

# MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME



## A CATECHISM FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

written by  
**Katie Warner**

illustrated by  
**Elizabeth Zelasko**



This one is for you, my dear readers. What a humbling blessing it has been over these years to have my books find a space on your shelves and in your hearts.

I am always praying for you as you grow in knowledge and love of the Faith and shine Christ's light into our world!

—Katie Warner

I dedicate this book to all the Catholic parents catechizing their children in the Faith with truth and beauty. You are the beacons of hope that we need.

A special thanks to my three children: Philomena, John, and Evangeline. God has blessed each of you with skilled eyes and discerning hearts. You were each a huge part of every page of this book, and your advice was invaluable. Stay close to God and His Church, and you will find your whole life surrounded by Beauty.

—Elizabeth Zelasko



*My True Love Gave to Me: A Catechism for the Twelve  
Days of Christmas* © 2024 Katie Warner  
Illustrations © 2024 Elizabeth Zelasko

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## MANY CENTURIES AGO,



there was fierce persecution of Catholics in England. Some call it a legend, others a rumor, that during this time, Catholics used the tune of the old French song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, to communicate a sort of catechetical “code” to teach children the tenets of the faith in secret. *My True Love Gave to Me* cracks that code for children (and adults!), unveiling the Christian meaning and symbols behind the popular tune carolers around the world have come to know and love.

Regardless of this tune’s true historicity, music remains a powerful catechetical tool, and numbers have always held special significance in Scripture and tradition. Christians have long sought to use or “baptize” legends, secular songs, and traditions to bring the gospel into the corners of every aspect of life. This book is meant to help convey the gifts of the faith through the joy and memory of song, and on each page, you will find enchanting artistic depictions of these numeric symbols.

*My True Love Gave to Me* is not the first of its kind, but it is the first with illustrations as rich and theologically-imbued, with nods to various kinds of sacred art, from illuminated manuscripts to iconography, from stained glass to more classical paintings. It was my desire to feature Elizabeth Zelasko’s talent in children’s book form that gave me the impetus to bring this book to life. I know you will love her pieces as much I do, especially if you reference her illustrator’s notes in the back to explore each page of artwork in greater depth.

It is our hope that adults and children alike will enjoy learning more about these number-symbols during the majestic season of Christmas, a season in which the Church celebrates God—our True Love—lavishing His love upon His creation, first and foremost through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. These days, it is also a season yearning to be re-infused with deeper Christian observance.

God’s gifts do not cease pouring out, now through the Church founded by Christ, on which is bestowed a mission to carry His love and gifts to the ends of the earth.





On the **FIRST** day of Christmas,  
My True Love gave to me  
My Savior who died on Calvary.









On the **SECOND** day of Christmas,  
My True Love gave to me  
Two testaments  
And my Savior who died on Calvary.



