



The Candy Cane

Here are a few thought provoking words about the symbolism of one very common candy enjoyed during the Christmas Season.

- **The Letter J for Jesus:** “J,” which stands for Jesus (*Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21*).
- **The Shepherd's Staff:** Held upside down...the way we usually hold it... a candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. The Bible notes that his “sheep” hear His voice and follow him (*Psalm 23:1, John 10:11, John 10:27-30, Isaiah 40:11*).
- **He is A Rock:** A candy cane is made from hard candy, which is done to remind all of God's children that Jesus is our “rock,” dependable and strong (*Psalm 31:3*).
- **By His Stripes:** Wide red stripes are added to the (traditional) candy cane. They represent the crucifixion and the blood Jesus shed for our sins. It is through his blood that we are given life and salvation (*Revelation 1:5, John 3:16, Luke 22:20*).
- **The White Stripes on a candy cane** symbolize the holiness and purity of Jesus, who is sinless (*I John 1:7*).
- **The Sweet Fragrance of Christ:** is symbolized by the Peppermint flavor of a candy cane. Peppermint reminds us of the spices that were brought by the Wise Men as gifts for the Baby Jesus (*Psalm 51:7, John 10:29, Matthew 2:11*).
- **Broken For Us:** Of course, when the candy cane is eaten, it is usually broken, this reminds us that Jesus took bread... broke it and said "this is my Body...do this to remember me" (*I Cor. 11:24*).
- **Love of Christ:** A candy cane is made to be given as a gift. It represents God's love given to all people of all time especially through God's gift of Jesus... it is that gift...the greatest of all possible gifts that we celebrate at Christmas.



A most Blessed, and very Merry Christmas to you and all of your loved ones,

Father Leon Mozeliak

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24, 2018

7:30 p.m.



Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing;
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.
(Martin Luther)

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on Earth, Good will to Men!
(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)