

No month is dominated by one event as much as is December.

Commerce, world wide, have one theme, for the month,
"Oh What a Friend we have in Jesus."

A successful month is judged by the percentage sales growth
over the same period the previous year,
as if anything could grow exponentially forever.

To dilute the commercial part of the month, this family chose a party
on St Nicholas' day, December 6th. Children had to be the center,
did not all have to be young.

Get together with friends, talk, eat and do something, where all were equal.

The chosen ingredient was food, cookie coloring. Sit together, each in his separate
world, paint something on a cookie. This thought, an instant success.
Has been reenacted the past fifty-three years.

In fact, it developed into two parties rather early. The first, just the family gathers, make
cookies. Now, some 100 dozen, part sugar cookies, the others gingerbread.

Cookie making is as easy as it sounds, using the Joy of Cooking directions.
The annual challenge, selecting the location for the baking. There must be several ovens,
tables for mixing the dough, rolling the cookies; no one has had to provide this space in
consecutive years. The work, broken into pieces, tends to be repetitive, the only pros
needed are those who use the cookie cutters, not just duplication of santa, wreaths, fir
trees, sleighs, bells, but hand made replicas of objects that shriek of joy. When cookies
have been baked, boxed for the paint party, the work space restored, the happy elves will
all be seen returning home with smidgens of white flour everywhere on their extremity.
That open sign of a really good party.

A second offering at this St Nicholas Cookie coloring party is soup, two flavors, made in
abundance by the chef, which for recent years, the oldest son, who in real life is a chef.
This is made the day before, Chef's choice, but in quantity enough, so no matter how
hungry the guests, family members will have soup take home.

Guests? The family members each select friends to invite, making certain to have a
comfortable mix of age groups.

Coloring is done with XXX powdered sugar, watered to make a paste, not too runny,
then colored, flavored, bottled in plastic catsup containers, spout top, two bottles each
of say 10 pastels, two black.

For diversity, some years the black mix is chocolate flavored, red is lemon,

and on across the color/flavor spectrum.

Leadership has passed to the younger generation, the location changed yearly.
Three years ago it was held at Centerpoint in Windsor Garden.
In 2010 it was held in a Church basement., central Denver.

Attendees recall a good time, their painstaking effort to create a picture on a cookie
shaped like santa, that faint smile, bag on back bulging with presents. Whatever.
They made something. Lost in concentration, child-like doing that.
Take their work home to decorate some part of moments
when December is honestly celebrated, again.

Joy to the World!

It still begins with a child, doing, creating, then the smile.