

Baker's Dozen

Gifts for the 12 Days of Christmas

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December 25

It was in mid-winter when the night sky was cold and clear, that heaven's glance turned yet again to earth. Always, God is surprising us with whispers of grace. We are graced with life, with hope, with possibility, with meaning, with love. But, on that crisp, dark night, the grace that was given was the gift of God in human flesh. It was a silent gift that fulfilled everything that prophets and seers had predicted. God gave God's very self to be with us and assure us that all the other graces were real and heaven-sent. Today is a day, centuries later to rejoice in the birth of Jesus – the form of flesh God took to be among us. Bask in the presence of God this day. Feel the power of God's desire to be united to you. Drink in the love that motivated God to be sure you knew that love. Then, for the next 12 days, give yourself a spiritual gift each day that will lead you right back into the heart of God. Let the next 12 days be your gift to yourself and your own responsive gift to the God who loves you beyond words – loves you in the flesh.

December 26

Give yourself and God the gift of spiritual reading for one hour.

December 27

Give yourself and God the gift of a 20 minute walk with this prayer on your lips:
"O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you." (Psalm 63:1)

December 28

Give yourself and God the gift of making a list of 100 things for which you're grateful.

December 29

Give yourself and God the gift of writing a hymn or prayer to God for the wonder of being alive.

December 30

Give yourself and God the gift of reading and memorizing a favorite psalm.

December 31

Give yourself and God the gift of listening to a entire CD of spiritual music or chant while being quiet and still.

January 1

Give yourself and God the gift of saying a prayer of blessing for everyone you meet today.

January 2

Give yourself and God the gift of reading a brief biography of a saint or holy person.

January 3

Give yourself and God the gift of writing a note to someone who shows you the presence of God,

January 4

Give yourself and God the gift of eating one meal mindfully and with gratitude.

January 5

Give yourself and God the gift of going to an empty church, cathedral, or sacred space to meditate.

January 6

Give yourself and God the gift of hosting a 'grace party' – invite friends to share simple foods of grace and simple moments of grace in their lives. End the party with shared prayer and shared singing of a hymn.