

Christmas Holiday Stamps

The United States Post Office Department issued its first Christmas stamp in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on November 1, 1962. Customers had requested such a stamp for years, Postmaster General J. Edward Day said during the stamp dedication ceremony, adding that the stamp would be the first in a series of Christmas stamps.

Stamps that conveyed a holiday spirit had proved popular during the holidays in previous years, such as the 1958 Forest Conservation stamp showing a deer in a clearing in the woods and the 1960 stamp showing a stylized green tree resembling a fir, commemorating the 5th World Forest Congress.

Anticipating a huge demand for the new Christmas stamp, the Department ordered 350 million printed – the largest number produced for a special stamp until that time. The green and red four-cent stamps featured a wreath, two candles, and the words “Christmas 1962”. The initial supply sold out quickly, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began working around the clock to print more. By the end 1962 one billion of the stamps had been printed and distributed.

The decision to print a Christmas stamp encountered some controversy, especially from groups concerned about maintaining the separation of church and state, although legal actions to bar the stamps were not successful.

The Postal Service recognized other special holidays when it issued its first Hanukkah stamp in 1996, followed in 1997 by its first Kwanzaa stamp, and in 2001 by the Eid stamp.

In the list of U.S. Christmas holiday stamps that follows, the numbers in parentheses indicate postage on non-denominated stamps. Information is taken from *The Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps*, postal philatelic press releases, the National Gallery of Art website at www.nga.gov, *Scott 1999 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*, and *Scott Stamp Monthly*.



<i>Scott Catalog Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Date Issued</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Designer</i>
1205	Christmas Wreath and Candles	Nov. 1, 1962	4¢	Jim Crawford
1240	National Christmas Tree and White House	Nov. 1, 1963	5¢	Lily Spandorf; modified by Norman Todhunte
1254-1257	Holly, Mistletoe, Poinsettia, Sprig of Conifer, 4 designs	Nov. 9, 1964	5¢	Thomas F. Naegele
1276	Angel with Trumpet, 1840 Weather Vane. After watercolor by Lucille Gloria Chabot of the 1840 weather vane from the People's Methodist Church, Newburyport, MA. National Gallery of Art.	Nov. 2, 1965	5¢	Robert Jones
1321	Madonna and Child, by Hans Memling. Modeled after <i>Madonna and Child with Angels</i> , by Flemish artist Hans Memling (c. 1430-1494). Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Nov. 1, 1966	5¢	Howard C. Mildner

1336	Madonna and Child, by Hans Memling. Modeled after <i>Madonna and Child with Angels</i> , by Flemish artist Hans Memling (c. 1430-1494). Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Larger version of same painting in 1966 stamp.	Nov. 6, 1967	5¢	Howard C. Mildner
1363	Angel Gabriel, from <i>The Annunciation</i> by Jan van Eyck. From a painting c. 1431/1436 by Flemish painter Jan van Eyck (c. 1390 – 1441). Andrew W. Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Nov. 1, 1968	6¢	Robert J. Jones
1384	<i>Winter Sunday in Norway, Maine</i> . Painted about 1870 by an unknown artist. N.Y. State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N.Y.	Nov. 3, 1969	6¢	Stevan Dohanos
1414	<i>Nativity</i> , by Lorenzo Lotto. From a 1523 painting by Venetian artist Lorenzo Lotto (c.1480-1556). Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Nov. 5, 1970	6¢	Howard C. Mildner
1415-1418	Tin and Cast-iron Locomotive, Toy Horse on Wheels, Mechanical Tricycle, Doll Carriage, 4 designs. From a drawing (locomotive) by Charles Hemming in "Index of American Design Collection" National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and from "Golden Age of Toys" by Fondin and Remise.	Nov. 5, 1970	6¢	Stevan Dohanos
1444	<i>Adoration of the Shepherds</i> , by Giorgione. From a 1505/1510 painting by Venetian painter Giorgione (1477/1478-1510). Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Nov. 10, 1971	8¢	Bradbury Thompson
1445	<i>Partridge in a Pear Tree</i>	Nov. 10, 1971	8¢	Jamie Wyeth
1471	Angels from <i>Mary, Queen of Heaven</i> . Detail from a 1485/1500 painting by the Master of the St. Lucy legend, active in Bruges c. 1480 - c. 1510. The artist's name is unknown, he is called the Master of the St. Lucy legend for an altarpiece in the church of Saint James, Bruges, dated 1480, that depicts three scenes from the life of Saint Lucy. Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Nov. 9, 1972	8¢	Bradbury Thompson
1472	Santa Claus	Nov. 9, 1972	8¢	Stevan Dohanos
1507	Small Cowper Madonna, by Raphael. From a c. 1505 painting by the Italian painter Raphael (1483-1520) named after a previous owner. Widener Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Nov. 7, 1973	8¢	Bradbury Thompson
1508	Christmas Tree in Needlepoint	Nov. 7, 1973	8¢	Dolli Tingle

1550	Angel from the Pérussis altarpiece. Detail from the Pérussis altarpiece by anonymous French artist, 1480. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.	Oct. 23, 1974	10¢	Bradbury Thompson
1551	<i>The Road—Winter</i> , by Currier and Ives. Currier and Ives print from drawing by Otto Knirsch.	Oct. 23, 1974	10¢	Stevan Dohanos
1552	Dove Weather Vane atop Mount Vernon. Based on weathervane made in Philadelphia by Joseph Rakestraw, according to specifications by George Washington.	Nov. 15, 1974	10¢	Don Hedin and Robert Geissman
1579	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Domenico Ghirlandaio. From a c. 1470 painting by Florentine painter Domenico Ghirlandaio (1449- 1494). Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 14, 1975	(10¢)	Bradbury Thompson
1580	Christmas Card, by Louis Prang, 1878. Collection of Museum of the City of New York	Oct. 14, 1975	(10¢)	Stevan Dohanos
1701	<i>Nativity</i> , by John Singleton Copley. After c. 1776 painting by American painter John Singleton Copley (1738-1815). Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.	Oct. 27, 1976	13¢	Bradbury Thompson
1702, 1703	<i>Winter Pastime</i> , by Nathaniel Currier. After 1855 lithograph. Museum of the City of New York.	Oct. 27, 1976	13¢	Stevan Dohanos
1729	Washington at Valley Forge. After painting by J.C. Leyendecker as <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> cover, 1935.	Oct. 21, 1977	13¢	Stevan Dohanos
1730	Rural Mailbox	Oct. 21, 1977	13¢	Dolli Tingle
1768	<i>Madonna and Child with Cherubim</i> , by Andrea della Robbia. After c. 1485 glazed terra cotta sculpture by Florentine artist Andrea della Robbia (1435-1525). Andrew W. Mellon Collection, National Gallery, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 18, 1978	15¢	Bradbury Thompson
1769	Child on Hobby Horse and Christmas Tree	Oct. 18, 1978	15¢	Dolli Tingle
1799	<i>Virgin and Child</i> , by Gerard David. After c. 1510 painting <i>The Rest on the Flight into Egypt</i> by Flemish painter Gerard David, c. 1460-1523. Andrew W. Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 18, 1979	15¢	Bradbury Thompson
1800	Santa Claus Christmas Tree Ornament	Oct. 18, 1979	15¢	Eskil Ohlsson
1842	<i>Madonna and Child</i> . After Epiphany Window by British glass artist Walter Tower, Bethlehem Chapel, Washington [National] Cathedral, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 31, 1980	15¢	Esther Porter

1843	Wreath and Toys. Based on antique toys in artist Bob Timberlake's collection	Oct. 31, 1980	15¢	Bob Timberlake
1939	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , Botticelli. After painting by Florentine painter, Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510). Art Institute of Chicago.	Oct. 28, 1981	20¢	Bradbury Thompson
1940	Felt Bear on Sleigh	Oct. 28, 1981	20¢	Nalad Einsel
2025	Puppy and Kitten	Nov. 3, 1982	13¢	Chuck Ripper
2026	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Tiepolo. After c. 1767/1770 painting <i>Madonna of the Goldfinch</i> by Venetian painter, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, 1696-1770. Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 28, 1982	20¢	Bradbury Thompson
2027-2030	Season's Greetings (Children Sledding, Children Building a Snowman, Children Skating, Children Trimming a Tree), 4 designs	Oct. 28, 1982	20¢	Dolli Tingle
2063	Niccolini-Cowper Madonna, by Raphael. After a 1508 painting by Italian painter Raphael (1483-1520). The painting is named after two former owners. Andrew W. Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 28, 1983	20¢	Bradbury Thompson
2064	Santa Claus	Oct. 28, 1983	20¢	John Berkey
2107	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Fra Filippo Lippi. After 1440/1445 painting by Florentine painter Fra Filippo Lippi (c. 1406-1469). Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 30, 1984	20¢	Bradbury Thompson
2108	Santa Claus. Drawing by Queens, NY, second-grade student, Danny LaBocchetta, winner of first nationwide student stamp design contest sponsored by United States Postal Service	Oct. 30, 1984	20¢	Danny LaBocchetta
2165	<i>Genoa Madonna</i> , by Luca Della Robbia. After c. 1450 enameled terra cotta by Florentine sculptor, Luca Della Robbia (1400-1482). Detroit Institute of Arts.	Oct. 30, 1985	22¢	Bradbury Thompson
2166	Poinsettia Plants	Oct. 30, 1985	22¢	James Dean
2244	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Perugino. After post-1500 painting by Umbrian painter, Pietro Perugino (c. 1450-1523). Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 24, 1986	22¢	Bradbury Thompson
2245	Village Scene	Oct. 24, 1986	22¢	Dolli Tingle

2367	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Moroni. After c. 1560 painting <i>A Gentleman in Adoration before the Madonna</i> , by Bergamo painter, Giovanni Battista Moroni (c. 1525-1578). Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 23, 1987	22¢	Bradbury Thompson
2368	Christmas Ornaments	Oct. 23, 1987	22¢	Jim Dean
2399	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Botticelli. After c. 1470 painting by Florentine painter, Sandro Botticelli (1446-1510). Andrew W. Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 20, 1988	25¢	Bradbury Thompson
2400	One-Horse Open Sleigh and Village Scene	Oct. 20, 1988	25¢	Joan Landis
2427	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Carracci. After c. 1593 painting <i>The Dream of Saint Catherine of Alexandria</i> , by Bolognese painter Lodovico Carracci (1555-1619). Samuel H. Kress Foundation, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 19, 1989	25¢	Bradbury Thompson
2428	Sleigh Full of Presents. Based on antique toy sleigh from New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N.Y.	Oct. 19, 1989	25¢	Stevan Dohanos
2514	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Antonello. After c. 1475 painting by Sicilian painter, Antonello da Messina (c. 1430-1479). Andrew W. Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 18, 1990	25¢	Bradbury Thompson
2515	Greetings (Christmas Tree)	Oct. 18, 1990	25¢	Libby Thiel
2578	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Antoniazio Romano. After c. 1480 painting <i>Madonna and Child with Donor</i> by Roman painter, Antoniazio Romano, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX.	Oct. 17, 1991	(29¢)	Bradbury Thompson
2579, 2580, 2581	Santa Claus in Chimney	Oct. 17, 1991	(29¢)	John Berkey
2582- 2585	Santa Checking List, Santa with Present, Santa at Fireplace, Santa and Sleigh, 4 designs	Oct. 17, 1991	(29¢)	John Berkey
2710	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Giovanni Bellini. After c. 1490 painting <i>Madonna and Child with Saints</i> by Venetian painter Giovanni Bellini (c. 1430/1435 – 1516). National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 22, 1992	29¢	Bradbury Thompson
2711- 2714, 2715- 2718	Greetings (Horse and Rider, Toy Train, Toy Steamer, Toy Ship), 4 designs	Oct. 22, 1992	29¢	Lou Nolan
2719	Greetings (Toy Train)	Oct. 22, 1992	29¢	Lou Nolan

2789, 2790	Madonna and Child, by Giovanni Battista Cima. After c. 1496-99 painting <i>Madonna and Child in a Landscape</i> , by Italian painter, Giovanni Battista Cima da Conegliano (c. 1459/60 – c. 1517/18). North Carolina Museum of Art	Oct. 21, 1993	29¢	Bradbury Thompson
2791- 2794, 2795- 2798, 2799- 2802	Greetings (Jack-in-the-Box, Red-Nosed Reindeer, Snowman, Toy Soldier Blowing Horn), 4 designs	Oct. 21, 1993, Oct. 28, 1993	29¢	Peter Good
2803	Greetings (Snowman)	Oct. 28, 1993	29¢	Peter Good
2871	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Elisabetta Sirani. After 1663 painting <i>Virgin and Child</i> by Bolognese painter Elisabetta Sirani (1638-1665). National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 20, 1994	29¢	Bradbury Thompson
2872	Stocking	Oct. 20, 1994	29¢	Lou Nolan
2873	Santa Claus	Oct. 20, 1994	29¢	Harry Zelenko
2874	Cardinal in Snow	Oct. 20, 1994	29¢	Peter Good
3003	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Giotto di Bondone. After c. 1320/1330 painting by Florentine painter Giotto di Bondone (probably 1266-1337). Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 19, 1995	32¢	Robert Sheaff
3004- 3007, 3008- 3011, 3014- 3017	Santa Claus Entering Chimney, Child Holding Jumping Jack, Child Holding Tree, Santa Claus Working on Sled, 4 designs. Based on antique writing tablet cover, postcard published by James Campbell & Son c. 1880-1890, postcard published in German by HWB c. 1910, postcard published by Stecher Lithographic Co., Rochester, NY, postmarked 1915	Sep. 30, 1995	32¢	John Grossman and Laura Alders
3012, 3018	Midnight Angel. Based on greeting card c. 1910, probably by American artist Ellen H. Clapsaddle (1865-1934)	Oct. 19, 1995	32¢	John Grossman and Laura Alders
3013	Children Sledding. Based on postcard published by Raphael Tuck & Sons, Ltd., London, postmarked 1911	Oct. 19, 1995	32¢	John Grossman and Laura Alders
3107, 3112	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Paolo de Matteis. After 1712 painting <i>Adoration of the Shepherds</i> by Neapolitan painter Paolo de Matteis (1662-1728). Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA	Nov. 1, 1996	32¢	Richard D. Sheaff
3108- 3111, 3113- 3116	Family at Fireplace, Decorating Tree, Dreaming of Santa Claus, Holiday Shopping, 4 designs	Oct. 8, 1996	32¢	Julia Talcott

3117	Skaters	Oct. 8, 1996	32¢	Julia Talcott
3176	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Sano di Pietro. After c. 1471 painting <i>Madonna and Child with Saints and Angels</i> by Sienese painter Sano di Pietro (1405 – 1481). Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 27, 1997	32¢	Richard D. Sheaff
3177	American Holly	Oct. 30, 1997	32¢	Howard Paine
3244	<i>Florentine Madonna and Child</i> . After c. 1425 painted and gilded terra cotta statue by unknown sculptor, Florence, 15 th century. Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 15, 1998	32¢	Richard D. Sheaff
3245-3248, 3249-3252	Evergreen Wreath, Victorian Wreath, Chili Pepper Wreath, Tropical Wreath, 4 designs	Oct. 15, 1998	32¢	Lillian Dinihanian, George deBruin, Chris Crinklaw, Michaele Thunin
3355	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Bartolomeo Vivarini. After c. 1475 painting by Venetian painter, Bartolomeo Vivarini, c. 1430/1432 - c. 1491 or c. 1499. Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 20, 1999	33¢	Richard D. Sheaff
3356-3359, 3360-3363, 3364-3367	Greetings (Red, Blue, Purple, and Green Deer), 4 designs	Oct. 20, 1999	33¢	Tim Nikosey
	none issued	2000		
3536	<i>Virgin and Child</i> , by Lorenzo Costa. After about 1490 painting by Ferrarese painter Lorenzo Costa (about 1460-1535). John G. Johnson Collection, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA	Oct. 10, 2001	34¢	Richard Sheaff
3537-3540, 3541-3544	Santa wearing tan hood, Santa wearing blue hat, Santa wearing red hat, Santa wearing gold hood, 4 designs. After chromolithograph images, ca. 1880 and ca. 1915-20	Oct. 10, 2001	34¢	Richard Sheaff
3675	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Jan Gossaert. After c. 1520 painting by Jan Gossaert (c. 1478 to 1532), the Netherlands. Charles H. and Mary F.S. Worcester Collection, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	Oct. 10, 2002	37¢	Richard Sheaff
3676-3679, 3680-3683, 3684-3687, 3688-3691	Snowman with red and green plaid scarf, Snowman with blue plaid scarf, Snowman with pipe, Snowman with top hat, 4 designs. Snowmen made by Tommy Simpson (with pipe and with top hat), Judy Gunn-Irish (with red and green plaid scarf), Delton Products Corp. (with blue plaid scarf)	Oct. 28, 2002	37¢	Derry Noyes; photographed by Sally Andersen-Bruce

3820	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Jan Gossaert. After c. 1520 painting by Jan Gossaert (c. 1478 to 1532), the Netherlands. Charles H. and Mary F.S. Worcester Collection, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL (same image as 2002 stamp)	Oct. 23, 2003	37¢	Richard Sheaff
3821-3824, 3825-3828	Holiday Music Makers (reindeer playing panpipes, Santa playing drums, Santa playing trumpet, reindeer playing horn), 4 designs	Oct. 23, 2003	37¢	Ethel Kessler; art work by Diane Teske Harris
3879	<i>Madonna and Child</i> , by Lorenzo Monaco. After 1413 painting by Florentine painter Lorenzo Monaco. Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 14, 2004	37¢	Richard Sheaff
3883-3886, 3887-3890, 3891-3894	Holiday Ornaments (painted glass Santas nestled in tissue paper), 4 designs	Nov. 16, 2004	37¢	Derry Noyes; photographed by Sally Andersen-Bruce
3949-3952, 3953-3956, 3957-3960	Holiday Cookies (Santa Claus, two snowmen, an angel, two elves), 4 designs	Oct. 20, 2005	37¢	Derry Noyes; photographed by Sally Andersen-Bruce
4105-4108, 4109-4112, 4113-4116	Holiday Snowflakes, 4 designs	Oct. 5, 2006	39¢	Richard Sheaff; photographed by Kenneth Libbrecht
4100	<i>Madonna and Child with Bird</i> , by Ignacio Chacón. After c. 1765 painting attributed to Peruvian artist Ignacio Chacón. Engracia and Frank Barrows Freyer Collection of Peruvian colonial art, Denver Art Museum.	Oct. 17, 2006	39¢	Michael Osborne
4207-4210, 4211-4214, 4215-4218	Holiday Knits, 4 designs	Oct. 25, 2007	41¢	Carl T. Herrman; knits by Nancy Stahl
4206	<i>The Madonna of the Carnation</i> , by Bernardino Luini. After c. 1515 painting by Milanese painter Bernardino Luini. Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	Oct. 25, 2007	41¢	Richard Sheaff
4359	<i>Christmas: Virgin and Child with the Young John the Baptist</i> , by Sandro Botticelli. After c.1490 painting by Italian painter Sandro Botticelli. Cleveland Museum of Art.	Oct. 23, 2008	42¢	Richard Sheaff

4360- 4363, 4364- 4367, 4368- 4371	Holiday Nutcrackers, 4 designs	Oct. 23, 2008	42¢	Derry Noyes; nutcrackers made by Glenn A. Crider based on sketches and notes of Sally Andersen- Bruce, who later photographed them
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HISTORIAN
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
DECEMBER 2008