**The Twelve Days of Christmas ♫**

Some people believe that the popular song was a method of Christian instruction dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Faith. The song may have been a mnemonic device to teach the catechism to youngsters. The “true love” mentioned in the song refers to God Himself. The “me” who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian Faith. Each of the “days” represents some aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn.

**A Partridge in a Pear Tree –** Jesus, symbolically presented as a mother partridge that shelters us under His wings as a hen does her chicks.

**Two Turtle Doves –** The Old and New Testaments.

**Three French Hens –** The Three Theological Virtues: Faith , Hope and Love.

**Four Calling Birds –** The Four Gospels which proclaim the Good News of Christ.

**Five Gold Rings –** The first Five Books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

**Six Geese A-laying –** The six days of creation that confesses God as Creator of the world.

**Seven Swans A-swimming –** The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Eight Maids A-milking –** The eight Beatitudes.

**Nine Ladies Dancing –** The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

**Ten Lords A-leaping –** The Ten Commandments.

**Eleven Pipers Piping –** The eleven Faithful Apostles.

**Twelve Drummers Drumming –** The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed.