

Answers to 2011 Christmas Cryptograms

1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn whereon the Saviour of the world was born. Rise to adore the mystery of love which hosts of angels chanted from above. With them the joyful tidings first begun of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son. — Reveille.
2. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Now ye hear of endless bliss. Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this. He hath ope'd the heav'nly door and man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this. Christ was born for this. — Medieval origin
3. Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for his bed. Mary was that mother mild. Jesus Christ, her little child. — Cecil Frances Alexander
4. While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around. And glory shone around. — Nahum Tate
5. They know that Santa's on his way; he's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh. And every mother's child is going to spy, to see if reindeer really know how to fly. — Mel Tormé
6. Bobby wants a pair of skates, Suzy wants a sled.
Nellie wants a picture book, yellow, blue, and red.
Now I think I'll leave to you what to give the rest.
Choose for me, dear Santa Claus; you will know the best. — Wishful thinking
7. O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Much pleasure thou can'st give me;
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Much pleasure thou can'st give me;
How often has the Christmas tree afforded me the greatest glee!
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Much pleasure thou can'st give me.
— Better in German
8. Most cookies left out for Santa end up being fed to the reindeer. — Ben Greenman
9. An important study published in 2009 by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania school of medicine estimated that people in possession of a gun at the time of an assault were 4.5 times more likely to be shot during the assault than someone in a comparable situation without a gun. — Bob Herbert
10. I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do because I notice it always coincides with their own desires. — Susan B. Anthony
11. The problem is that Americans cannot conceive of a God who is not an American.
— William Pfaff
12. I would rather play "Chiquita Banana" and have my swimming pool than play Bach and starve. — Xavier Cugat
13. Beer cans are cultural symbols (friend and foe) of natural history for two reasons. They are the remains, first of all, of the primary sustenance of fieldwork. Second, they are the ubiquitous reminders of human intervention even into the most remote and peaceful places of nature's apparent hegemony. — Stephen Jay Gould
14. Parents are the bones upon which children sharpen their teeth. — Peter Ustinov
15. Just because the cat had her kittens in the oven doesn't mean they're biscuits. — tuba concert program note