

**Designed by Lady Janice Wright**

# **Make Christmas a Memorable Celebration**

Create enchanting holiday memories with expertly curated festivities that bring together generations in sophisticated harmony. Begin with an array of elegantly crafted yet budget-conscious hors d'oeuvres – imagine artisanal sugar cookies adorned with crystal sugar, delicate cranberry-crowned canapés, and signature holiday punch served in heirloom crystal. Gather loved ones for an intimate musical interlude, whether around a grand piano or with digital accompaniment, featuring timeless carols such as "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." Share the season's profound meaning through the telling of the Nativity story, perhaps enhanced by a cherished family crèche displayed with reverence. Delight in carefully chosen entertainment, such as our signature \$10 gift exchange presented as either an amusing "White Elephant" soirée or an elegant "Secret Santa" celebration, complemented by refined party games that spark joy and conversation. Transform your space into a tasteful winter sanctuary using carefully positioned lighting, curated ornamental displays, and thoughtfully placed flameless candles in crystal hurricanes. Whether hosting an intimate gathering with selected parlor games and artisanal hot chocolate, orchestrating a neighborhood carol celebration with beautifully presented music sheets, or enjoying a quiet evening of reflection beside your artfully trimmed tree, each carefully considered element contributes to your family's distinctive holiday legacy.

**"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:10-11**



# Inexpensive Finger Foods For Your Christmas Party



## Savory Party Bites

Create 48 mini pizzas (serves 24 guests) using 12 Thomas' English muffins from Walmart (\$3.99/pack). Split and toast muffins at 375°F for 5 minutes, then top each half with 1 tablespoon Rao's marinara (\$2 at Aldi) and 1/2 oz Galbani mozzarella (\$4 at Kroger). For 36 pulled pork sliders, slow cook a 5-pound pork shoulder from Costco (\$15) with 18 oz Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce for 8 hours on low. Serve on Great Value slider rolls from Walmart arranged in a Christmas tree shape. Secure with festive toothpicks from Dollar Tree (\$2/pack of 100). Prep these 3 hours before guests arrive.



## Elegant Appetizers

Prepare 40 stuffed mushrooms using 2 pounds of white button mushrooms from Aldi (\$8). Mix 16 oz Philadelphia cream cheese (\$4) with 2 tablespoons each of fresh thyme and parsley (or \$1 dried herbs from Dollar Tree). Top with Progresso panko breadcrumbs (\$1). Make 24 mini quiches using 2 Pillsbury pie crusts (\$5 at Kroger), 8 Great Value eggs, 2 cups cheese, and 1 cup Farmland diced ham (\$7 total). Garnish with fresh rosemary sprigs from Trader Joe's (\$2). Can be made one day ahead and reheated at 350°F for 10 minutes.



## Sweet Holiday Treats

Bake 36 sugar cookies using 3 cups Gold Medal flour, 2 sticks Land O'Lakes butter, and 1.5 cups Domino sugar (\$6 total at Walmart). Decorate with Wilton royal icing and festive sprinkles (\$4 at Michaels). Make 24 gingerbread cookies using McCormick spices (2 tsp each cinnamon, ginger) and 1/2 cup Grandma's Molasses (\$8 at Kroger). Prepare 24 vanilla cupcakes with Betty Crocker mix and red/green swirled frosting (\$10 total). Create a candy cane border using Brach's mini candy canes from Target (\$3/box of 24). Start baking 2 days ahead; store in airtight containers.



## Dips & Spreads

Create a 7-layer dip with 2 cans Old El Paso refried beans, fresh guacamole (4 ripe avocados from Aldi), 16 oz Daisy sour cream, and 4 diced Roma tomatoes (\$12 total). For hot spinach dip, combine 20 oz frozen spinach (thawed and drained) with 12 oz Trader Joe's artichoke hearts (\$10). Serve in a 1-pound sourdough bread bowl from Kroger (\$4). Arrange 2 bags of Mission tortilla chips (\$5 at Walmart) around a Christmas tree-shaped veggie platter using \$8 of farmer's market produce: broccoli florets, cherry tomatoes, and sliced cucumbers. Prepare dips up to 24 hours ahead; assemble veggie tree 2 hours before serving.



# Fun Games to Play at Your Christmas Party

## Christmas Charades

Split guests into teams of 4–6 people to act out holiday favorites. Create cards with easy actions like "hanging stockings" or "drinking hot cocoa," and challenging ones like "Rudolph guiding the sleigh" or "elves wrapping gifts." Each team gets 1 minute per round, scoring 2 points for easy cards and 5 for challenging ones. Provide santa hats for actors to wear and jingle bells to signal time's up. Perfect for groups of 8–20 people and takes about 30 minutes to play.

## Christmas Bingo

Create festive 5x5 bingo cards featuring holiday symbols: traditional items (manger, star, angels), Santa-themed elements (reindeer, sleigh, presents), and modern additions (Grinch, Rudolph's red nose, Christmas movies). Use our free printable template with 30 different cards. Winners receive chocolate-filled candy canes or \$5 gift cards. Make it educational by including bible verses about Jesus' birth on each square. Great for all ages and can be played with 5–30 people for about 20 minutes.

## Guess the Christmas Carol

Play 10-second clips from beloved carols like "Silent Night," "O Holy Night," and "The First Noel." Teams earn 1 point for naming the song, 3 bonus points for singing the next verse correctly. Include modern favorites like "Mary Did You Know" and fun tunes like "Jingle Bell Rock." Keep score on a festive whiteboard decorated with holly drawings. Provide lyric sheets afterward for a group sing-along. Ideal for groups of 6–15 people and lasts about 25 minutes, perfect before serving dessert.





# Inexpensive Christmas Games Gift Ideas



## Christmas Trivia Game Box (\$8 total)

Create an engaging family trivia game featuring 75 handcrafted cards across three festive categories: Modern Christmas Movies (like "Elf" and "Polar Express"), Traditional Carols (with sing-along challenges), and The Nativity Story (with Bible verse references).

- Materials: Metallic red/green wrapping paper (\$2), heavy-weight index cards (\$3), dual-tip markers (\$2), peppermint candy canes (\$1)
- Includes: 4 candy cane-striped pencils, 50-page scoring pad with Christmas borders, 30 mini candy canes as reward tokens
- Perfect for 2-4 teams, ages 8-13, with adjustable difficulty levels
- 30-45 minutes of play time with optional "Lightning Round" for tiebreakers



## Christmas Scavenger Hunt Adventure Kit (\$10 total)

Design an immersive holiday quest with 12 weather-resistant laminated clue cards featuring rhyming riddles that guide players through both cozy indoor spaces and decorated outdoor areas, connecting to the story of Jesus' birth.

- Kit Contents: 12 holly-decorated laminated clue cards (\$3), 12 sparkly red organza treat bags (\$2), 24 Christmas-themed candy prizes (\$2)
- Bonus Items: Flashing LED North Star badge (\$1), jingling elf hat with bells (\$2), 6 special "Christmas Spirit" photo challenge cards
- Ideal for 4-8 kids, ages 6-12, with parent hint cards available
- 45-60 minutes including setup, with optional extension activities



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# Inexpensive Christmas Games Gift Ideas



## Board Games

Find festive family board games at amazing prices! Target's holiday section offers Christmas-themed Candy Land (\$12.99) perfect for ages 4-8, featuring gingerbread characters and peppermint paths. Walmart's seasonal deals include Holiday Pictionary (\$16.99, ages 8+) with Christmas-specific word cards. For budget options, Five Below carries Christmas Sequence (\$5) and Holiday Trouble (\$5). Don't miss Dollar General's selection of mini travel games (\$3 each) – perfect for Christmas stockings. Pro tip: Check Michael's weekly ads for 50% off board game deals throughout December.



## Card Games

Discover holiday-themed card games that won't break the bank! Dollar Tree offers Christmas Memory Match (\$1) featuring Santa, reindeer, and elves – perfect for ages 3-6. Find Christmas Uno (\$5.99) at Target with special snow and candy cane cards. Walmart's holiday collection includes North Pole Old Maid (\$3.99, ages 4+) and Santa's Workshop Go Fish (\$3.99, ages 4+). For family gatherings, grab Holiday Slamwich (\$8.99, ages 6+) from Barnes & Noble – it's especially fun after Christmas dinner. Look for Christmas Playing Cards (\$2.99) at Walgreens featuring festive designs perfect for multiple games.



## Puzzles

Create magical Christmas memories with affordable puzzles! Dollar Tree's 100-piece Nativity Scene puzzles (\$1) are perfect for young children ages 5-7. Target exclusive Christmas Village puzzles (300 pieces, \$8.99) feature light-up pieces for ages 8-12. Find Thomas Kinkadee's "Santa's Workshop" puzzle (500 pieces, \$12.99) at Hobby Lobby – ideal for family puzzle nights. For a challenge, Walmart offers "Christmas Eve Snow" panoramic puzzles (1000 pieces, \$19.99). Save big with JoAnn Fabrics' December puzzle sales – buy one get one 50% off on all Christmas puzzles. Bonus tip: Many puzzles come in decorative tins perfect for gifting!



# Family Christmas Songs with Lyrics

## Silent Night

1

Perfect for Christmas Eve candlelight moments. Teach children this peaceful lullaby by starting with just the first verse: "Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright." Have everyone hold battery-operated candles and sing softly together. Children especially connect with the imagery of baby Jesus sleeping peacefully. Make it a tradition to sing this as the last song before bedtime on Christmas Eve.

Verse 1:

*Silent night, holy night*

*All is calm, all is bright*

*Round yon Virgin Mother and Child*

*Holy Infant so tender and mild*

*Sleep in heavenly peace*

*Sleep in heavenly peace*

Verse 2:

*Silent night, holy night*

*Shepherds quake at the sight*

*Glories stream from heaven afar*

*Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia*

*Christ the Savior is born*

*Christ the Savior is born*

## O Holy Night

3

Reserve this powerful hymn for special Christmas morning gatherings. Start a family tradition where the oldest child or parent leads the first verse: "O holy night, the stars are brightly shining." Others join in gradually, creating a beautiful build-up. Explain to children how this song tells the Christmas story, from the world waiting for Jesus to the joy of His birth. Make it extra special by singing it together while gathered around the nativity scene before opening presents.

Verse 1:

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining*

*It is the night of the dear Savior's birth*

*Long lay the world in sin and error pining*

*Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth*

*A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices*

*For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn*

Verse 2:

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming*

*With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand*

*So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming*

*Here come the wise men from Orient land*

*The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger*

*In all our trials born to be our friend*

## Jingle Bells

2

An energetic favorite for decorating the Christmas tree! Get the whole family involved by adding hand motions: "Dashing through the snow" (running in place), "In a one-horse open sleigh" (pretending to hold reins). Let children ring actual bells during the chorus. This upbeat song is perfect for getting everyone moving during cold December afternoons while wrapping presents or baking cookies.

Verse 1:

*Dashing through the snow*

*In a one-horse open sleigh*

*O'er the fields we go*

*Laughing all the way*

*Bells on bobtail ring*

*Making spirits bright*

*What fun it is to ride and sing*

*A sleighing song tonight*

Verse 2:

*A day or two ago*

*I thought I'd take a ride*

*And soon, Miss Fanny Bright*

*Was seated by my side*

*The horse was lean and lank*

*Misfortune seemed his lot*

*He got into a drifted bank*

*And then we got upsot*



# The Story of Jesus' Birthday



## The Divine Promise

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed in Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7 that a virgin would conceive and bear a son called Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." This prophecy arrived during the Assyrian crisis of 735-732 BC, when King Ahaz of Judah faced invasion from Israel and Syria. In the Jerusalem Temple, where worshippers gathered daily to offer sacrifices and burn incense, priests would read these messianic prophecies from sacred scrolls. The prophet Micah pinpointed Bethlehem Ephrathah as the birthplace, while Daniel's prophecy of "seventy weeks" (Daniel 9:24-27) provided a timeline counting down to the Messiah's arrival in the first century BC.

***"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." - Isaiah 7:14***

***"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." - Micah 5:2***

Isaiah 7:14 – "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Micah 5:2 – "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."



## The Humble Birth

In December of 4 BC, during the 25th year of Emperor Augustus's reign, Mary and Joseph embarked on their journey to Bethlehem. Mary, riding a donkey and wrapped in warm woolen garments, traveled with Joseph through the fertile Jordan Valley, passing ancient olive groves and shepherds' fields. Bethlehem, normally a quiet village of stone houses and narrow streets, was packed with descendants of King David arriving for the Roman census. The limestone cave-stable where they found shelter was likely part of a family home's lower level, where animals were kept warm on cold Judean nights. Here, Mary gave birth, wrapping Jesus in linen swaddling bands commonly used by Judean mothers. That night, on the same hillsides where young David had composed psalms centuries earlier, shepherds keeping the temple flocks (designated for Jerusalem's sacrifices) witnessed heaven's glory as angels proclaimed the Messiah's birth. Far to the east, possibly in Persia's ancient capital of Ecbatana, learned Magi observed an extraordinary celestial sign – perhaps a conjunction of Jupiter (the king's planet) and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces, signifying a divine birth in Israel.

***"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." - Luke 2:7***

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## The Gift of Salvation

Jesus was born during the final years of Herod the Great, a ruthless king who had renovated the Jerusalem Temple into a marvel of white stone and gold. When Herod's soldiers stormed Bethlehem searching for male infants, Joseph led his family along the ancient caravan routes to Egypt, possibly settling in Alexandria's Jewish quarter. Returning to Nazareth, Jesus learned the carpenter's trade in Joseph's workshop, crafting plows, furniture, and building tools for their neighbors. At 30, the age when priests began their Temple service, He started a ministry that transformed history. He healed the sick at Capernaum's shoreline, taught parables in Galilean synagogues, and ultimately sacrificed His life on a Roman cross outside Jerusalem's walls. His resurrection, witnessed first by women (unusual for ancient testimony) and then by hundreds of others, launched a movement that spread from Jerusalem's upper room to the ends of the Roman Empire. This Christmas story, carefully documented by eyewitnesses and preserved in Matthew and Luke's Gospels, explains why billions gather each December 25th to exchange gifts, sing carols, and celebrate the greatest gift ever given – God becoming human to bring us eternal life.

***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16***

John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



# Decorations and Ambiance



## Christmas Tree

Transform your living room with a 7.5-foot Fraser Fir as the focal point, positioned 24 inches from the corner. Start by testing all 1000 warm white LED lights (3000K temperature) before wrapping from bottom to top, spacing strands 6 inches apart. Create a classic color scheme with 50 shatterproof 4-inch balls (20 deep red, 15 champagne gold, 15 silver mercury glass). Add 25–30 family heirloom ornaments at eye level, then fill spaces with 40 smaller 2-inch ornaments in coordinating colors. Top with a 12-inch crystal-encrusted star (or Victorian angel in ivory and gold). Wrap the base with a 60-inch circular tree skirt in burgundy velvet with gold trim. Arrange 12–15 wrapped presents using three coordinating papers: metallic gold damask, burgundy with silver snowflakes, and cream with gold pinstripes.



## Lights and Decorations

Frame each window with professional-grade LED string lights (50 bulbs per 16-foot strand) secured with clear adhesive hooks every 6 inches. Install 3 strands of 12-foot fresh cedar and noble fir mixed garlands on the main staircase, weaving in 8 strands of battery-powered copper wire lights (30 LEDs per strand). Create 5 ornament clusters for the dining room chandelier, each with 3 baubles (6-inch, 4-inch, and 3-inch) in antique gold and bronze, suspended from clear 6-pound fishing line at 8, 12, and 16 inches. Fill 3 mercury glass bowls with scented pinecones (cinnamon and vanilla), 6 cinnamon sticks each, and sprigs of fresh blue spruce. For the dining table, arrange 3 glass hurricane vases (8, 10, and 12 inches) with ivory pillar candles, surrounded by a base of fresh holly sprigs, silver-dusted eucalyptus, and preserved red berries.



## Christmas Music

Start your 4-hour playlist at 5:00 PM with instrumental arrangements from The Piano Guys' Christmas album during dinner, keeping volume at 40% (background level). At 6:30 PM, transition to traditional vocals: Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," Nat King Cole's "The Christmas Song," and Frank Sinatra's "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." From 7:30–8:30 PM, play family favorites like Michael Bublé's "Holly Jolly Christmas" and Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" at 60% volume. For the final hour (8:30–9:30 PM), boost energy with contemporary hits like Kelly Clarkson's "Underneath the Tree" and Pentatonix's "Carol of the Bells" at 75% volume. Include a 15-minute intermission of soft instrumental carols during dessert service. Balance the playlist with 40% classic carols, 30% contemporary hits, and 30% instrumental arrangements, maintaining a consistent tempo transition between songs.



# Make It a Memorable Celebration



## Create a Festive Atmosphere

Transform your home into a Christmas wonderland by wrapping LED string lights around each window frame and draping fresh pine garlands along your banister. Set up your Christmas tree as the focal point, mixing cherished family ornaments with twinkling white lights. Place cinnamon-scented candles in the living room and pine-scented ones in the entryway, creating layers of traditional Christmas fragrances that welcome guests.

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16*



## Fill Your Home with Music

Begin your evening with the peaceful melody of "O Holy Night," letting its powerful lyrics about the Savior's birth set the tone. Transition to livelier tunes like "Jingle Bells" during gift-opening time. For a special family moment, dim the lights and gather in a circle with candles to sing all three verses of "Silent Night," just as in the lyrics shared earlier. Keep printed song sheets ready for guests who want to join in.

*"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." – Ephesians 5:19*



## Enjoy Family Activities

Start with Christmas Bingo using cards featuring holiday symbols like candy canes and stockings. Move on to acting out classic scenes in Charades – challenge family members to mime wrapping presents or decorating the tree. End the evening with the board games you received as gifts, whether it's building words with a new Scrabble set or racing to buy properties in Monopoly, all while enjoying homemade gingerbread cookies and peppermint hot cocoa.

*"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." – James 1:17*



## Remember the True Meaning

Gather everyone around your nativity scene and read the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 2, explaining how God fulfilled His promise of a Savior. Let children arrange the ceramic figures of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the manger, along with the shepherds and angels. Connect this moment to the lyrics of "O Holy Night" when it speaks of the "night divine" when Christ was born, helping everyone understand why we celebrate this special season.

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." – Luke 2:11-12*