

The Power of Irish Wisdom By Renee' Gatz, Author

Christmas is on its way! Before we know it, we will be meeting with family and friends to exchange gifts, enjoy a good meal, toast each other with a cocktail or two and finish the evening's celebration with delicious desserts.

While the official day for Christmas is December 25, the entire month of December is devoted to all things Christmas. There is much to do in preparation. There are gifts lists to be made, shopped for and wrapped. The house needs to be decorated inside and out. Christmas cards need to be sent. Yes, even with all the technology, I still send and receive Christmas cards. Cooking and baking need to be completed and clean-up of all the wrapping paper as gifts are opened with excited anticipation of what may be inside the box. Photos need to be taken and posted on social media sites to share with friends and family. There are numerous Christmas get-togethers to attend. Given the task at hand, some even begin preparing for Christmas immediately after the holiday by taking advantage of after-Christmas sales. I did a good bit of my Christmas shopping in September while in Ireland.

We look forward to Christmas every year and think about it often throughout the year. We feel the spirit of Christmas while listening to Christmas music, admiring decorations, watching our favorite Christmas movies and recalling Christmas' past. For each year is similar but different. Our traditions are similar but there are new people in our lives to celebrate our joys with and there are those that are no longer with us in the physical world but remain very close in our hearts as we remember them and the special role they played in our life.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, a new life, and all that a new life represents, hope for the future. Regardless of what may be going in the world or our own lives, by looking forward to celebrating Christmas, we illustrate our optimism about life and the importance of taking time to **count our many blessings and to be a blessing to others**. Instinctively that is who we are, optimistic, grateful, generous people who want to share that spirit with others—family, friends and those less fortunate. Christmas is a reminder of our goodness and the hope we have for the future and the love we have for each other. My Christmas wish this year is that the spirit of Christmas remains with us throughout the entire year.

May you each have a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you peace, health, and prosperity!

Renee' Gatz, author of [Wise Words & Witty Expressions](#)