



December is here. Christmas that magical time of year is almost here!

A time of celebration with family and friends. Family traditions passed down from generation to generation. And maybe this year there will be a new tradition. Or two.

Memories can be powerful this time of year as we remember Christmas from simpler times and those we shared the holiday with who are no longer with us.

How many of you –myself included- would want to step back to a Christmas past. Just one day. As a child. Christmas was an exciting time. There may be a toy or a bike that you were hoping Santa would bring. A time when your mother, and possibly grandmother, would be in the kitchen putting together those wonderful dishes for Christmas Eve. Oh the smells from the kitchen as cookies and pie were baking in the oven. Do you remember helping your mom make cookies? Or other Christmas treats?

Do you remember sitting at the 'kids table' wishing you were a grown up and could sit at the 'adult table'

Holiday decorations throughout out the house. A freshly cut Christmas tree with colorful bubble lights, ornaments and dripping with tinsel you put on one at a time. Cinnamon Bear on the radio.

Can you see your parents on Christmas Eve thinking the 'kids' are asleep wrapping presents, and putting that bike you wanted together? Friends and family arriving bringing laughter and memories of holidays past. Special dishes that were a holiday tradition.

Carolers going door to door singing Christmas carols. You mom may have invited them for a cup of hot chocolate and some of those homemade cookies.

Midnight mass. What a special treat as a child to stay up after your usual bedtime.

Many of you have your Christmas tree up and house decorated. A way of saying it is time to put all the unpleasantness, all the upset to our daily lives, the loss of loved ones and friends, the sadness and uncertainty we have lived through for far too long. But we are here. We have survived.

With all that in mind I thought to go back to Christmas' past. A happier time for many of us.

I hope you enjoy the look back. And, maybe bring a smile-or two- as you remember your family and your traditions.



