

White? European / American “Christian” traditions, superstitions? Holidays?

Catholic Superstitions – Harmless? Enticing good luck? Or can it lead to or include – idolatry, divination, vain observances, which include magic and occult arts?

- 1. My mother always prays to St. Anthony to find lost things or any saint.**
- 2. my friends buried St. Joseph's statue in the yard to help sell their house.**
- 3. My mom insists that we have to burn a blessed candle all night long on Christmas Eve (burning of votive candles is “symbolic” for an offering of prayer often placed in front of religious statues)**
- 4. Notre Dame has a mural known as “touchdown Jesus” that they pray to at football games.**
- 5. Stigmata** - unexplained wounds on their body that coincide with the traditional wounds that Christ had. Often causing pain during holidays.
- 6. A cilice** is an item worn on the body under clothing to inflict pain or discomfort for the sake of penance (punishment for sin)
- 7. Indulgences – money given to the church to get relatives out of purgatory.**
- 8. 1st 2nd and 3rd class “RELICS” – 1 an item (wood, bone, cloth) that was known to be associated with Christ, 2 sock, glove or anything believed to have touched a saint. 3 any item that touched a 1st or 2nd degree relic.**
- 9. Papal infallibility – the Pope is higher authority than the bible or outside law.**
- 10. Crucifix – false idol having holy power. Many statues are sacred as well.**
- 11. the Texas A&M tradition of leaving pennies at the statue of Sully, as good luck on tests.**

A Good definition by Catholics – *Unacceptable Superstition is the deviation of religious feeling and of the practices this feeling imposes. It can even affect the worship we offer the true God, e.g., when one attributes an importance in some way magical to certain practices otherwise lawful or necessary. To attribute the efficacy of prayers or of sacramental signs to their mere external performance, apart from the interior dispositions that they demand, is to fall into superstition.*

Christmas? Dec 25th?

The first celebration of Christmas on December 25 was in 336AD, a few years after which Pope Julius I officially declared it as Christmas Day. Jesus was probably born sometime in the spring.

Nativity scene with 3 wise men? the three wise men and the shepherds—is not biblically accurate. St. Francis of Assisi, who is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. claims that the hay used by Francis miraculously acquired the power to cure local cattle diseases and pestilences.

Christmas tree?

using greenery to decorate homes is a tradition from Northern Europe in the pre-Christian era. Bringing in evergreen trees to celebrate the Winter Solstice and to remember that spring was on its way, was a tradition then. The first Christmas trees made it into Britain just over 200 years ago in the 1830's which were then made popular by use in the Christmas celebrations of English royalty.

Jeremiah 10...An idol is nothing but a tree chopped down, then shaped by a woodsman's ax. They trim it with tinsel and balls, use hammer and nails to keep it upright. It's like a scarecrow in a cabbage patch—can't talk! Dead wood that has to be carried—can't walk! Don't be impressed by such stuff. It's useless for either good or evil."

Santa?

St Nicholas (as Catholics entitled) was a Christian man who gave to the poor. It is possible that he laid a bag of gold down a chimney for a family in need.

Gingerbread house?

The tradition of making gingerbread houses is believed to have come from Germany with the story of Hansel and Gretel where, according to the fairytale, two children abandoned in the woods come upon an edible house of bread with sugar decorations.

Mistletoe?

There are pre-Christian era customs of using mistletoe for healing purposes. The plant was believed to have mystical powers that warded off bad luck and evil

spirits, and was also considered to be a symbol of life and fertility for it grew even in winter.

Santa clause? chimney? Flying reindeer? Leave food out for him?

Halloween? Trick or treat / good or bad spirits? All saints day?

Dress up like evil spirits? Curse the house if they don't give you an offering to appease your request?

"Easter" – celebrate the resurrection of Christ is fine; but the word "east -star" originates from pagan Babylonian and the rabbit god of fertility, hunting for eggs.

This has nothing to do with Christs death and resurrection.