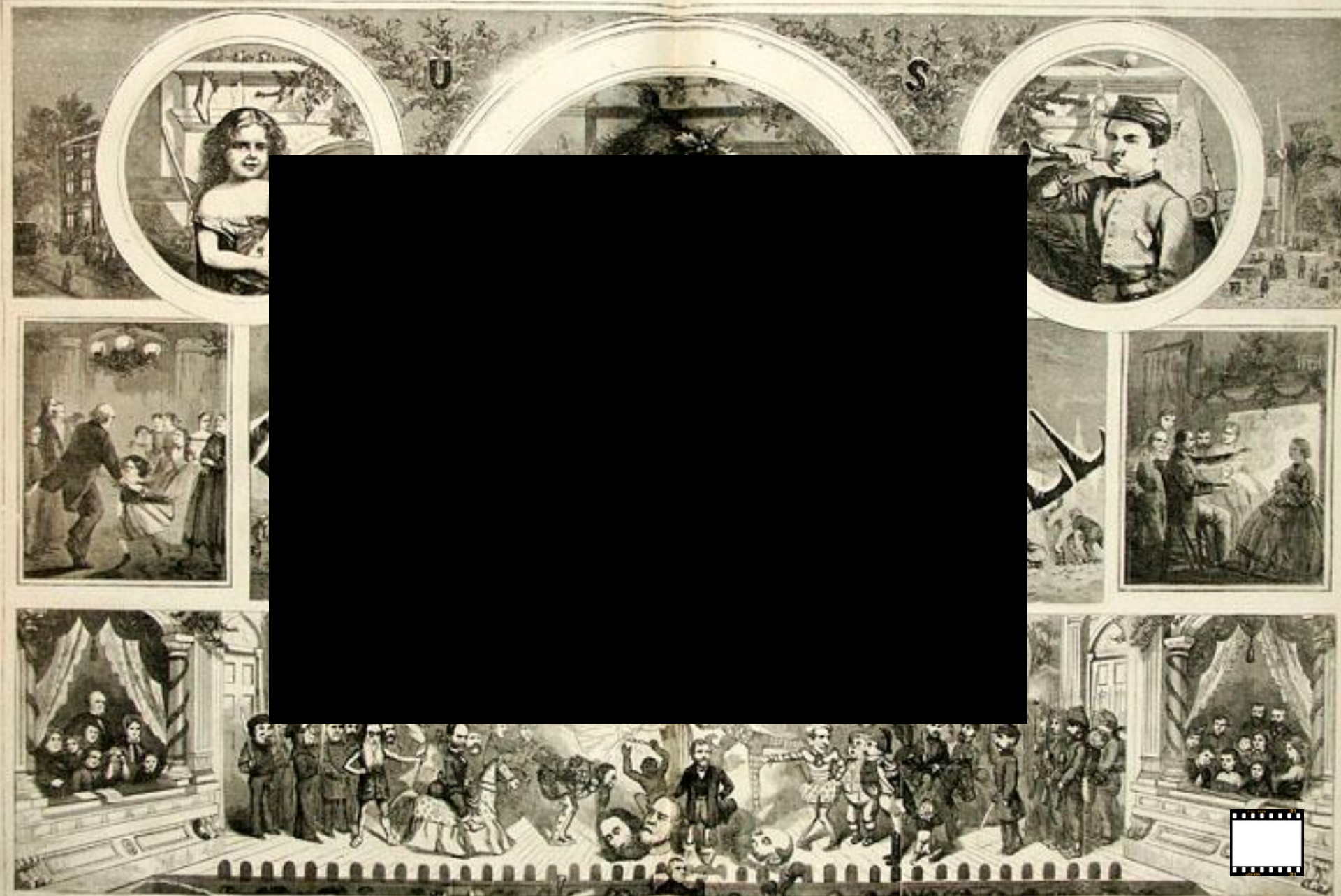
- Nast revealed that Santa liked to read letters from kids and that he also kept a naughty-and-nice list.
- Nast continued to draw Santa for 30 years, changing the color of his coat from tan to the red he's known for today
- Produced 76 Christmas themed engravings that were signed and published.
- Nast provided the illustrations that firmly established that Santa had a workshop, where toys were built in the days leading up to Christmas.
- Nast is widely credited with giving us the recognized versions we see today.



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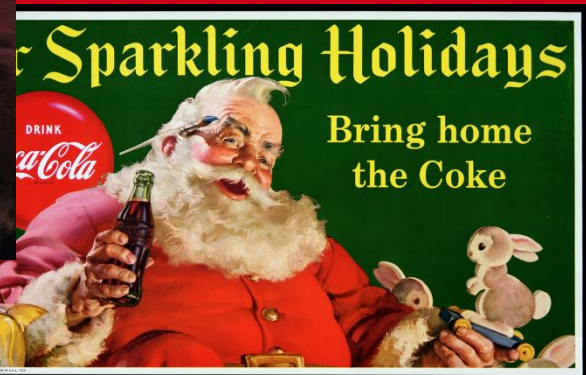




Santa at Macy's Day Parade



Santa Claus and Coca Cola



Santa Claus and Coca Cola

- ❖ Haddon's Sundblom 1931 Santa Claus was inspired by Clement Clark Moore's 1822 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (commonly called "'Twas the Night Before Christmas)
- ❖ Santa Has Been Featured in Coke Ads Since the 1920s
- ❖ Coca-Cola Helped Shape the Image of Santa
- ❖ The "New Santa" Was Based on a Salesman
- ❖ Santa Claus Got a New Friend in 1942 "Sprite" the Elf
- ❖ Santa Became Animated in 2001

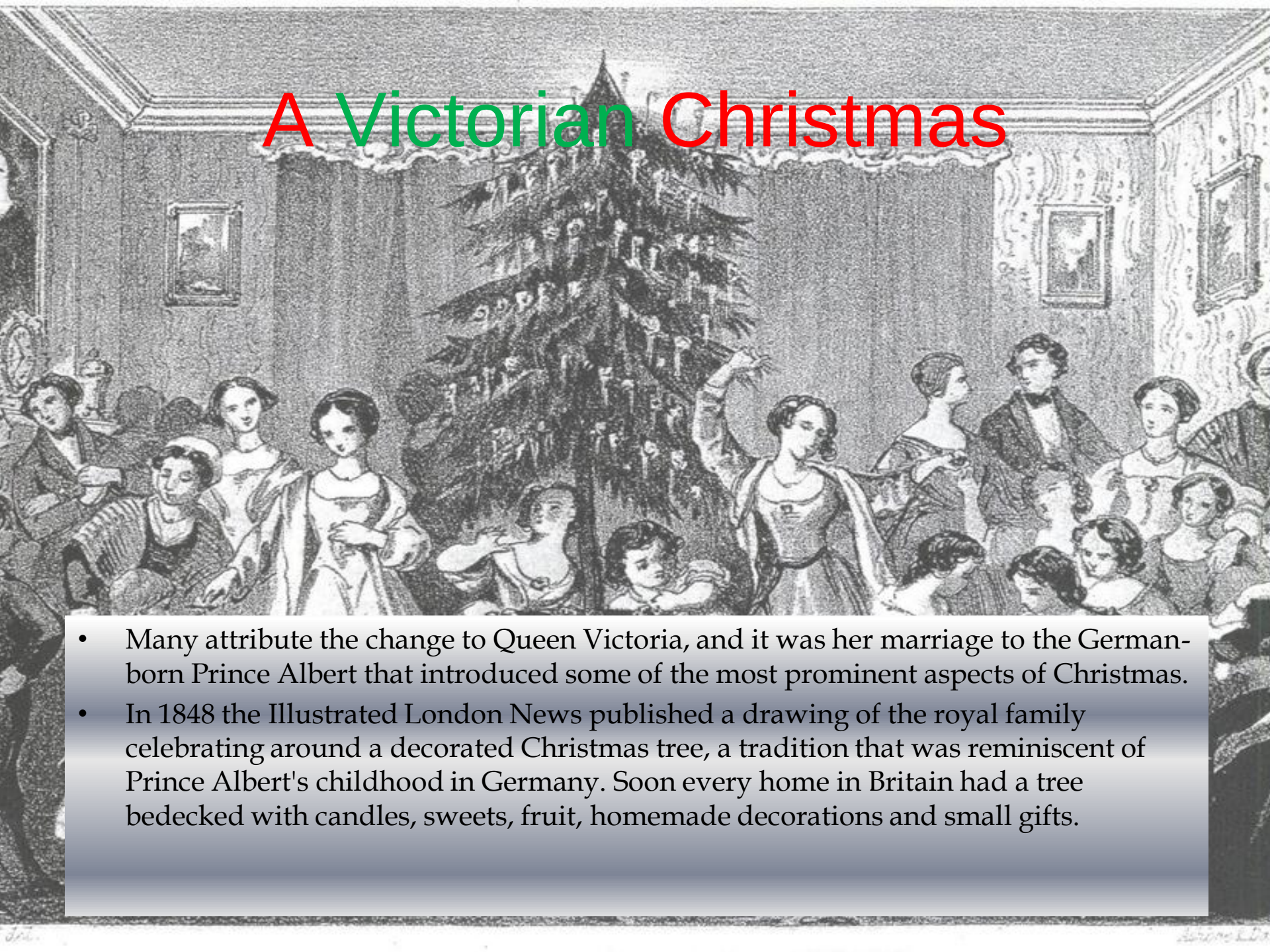
The Coca-Cola logo is displayed in its classic white script font with a black outline. It is positioned above a thick, white, wavy horizontal band that spans the width of the slide. The background of the slide is a solid dark red.



Christmas Tree Origins

- Pagans had long worshipped trees in the forest, or brought them into their homes and decorated them, and this observance was adopted and painted with a Christian veneer by the Church.

A Victorian Christmas



- Many attribute the change to Queen Victoria, and it was her marriage to the German-born Prince Albert that introduced some of the most prominent aspects of Christmas.
- In 1848 the Illustrated London News published a drawing of the royal family celebrating around a decorated Christmas tree, a tradition that was reminiscent of Prince Albert's childhood in Germany. Soon every home in Britain had a tree bedecked with candles, sweets, fruit, homemade decorations and small gifts.

Christmas Tree

Starting AFTER THANKSGIVING...

People go to CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS
and pick out their favorite tree.



Decorating The Christmas Tree



How to Decorate the Christmas Tree

- Hang the lights first.
- Put up garlands or ribbons.
- Add a topper (Star, Angel, Snowflake or Cross)
- Add ornaments last



We decorate our Christmas Trees with...

GARLAND



TINSLE



LIGHTS



ORNAMENTS

We also use POPCORN
AND CANDY CANES
to decorate our trees



We put a STAR on the
top of the tree to
symbolize the nativity
of Jesus



We decorate our houses!



We put wreaths on
our
front
door



Christmas Dinner



American Christmas Dinner Items

- Apple cider
- Boiled custard
- Candy canes
- Champagne, or sparkling apple cider
- chocolate fudge
- Christmas cookies
- Cranberry sauce
- Dungeness crab, primarily in California
- Eggnog
- Fruitcake
- Gingerbread, often in the form of a gingerbread house or gingerbread man
- Christmas ham
- Hot buttered rum
- Hot chocolate
- Mashed potato
- Mixed nuts
- Oyster stew, composed of oysters simmered in cream or milk and butter.
- Persimmon pudding
- Pie
- Apple pie
- Mince pie
- Pecan pie
- Pumpkin pie
- Sweet potato pie
- Prime Rib
- Plum pudding
- Russian tea cakes
- Tamales
- Tom and Jerry
- Roast turkey, less often roast duck, goose, or pheasant
- Stuffing, also known as dressing, particularly in the Southern U.S.







Christmas Mass

Many people attend church services on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. The churches are decorated with evergreens, poinsettias and scenes of the Nativity – Xmas symbols.



Kissing Under the Mistletoe



In cultures across pre-Christian Europe, mistletoe was seen as a representation of divine male essence (and thus romance, fertility and vitality).

Why Do People Kiss Under Mistletoe at Christmas?



Christmas Caroling

A group of five people, three men and two women, are dressed in elaborate Victorian-era costumes. They are standing in front of a stone building with white window frames. The costumes include top hats, long coats, and ornate dresses. One woman is wearing a white dress with a large white fur collar and a red skirt. Another woman is wearing a red dress with a white lace collar. The men are wearing dark coats and top hats. The overall scene is festive and historical.

The sound of carols and Christmas songs can be heard everywhere - especially in shops and in many parts of the US. Carollers will go from house to house singing Christmas songs..

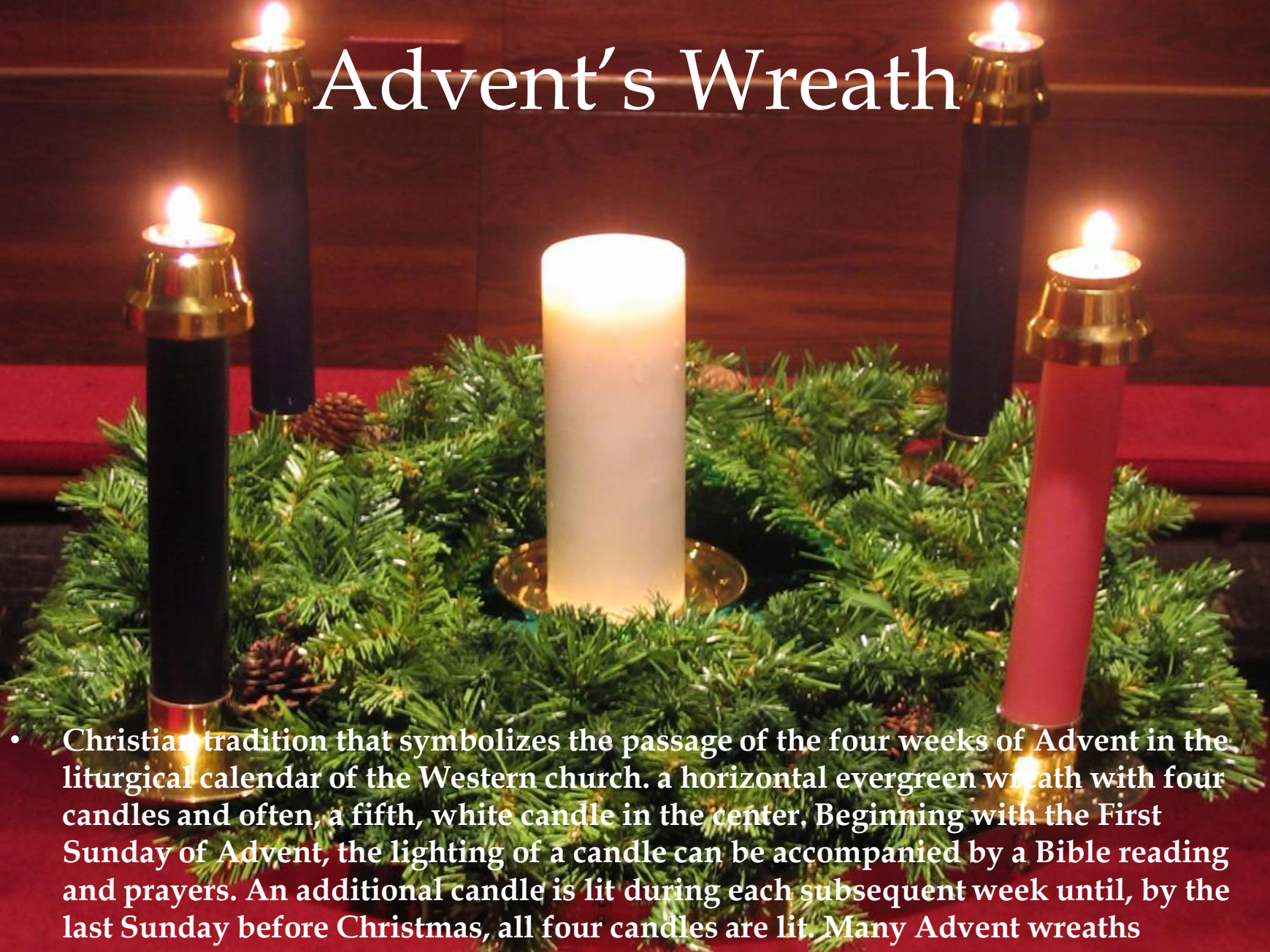




Christmas (Weihnachten)

- Probably the biggest holiday in Germany.
- The tradition of Christmas trees started in Germany.
- There are dozens of Christmas foods.
- The song “Silent Night” was originally German.

Advent's Wreath

- 
- An Advent's Wreath is shown, featuring a circular arrangement of green evergreen branches. In the center is a tall, white candle, and around it are four other candles: two dark blue and two red. All five candles are lit, casting a warm glow. The wreath is decorated with small pinecones and gold-colored ornaments. The background is a dark, textured surface.
- Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church. a horizontal evergreen wreath with four candles and often, a fifth, white candle in the center. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading and prayers. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. Many Advent wreaths include a fifth, Christ candle which is lit at Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Advent's Calendar



Sankt Nikolaus

On the 5th of December is St. Nicolas Eve. The children put a shoe or boot out side of their front door and over night St. Nicolas puts small objects inside. The next morning is (6th of December) St. Nicolas Day were the children go outside and see what they have got in their shoe or boot, but he will only give nice objects to the good children if they have been bad they might get a stick or a twig or something like that.



Knecht Ruprecht



- ❖ Knecht Ruprecht asks children whether they can pray. If they can, they receive apples, nuts, and gingerbread. If they cannot, he beats the children with his bag of ashes. In other (versions of the story, Knecht Ruprecht gives naughty children useless, ugly gifts such as lumps of coal, sticks, and stones, while well-behaving children receive sweets from Saint Nicholas. He also can be known to give naughty children a switch (stick) in their shoes for their parents to beat them with, instead of candy, fruit and nuts, in the German tradition.

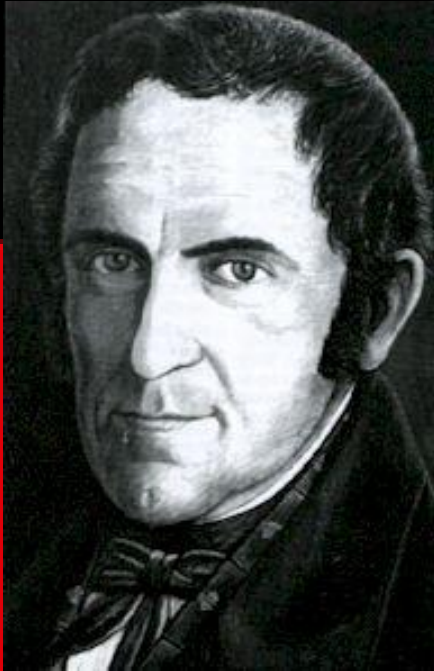
Weihnachten Abend

- Germany celebrates Christmas on Christmas Eve, December 24.
- Shops are open much of the day and celebrations do not start before the afternoon.
- Christmas Eve is now the most important day of the German celebration. But there's no Santa Claus coming down the chimney, no reindeer (the German Santa rides a white horse), no waiting for Christmas morning!
- Families with young children often keep the living room closed off, revealing the Christmas tree to the excited youngsters only at the last minute (the tree isn't decorated until the 24th).

Traditional German Christmas Tree



Stille Nacht



Stille Nacht means Silent Night in German. This song was written by Joseph Mohr. He needed music for the words and Franz Gruber wrote it for him. It was first performed in 1818 in a very small church by the name of St. Nikolaus on Christmas Eve.



Weihnachtslieder

O'Tannenbaum

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
wie treu sind deine Blätter!

Du grünst nicht nur
zur Sommerzeit,
Nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
wie treu sind deine Blätter!

O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree
How loyal are your leaves/needles!
You're green not only
in the summertime,
No, also in winter when it snows.
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree
How loyal are your leaves/needles!

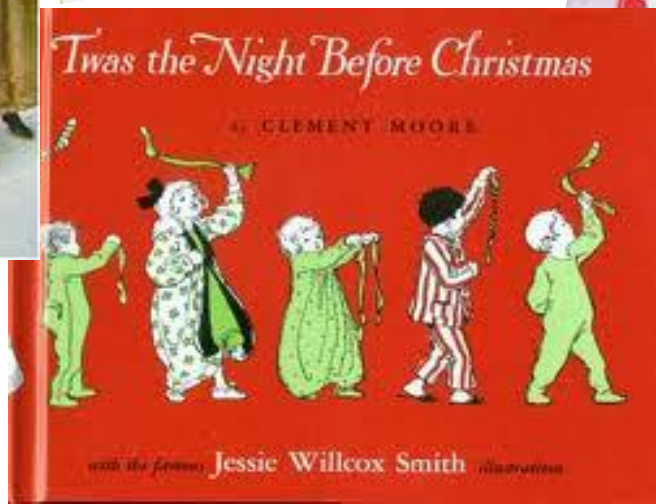


Christmas Eve/Morning Gift Opening

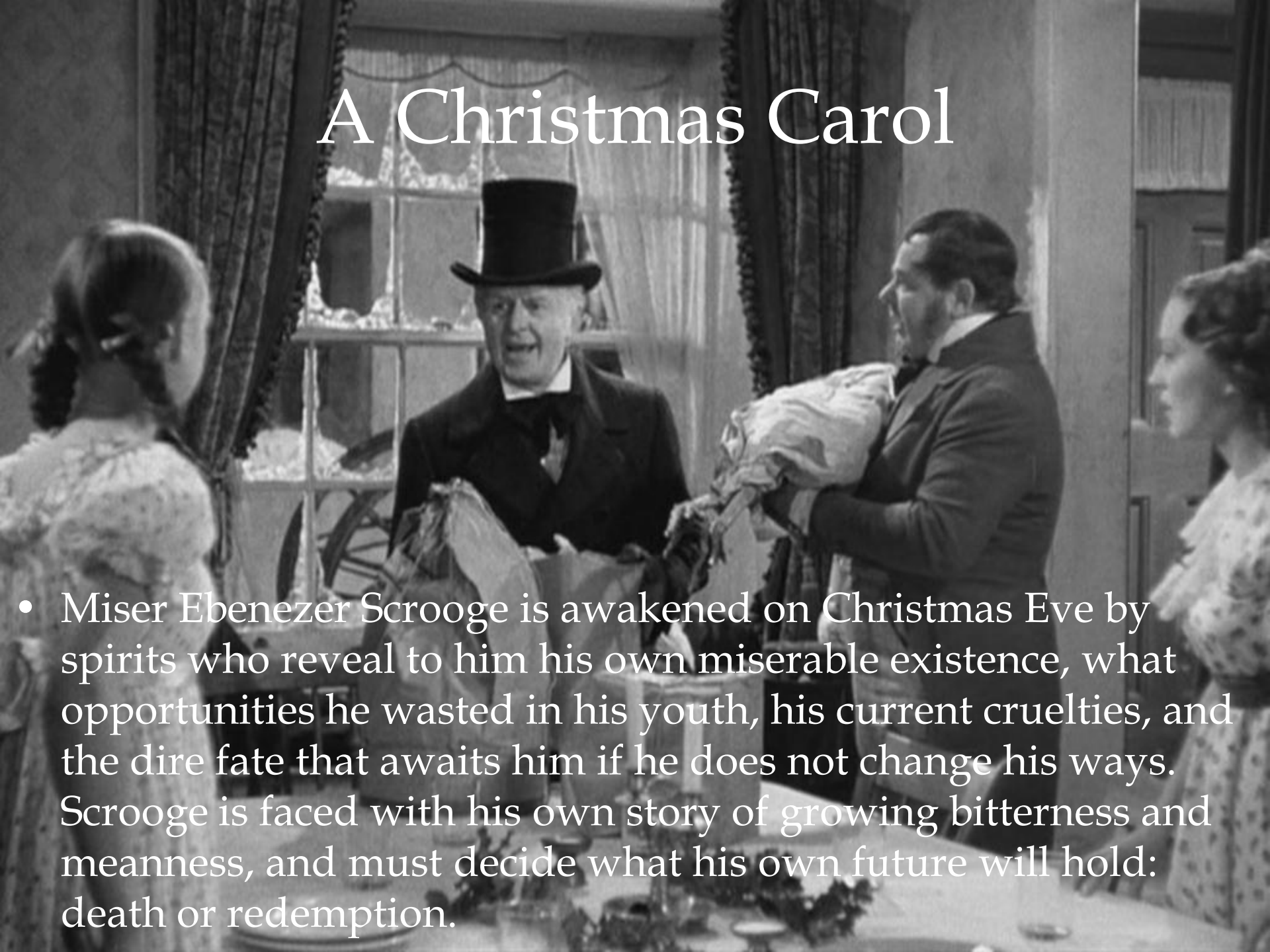




Classic Christmas Stories



A Christmas Carol



- Miser Ebenezer Scrooge is awakened on Christmas Eve by spirits who reveal to him his own miserable existence, what opportunities he wasted in his youth, his current cruelties, and the dire fate that awaits him if he does not change his ways. Scrooge is faced with his own story of growing bitterness and meanness, and must decide what his own future will hold: death or redemption.

Ebenezer Scrooge





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Movie Adaptations

- Scrooge; or, Marley's Ghost (1901)
- A Christmas Carol (1908)
- Scrooge (1913)
- A Christmas Carol (1914)
- The Right to Be Happy (1916)
- A Christmas Carol (1923)
- Scrooge (1928)
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White Christmas



A Christmas Story



Christmas in the West



Holland

- Dutch name for Nicholas was Sinterklaas, which became Santa Claus
- Gifts are exchanged on Christmas day partly because of the Dutch Santa Claus legends

Scandinavia



Mistletoe was used as a Christmas decoration for years, but was associated with pagan rituals

Holly replaced it, where the thorns remind of Christ's crown on the cross and the red berries of His shed blood

England

Songs or “carols” [songs] were sung by small choirs for the pleasure of those that happened to walk by
Christmas cards started in London in 1843

Mexico



Noche Buena, the Mexican name of the poinsettia flower

Mexican Poinsettias





- Christmas is about being good to each other for one day out of the year
- Giving to those in need
- Spending the day with family
- Celebration of the birth of Jesus
- What does Christmas mean to *you*?



The End