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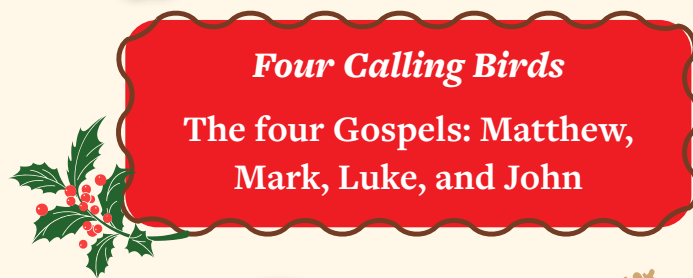
A Partridge in a Pear Tree
Represents Jesus Christ, the true gift of Christmas

Two Turtle Doves
Symbolizes the Old and New Testaments




3

Three French Hens
Faith, Hope, and Charity — the three theological virtues



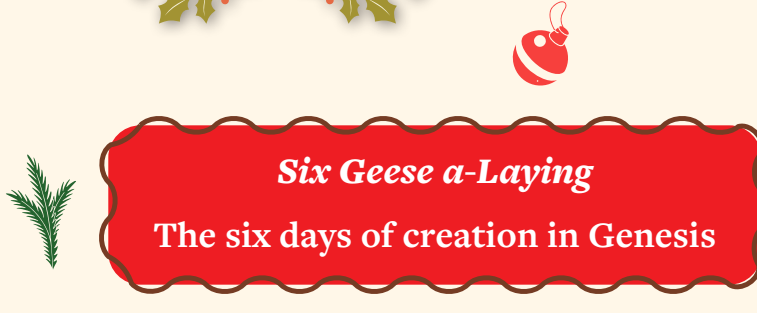
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Four Calling Birds
The four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John



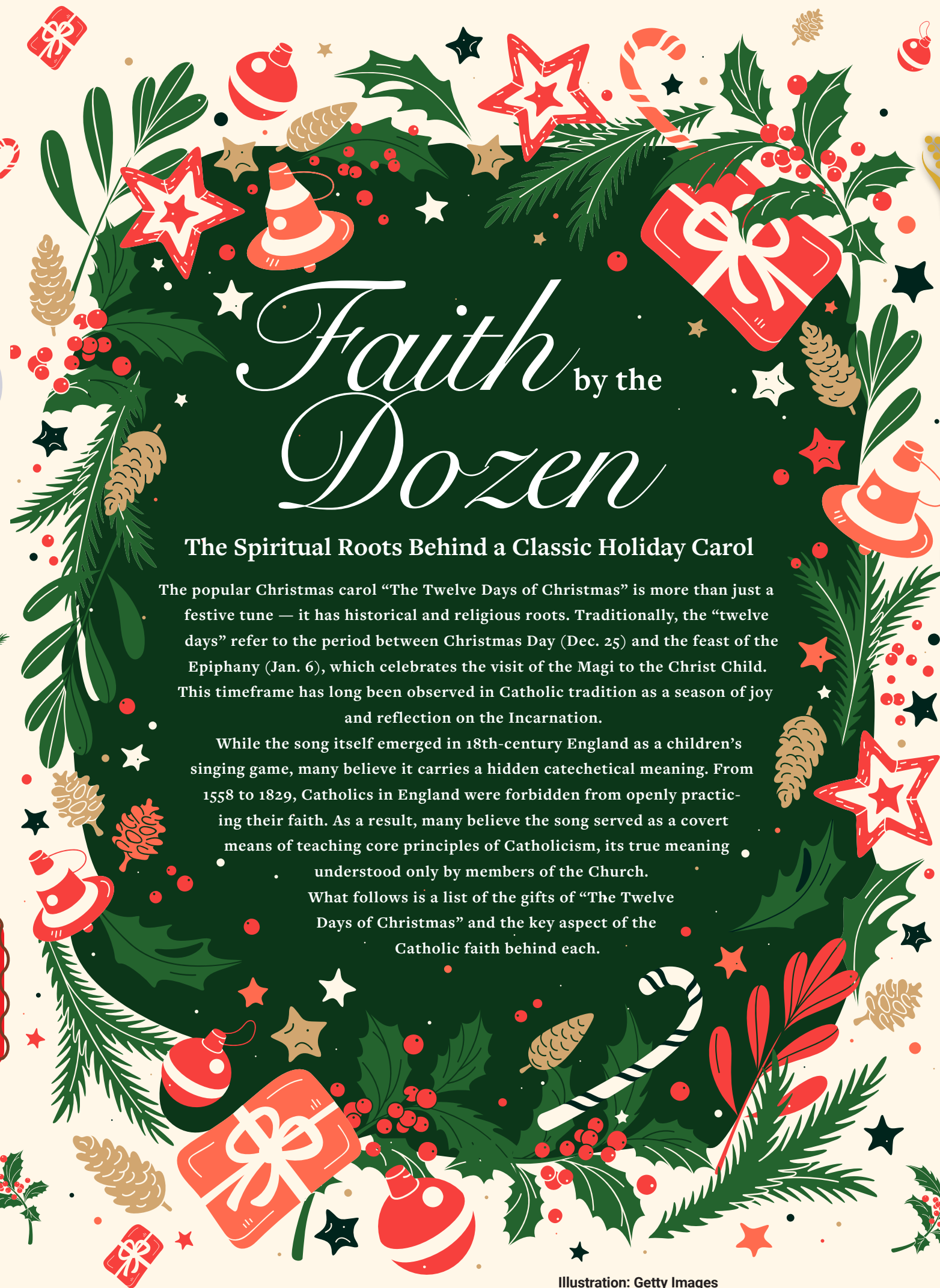
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Five Golden Rings
The first five books of the Old Testament, which lay the foundation of God's law



6

Six Geese a-Laying
The six days of creation in Genesis



Faith by the Dozen

The Spiritual Roots Behind a Classic Holiday Carol

The popular Christmas carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is more than just a festive tune — it has historical and religious roots. Traditionally, the “twelve days” refer to the period between Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and the feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6), which celebrates the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. This timeframe has long been observed in Catholic tradition as a season of joy and reflection on the Incarnation.

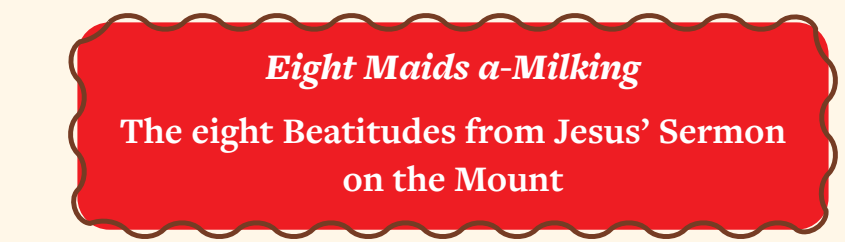
While the song itself emerged in 18th-century England as a children’s singing game, many believe it carries a hidden catechetical meaning. From 1558 to 1829, Catholics in England were forbidden from openly practicing their faith. As a result, many believe the song served as a covert means of teaching core principles of Catholicism, its true meaning understood only by members of the Church.

What follows is a list of the gifts of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” and the key aspect of the Catholic faith behind each.



7

Seven Swans a-Swimming
The gifts of the Holy Spirit (Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord)



8




9

Nine Ladies Dancing
The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control)
While Galatians 5:22-23 lists nine, Catechism of the Catholic Church also includes chastity, modesty, and generosity

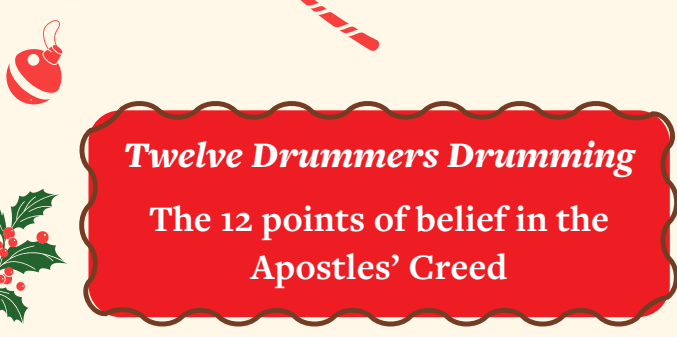


11

Ten Lords a-Leaping
The Ten Commandments



10



12

Eleven Pipers Piping
The 11 faithful apostles (excluding Judas)

Twelve Drummers Drumming
The 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed