



## Twelve Days of Christmas

The Twelve Days of Christmas is a fun song, but did you know there really ARE 12 Days of Christmas? Beginning Christmas day and continuing until January 6<sup>th</sup>, many Christians celebrate 12 days that remind us of what the Incarnation really means to our faith.

Since the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, the Church has celebrated St. Stephen's Day on December 26<sup>th</sup> a day dedicated to caring for the poor. December 27<sup>th</sup> is St. John's Day, a reflective day commemorating the hope brought to the world by Christ. The 28<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Holy Innocents—commemorating the children who died at Herod's command.

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas celebration ends and we go out into the world to share the Gospel Message. The Twelve Days and the Holy Days they represent remind us that Christmas is more than a holiday—it really is a Holy Day!

This is Pastor Stephen Chitty—reminding you that *Life Matters*, and so do you!