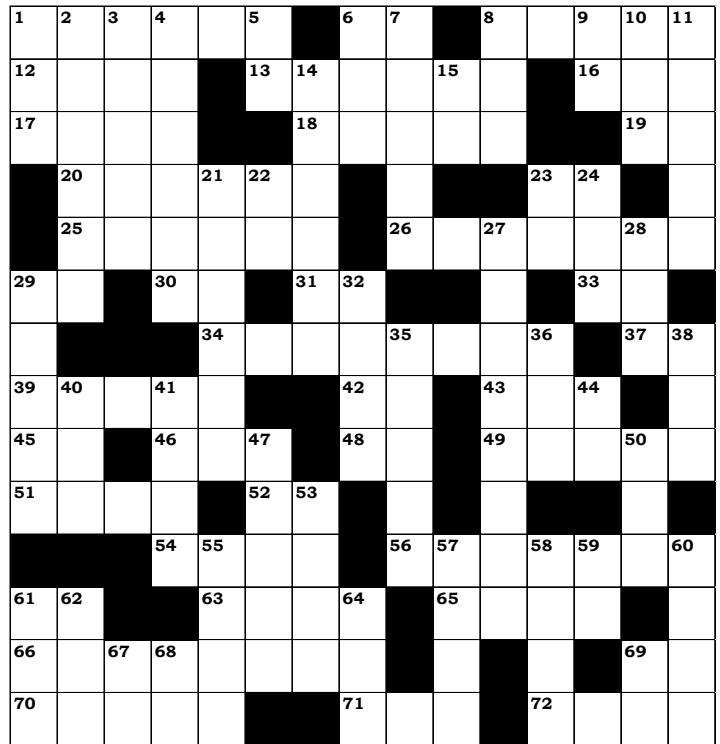


Puzzle #696

By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Christmas celebrations/traditions/activities abound across Mo. in the Christmas _____. This puzzle mentions at least a few.
6. Related to St. or Dr.
8. Drive in fast food restaurant.
12. Cross letters.
13. Favorite Christmas desserts in _____ include plum pudding and mincemeat tarts.
16. Common winter virus.
17. "The First _____"; Christmas carol.
18. In 1917, at Christmas, a KC stationary store ran out of the customary white-tissue wrapping paper and substituted "_____ French paper." This new holiday wrap was a hit and next year this Hall brother's stationary store designed and sold a line of it locally. The growing store became Hallmark.
19. Abbr. for episode.
20. The mayor planned to _____ a plaque marking the 150th anniv. of the town's annual Christmas parade.
23. Santa _____; oldest capital in the U.S.
25. Original Irish language.
26. Joseph and Mary _____ with the infant Jesus from the murderous clutches of Herod by fleeing to Egypt.
29. Sound of relief, contentment or understanding.
30. At Christmas, the historic mansions at Newport in this State are decked out in Yuletide finery with music, tours and spectacular decorations (abbr.).
31. Moon of Jupiter.
33. Mt. Rushmore initials.
34. The Country Club Plaza in KC began Christmas decorations in 1925 with a single strand of lights over a store entrance. Now a 15-block area with 150 stores dazzle bright for Christmas _____.
37. Fee-fi-____-fum.
39. It can be attached to photo or phono.
42. Prefix for teem or crow.
43. Color of Rudolph's nose.
45. In civil rights law, short for equal opportunity.
46. Suffix for Christ.
48. Letters for Narcotics Anonymous.
49. "____ Christmas would hurry up," cried the boy! (2 wds.)
51. Lover's _____; e.g., a park and great viewpoint just south of Hannibal overlooking the Mississippi River.
52. Shorthand for eight parishes in our diocese named for the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.
54. Bats navigate their way in the dark through _____ location.
56. *The Polar Express* is a 1985 story, and 2014 movie, about a _____ trip to Santa's North Pole. It comes alive in the popular one-hour ride on the Branson Scenic Railway with a gift-giving Santa, carolers, & hot chocolate and cookies.
61. _____ only he had not gone down that road.
63. "...like a landowner who went out...to _____ laborers for his vineyard," (Matthew 20:1).



DOWN

65. Jeremiah & Kari Scull have raised a small _____ of reindeer since 2014 at their Show-Me Reindeer farm in Robertsville, Mo. Almost every day at Christmastime they take pairs to tree lightings, festivals, private parties, and parades.
66. This early Catholic bishop, patron saint of children, legendary in his generous gift-giving, gave rise to our modern Santa Claus.
69. Okie dokie.
70. Even with the many local and professional Christmas shows around the State, "A Christmas Carol" in the historic ambiance of the _____ Rock Lyceum Theatre might be a special Christmas treat.
71. Is the North Pole really in Mo.? A close replica with animals, a maze, _____ trains, etc. can be found at The North Pole at Union Station in St. Louis.
72. # of ladies dancing in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song.
1. Mary was made worthy to be the mother of Jesus by being conceived without _____.
2. "The Lord said to us at Horeb, 'You have stayed here long _____ at this mountain. Leave here...'" (Deuteronomy 1:6-7).
3. Ice rinks in KC (Crown Center Terrace — outdoor rink in a shopping complex), St. Louis (Steinberg in Forest Park — largest outdoor rink in the Midwest), or in Jefferson City (Washington Park Ice _____) might provide a fun Christmastime activity.
4. Mo.'s _____ Dollar City is regularly hailed as one of the best Christmas destinations in the country — 6.5 million lights, 1,000 Christmas trees with the nightly Holly Jolly Christmas Parade with musical floats illuminated by 200,000 lights.
5. Letters for the Tarheel State, the home of mythical Mayberry.
6. Genetic material.

7. In 1925, a St. Louis Mo. _____ troupe was known as the Mo. Rockets. They toured New York City and in 1932 became the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. They are esp. noted for their Christmas shows. Until 2015, they had a touring company that frequently stopped at Branson.
8. "...but only _____ the word and my soul shall be healed," —from the Communion Rite of the Mass.
9. The huge Mark Twain National Forest (_____) in southern Mo. covers 1,491,840 acres.
10. Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris actually sits on an island in the Seine River, the _____ *de la Cite*.
11. One of Santa's reindeer.
14. The ____-__ is made up of 55 unions representing 12 million members.
15. Washington, ____.
21. Successor of the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 19:16-21).
22. 2 p.m. on a sundial.
23. Note between mi and sol.
24. Pollution control agency.
27. St. Charles, Mo.'s celebrated Main Street has many activities throughout Christmastime including illuminated nighttime _____ rides decked out in holiday décor.
28. One of Santa's helpers.
29. "And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the _____... saying: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace..." (Luke 2:13).
32. Our family would _____ presents on Christmas Eve and then go to Midnight Mass.
35. "Joy to the World" is the most published Christmas hymn in North Am. It was written in 1719, and based on _____ 98:4-8.
36. Some items that can be fun to _____ for Christmas include Christmas stockings, tree skirts and Christmas ornaments.
38. _____kosh B'Gosh; children's clothing brand.
40. _____ *vs. Wade*; infamous Supreme Court decision.
41. "...the stump of a _____ he held tight in his teeth and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath..." — from "Twas the Night Before Christmas."
44. Short for Diana.
47. _____ *obstat*; in Latin, nothing hinders; Catholic certification that a book contains nothing opposed to faith or morals.
50. Dead or Red.
53. Wife of Mr. Dithers.
55. Sow _____; pig food.
57. Sailor's greeting.
58. A type of golf club.
59. Technology that replaced the cassette tape.
60. The Enchanted Lights Display at the _____ of the Ozarks features 200 animated Christmas scenes and tree decorations; also in Laurie, the Shrine of St. Patrick's grounds has 4,000 strands of lights and family activities like reindeer petting and gingerbread house building.
61. I'll be there ____ jiffy (2 wds.).
62. _____ trees are appropriately used for Christmas trees because they are evergreens, symbolizing the ever-present love of God.
64. Abbr. for the 19th book of the Bible.
67. The Cong. of the Resurrection (_____) is a male Catholic religious order, founded in 1836, with missions in 16 countries. Their main charism is providing & improving religious education.
68. Three of these make up a Santa's laugh.
69. The North Pole is _____ top of the world.