



# Puzzle #747

By Father Don Antweiler

## ACROSS

1. "T" was the Night Before Christmas" was the popular poem that established our iconic image of St. Nick (only later called Santa Claus). Its original title was "A \_\_\_\_ from St. Nicholas."
6. 19th book of the Bible; one of the heroines of the Old Testament.
11. "I've lost \_\_\_\_ in going somewhere to look at new things. I want to see ordinary things I'm passing in a new way," —*Motorcycle Days, The making of a Two-bit Mystic* by Robert Antweiler.
13. A unit of energy in an air conditioner.
14. Xenon gas on the periodic table; only present in trace amounts; colorless, tasteless, odorless and not volatile; 4.5 times heavier than air; used as light in high-speed photography (abbr.).
15. The real St. Nicholas was a bishop in what is today Turkey around 280 A.D. His legendary generosity with children gradually morphed \_\_\_\_ today's Santa Claus.
16. "We have always found the Irish a bit \_\_\_\_\_. They refuse to be English," — Winston Churchill.
17. What's the answer? Well, I, \_\_\_\_\_, uh, don't know.
18. Your criticism of her sounds like the \_\_\_\_ calling the kettle black.
19. 101 in ancient Rome.
21. "Among the harmless snakes the \_\_\_\_-called black snakes are the largest and most numerous. On average they are four to six feet long but sometimes attain a length of ten feet and over," —*A German Immigrant in Mo.*, Gert Goebel.
22. The part of the Bible that contains the books Timothy and Titus (abbr.).
23. Mild shrieks.
25. From the beginning the plan seemed \_\_\_\_ conceived.
27. Baseball stat.
28. Minor devil.
30. In 1812, instead of a sleigh with flying reindeer, St. Nick's vehicle was described as a self-driving \_\_\_\_\_.
32. They finally got the come-from-behind winning run in the \_\_\_\_ inning!
34. Four letters often heard on Friday.
35. Since 1914, letters written to Santa Claus end up, not at the \_\_\_\_ pole, but in the small post office in Santa Claus, Indiana.
38. Q-T
39. Reproductive eggs.
42. Relative of Ln. or Ave.
43. For the Puritans in 1659 in Massachusetts, the celebration of Christmas was illegal and would draw a \_\_\_\_\_, or worse. They saw it as a pagan custom that Catholics took over with no biblical basis for it.
45. Method to bring fluids and medicine directly to your body's bloodstream.
46. "...\_\_\_\_\_ the land of the free and the home of the brave," —Star Spangled Banner.
48. Last word in a book, perhaps.
50. "T" was the Night Before

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- Christmas" was written by a biblical professor, Clement Clark Moore, in 1822, which he originally read to his children on Christmas \_\_\_\_\_.
  51. Santa Claus gets Christmas letters from all over the \_\_\_\_\_, with the most coming from France (1.7 million), then Canada (at 1.35 million), and then from the U.S. (1 million).
  52. The name of one of Santa's reindeer.
- ## DOWN
1. The name of one of Santa's reindeer.
  2. The state or tendency to stay at rest.
  3. Abbr. found before the names of the canonized.
  4. Abbr. meaning, in other words.
  5. E.g., the Magi.
  6. East, in France.
  7. We celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6th, traditionally the date to hang \_\_\_\_\_ on the fireplace mantle.
  8. One of the first movie cable channels.
  9. "The perp is leaving on one of these flights" cried the detective. "Check all their estimated time of departures (\_\_\_\_\_)!"
  10. \_\_\_\_\_ with his red nose was added to the reindeer list in 1939 when a Montgomery Ward dept. store ad-man wrote the story for the store's own children's book. Singing cowboy Gene Autry popularized it in 1949 with a #1 hit song.
  12. "Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not \_\_\_\_\_ it," (Mark 10:15).
  18. Called the sport of kings, or croquet on horses, or hockey on horseback, this sport originated as cavalry training in Mongolia and Iran, then spread to India and Arabia. It is now played in over 100 countries worldwide. The St. Louis Club, established in 1883, is the 2nd oldest existing club in the U.S.
  20. "What child \_\_\_\_\_ this?" —Christmas carol.
  24. Letters for Epstein Barr, a herpes virus, one of the most common viruses in

- humans.
26. T-shirt size.
  28. It's easy to register in the parish. Just enter your \_\_\_\_\_ online.
  29. Abbr. for one of the two Gospels with the familiar Christmas stories (infancy narratives).
  30. Santa early on was pictured as slipping through a \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver his toys. In 1812, Washington Irving instead pictured him as going down a chimney. The image stuck.
  31. A brand of soda, introduced in 1924.
  33. Pope St. John Paul \_\_\_\_\_.
  34. Most hoped the fashionista's latest outfit would not be a \_\_\_\_\_-setter.
  36. Delicious sandwich cookie.
  37. Short for Transformers, living, human-like robot toys with the unique ability to turn into vehicles or beasts. The franchise has spawned six movies.
  40. \_\_\_\_\_ la France!" English equivalent: Long live France!" The phrase often concludes French political speeches.
  41. Assert.
  44. One of the 4 States, the capital of which is named for a U.S. President (abbr.).
  47. B&O or Reading on a Monopoly board.
  49. Short for District Attorney, chief prosecutor for the government (the people).
  50. "\_\_\_\_\_, what's up, Doc?" said Bugs to Elmer.