

DECEMBER 2020



365 Picture Today

365 Picture Today!

It's December, the last month of this crazy year called 2020, the end of our inaugural year here at 365 Picture Today, and the time of year where many of us take a moment to stop and reflect on the last twelve months. Despite all of the difficulties that 2020 has thrown at us, hopefully you will find in looking back through your daily photos that there were also many bright spots.

In January, we set out to nurture and sustain a community of people committed to documenting daily life one photo at a time. The 365 Picture Today Team has been small, but mighty. Our goal was to provide enough challenge to keep the community engaged, and also enough familiarity to not create frustration or discomfort. Little did we know back in January how important both of those things would become this year.

For many of us, our daily photos became the constant in an otherwise unpredictable year. The daily moments with our cameras provided an escape from all of the "stuff" that was going on in the world. Picking up our cameras daily was the encouragement we needed to find something every day that was worthy of documenting. I suspect that somewhere in our 366 photos from this year, each of us has memories of the pandemic, as we should. The purpose of daily photography project like this is to find a beautiful and creative way to document real life, even when real life in and of itself is not pretty.

Amidst it all, we have all been in it together. We are grateful for all of you who have been on this journey with us this year, who have shared your days and your families with us, who have trusted this community to lift you up when you were feeling down, or have honored us by allowing us to join in celebrating with your triumphs.

As the year comes to a close, take time to reflect on these past twelve months. Scroll through your daily photos. Acknowledge the struggles. Give thanks for the blessings. Hold on to the moments of hope and beauty. Remember that a single photo or a single day is just a page, maybe even only a paragraph in the book. It takes all 366 photos to tell the whole story of this year.

The 365 Picture Today Team wishes all of you love, peace, health, and happiness as we celebrate this holiday season and bring 2020 to a close.

Amy, Garnett, Kris and Lee



DECEMBER 1 Eat a Red Apple Day

Today is "Eat a Red Apple" Day. Welcome to December and the home stretch of our first year of 365 Picture Today.

Since it's December, we are going to translate that red apple to red Christmas ornaments! But don't eat them.

How can you highlight your Christmas ornaments? You can add lights or contrast. In the example photo, I did both. I used the white cloth and lights to really make the red pop.

Garnett



DECEMBER 2
Mutt Day

National Mutt Day encourages us to embrace, save and celebrate mixed breed dogs twice a year on July 31st and December 2nd.

To make this holiday themed, think about Christmas decor that includes animals. There are Santa's reindeer, the Christmas Mouse, Christmas Teddy Bears, etc. I happen to have an extensive collection of fox-themed Christmas decor. A dear friend gave me this gorgeous plate.

Try adding little details to the image. I used a Christmas tablecloth and some candies. Think about things that can enhance your subject.

Garnett



DECEMBER 3
Package Protection Day
BLACK & WHITE

National Package Protection Day encourages homeowners to stay alert during these high delivery times. The Wednesday after Thanksgiving is a time to remind us to protect our homes against package theft, which becomes more and more prevalent during the holidays.

I don't know about you, but even before the COVID-19 pandemic, I did a lot of on-line ordering. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas there is something delivered to my house daily.

Have you starting wrapping your gifts yet? Has anyone give you a gift to unwrap yet? Since it's B&W day, try to find wrapping paper or bows or tags that are textured or patterned to really show off the details.

Garnett



DECEMBER 4
Sock Day

This day is right up my alley! I love socks! They are such a fun way to express yourself. I love it that men are starting to embrace the crazy sock fad as well. I took this photo last Christmas of my son and nephews. It makes me smile. Even though I have many fun socks myself, I always enjoy looking at what other people wear.

Do you have fun holiday socks? Patterned? Colorful? If you don't, do you know someone else who does?

If you aren't in the sock mood or socks are not your thing, try to photograph something really colorful with wild holiday patterns. You could use a tablecloth, Christmas tree skirt, placemats, etc.

Garnett



DECEMBER 5
Rhubarb Vodka Day

It's National Rhubarb Vodka Day. The first Saturday in December each year provides the perfect time to mix a cocktail with your favorite rhubarb vodka.

I had never heard of this drink, but there are plenty of other holiday beverages that I enjoy.

Think about how to make your beverage festive today. In my example photo I have used Christmas Tree bokeh as the backdrop. Do you have festive holiday stemware? However you want to highlight your favorite holiday beverage is up to you. If you have a particular recipe you'd like to share, the community would love to have it!

Cheers!

Garnett



DECEMBER 6
Saint Nicholas Day

On December 6th, Saint Nicholas Day recognizes the third-century saint who became an inspiration for the modern-day Santa Claus. St. Nicholas is known for selling all his possessions and giving his money to the poor. He dedicated his whole life to serving the sick and suffering.

Legendary stories about St. Nicholas later become part of the inspiration for the modern-day Santa Claus. While St. Nicholas Day is not to be confused with Christmas, there are similarities. Traditionally, shoes were left by fires at night so they could dry. St. Nicholas Day traditions include leaving gifts in shoes (or stockings) and the exchange of small gifts.

Whether you leave them in front of a fire or not, today is a good day to document your favorite shoes and/or socks. And who knows...if you happen to leave them on the doorstep or in front of the fire, maybe St. Nicholas will leave you a special treat!

Kris



DECEMBER 7
Cotton Candy Day
SELF PORTRAIT

Cotton candy is not something that I think about at this time of year, but I do think about things that are soft, and fluffy, and kind of magical...and maybe even a little pink, which are all attributes of cotton candy.

Today is also self portrait day, the last one of 2020! Think about some characteristic of cotton candy and incorporate it into today's self portrait. Soft pajamas and a cup of hot chocolate topped with soft fluffy marshmallows do the trick! Or, maybe a soft photo with soft processing.

And, if cotton candy is your kind of thing, go ahead and include it in your photo.

The most important thing about today's self portrait is that we see and honor beautiful you!

Kris



DECEMBER 8

Pretend to Be A Traveler Day

In light of travel restrictions this year, many of us have had almost a year to pretend to be travelers! Oh to be a child again when our imagination could take us anywhere that we wished to go, when we didn't have to worry about travel restrictions of any kind. Those were the days!

Today, photograph what you do to get away. Where do you go? How do you travel? You may go for a few minutes, a few hours, the entire day, or maybe longer.

Use your imagination! This may be a good day to try a fun lens, or prism, or shooting through plastic or bubble wrap to add a bit of creativity. Be that child that knew no limits!

Kris



DECEMBER 9

Pastry Day

A pastry is defined as "an item of food consisting of sweet pastry with a cream, jam, or fruit filling." I am generally not a fan of cream fillings, but all bets are off when it comes to Bumpy Cake. The Chocolate Fudge Bumpy Cake features rich Devil's food cake topped with buttercream bumps and draped in delicious fudge icing. This cake is AMAZING!!!

IT is great when you have friends that live all over. The Bumpy Cake is a regional specialty from Michigan. I never would have known about it if I hadn't been given a Bumpy Cake as gift by an amazing friend who lives in Michigan.

Is your area known for a special pastry or treat? Or, maybe you are known by your family and friends as the maker of a holiday treat that they love.

Photograph a favorite pastry today.

Kris



DECEMBER 10

Dewey Decimal System Day

"As the most widely used library classification system, the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) or Dewey Decimal System has been in use since 1876. That was the year when American Librarian Melvil Dewey developed and established it. Divided into ten main categories, the numerical system arranges mostly non-fiction publications. Since its inception, the system has been maintained and kept pace with modern technologies. A schedule of expansions and revisions helps keep the system current and progressive."

For many of us, the colder temperatures and shorter days means that we have more time to spend curled up with a good book. And for many, the holidays bring with them a tradition of reading special stories together. For our family, that tradition involves opening a package with a book for the twenty-four days leading up to Christmas. Some of the books get rewrapped each year and some are new. And the 24th will always be **A Visit from St. Nicholas**. All of the stories will not be remembered, but hopefully the feelings of gathering as a family as sharing this special time will be.

Do you have a holiday tradition that involves a special book? Or, do you have a stack of books waiting for you to read once the busyness of the holidays turns to calm?

Photograph what you are reading, what you wish you were reading, or a special holiday book.

Kris



DECEMBER 11
App Day

In the midst of the holiday rush, sometimes we don't have the time to spend editing our photos. Those days call for a "snap it and app it" approach...take a quick photo and use an app to edit.

Today, pretend that you are taking a marketing photo for your favorite app. The subject is up to you. When you post your photo, share the app that you used and why it is your favorite.

One of my favorites is Hipstamatic. It has a wide variety of lens and film combinations. I like it because I often know the "feel" I want a photo to have but don't have the time to spend tweaking all of the settings to create it myself.

Kris



DECEMBER 12
Gingerbread House Day

Gingerbread house building is the ultimate in playing with your food. I've never been one to make a gingerbread house myself, but I love the ones created by others. I'm more about making plain gingerbread and eating the candy decorations along the way.

Are you a gingerbread house builder? If so, show us your architectural skills today. If not, maybe you can find a gingerbread house built by someone else. Or, you can keep it simple and share whatever it is that you are creating as part of your holiday baking.

Kris



DECEMBER 13
Cocoa Day

Hmmm, a good day to start the week! You can't beat a warm cup of cocoa on a winter day. But hang on, mostly we have hot chocolate not a drink of cocoa.

Here in Belgium we do everything chocolate, and well if you can't beat them you join them!

So what do you drink when you want to be warm after a quick stroll through the park!

Lee

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DECEMBER 14
Prompt Free

What are you up today?

Lee



DECEMBER 15
Wear Your Pearls Day
PICTURE YOUR DAY

Wear Your Pearls Day on December 15th reminds us that when life throws dirt our way, we all have value in the end. The beautiful result of nature's design, one irritating grain of sand can cause an iridescent pearl to form.

If you have some pearls and you want to put them on and photograph them, please do!

The rest of us, have you tried taking a photo of a Christmas tree lights out of focus, it looks like pearls?

Show us how you rock your pearls!

Lee



DECEMBER 16
Chocolate Covered Anything Day

If you could cover anything in chocolate, what would it be? So many foods improve when we dip them in chocolate. Businesses have been built on a foundation of dipping food into chocolate. Whether you pick up a chocolate fountain or order a bouquet of a beautiful arrangement of chocolate-dipped fruit, celebrate!

Well I went with the make a Christmas Tree out of some biscuits that have been dipped in chocolate, and just chocolate with some lights!

Show us which food that you like covered in chocolate!

Lee



DECEMBER 17
Wright Brothers Day

Orville Wright made the first flight for 12 seconds and 120 feet around the site of the Wright Brothers National Memorial, just south of Kitty Hawk on December 17, 1903. While the Wright Brothers were not the first to build and fly experimental aircraft, they are recognized as the first to invent aircraft controls that made fixed-wing flight possible.

Can you show flight of anything that you have around. I managed this photo by hanging the StormTroopers Craft from the ceiling and took a photo, then processed with Lightroom, by cloning out the wires.

What do you have flying around today?

Lee



DECEMBER 18
Arabic Language Day

More than 290 million people speak the Arabic language. This makes Arabic one of the most widely spoken languages around the world.

As a child I lived in the Middle East and I actually learnt Arabic, and at the time was not to bad, these days I speak non! I use to be able to write a bit too.

To me Arabic script is beautiful to look at, so I went with adding beautiful script to my photo.

Add some beautiful font to your photo today!

Lee



DECEMBER 19
Hard Candy Day

Most hard candies are 100% sugar with flavouring and colours added. To achieve a hard candy, confectioners boil a sugar syrup to 320 degrees Fahrenheit. Once the temperature is reached, the hot, pliable sugar is poured into molds or rolled and folded into shapes and left to cool. Once cool, the solid sugar becomes hardened and brittle.

So do you have a few candy canes lying around, let us see some beautiful arrangements of this Christmas favourite!

Lee



DECEMBER 20

International Human Solidarity Day

Today seeks to raise awareness about the importance of solidarity across the globe. Solidarity is unity based on common interests, objectives and standards. It also refers to the ties in a society that bind people together as one. In 2005 the United Nations identified it as a universal value.

I'd like to think our shared interest in photography is a wonderfully creative tie that binds us all together and we are unified in our 365 POTD objective!

So in that unified spirit...let's share something interesting from our day with each other!

Amy



DECEMBER 21

Winter Solstice MACRO MONDAY

Today the Earth is tilted the farthest from the sun resulting in the shortest period of daylight and the longest night of the year!

So as photographers that means our window of natural light will be even more limited! So grab your photo early!

Today is also Macro Monday!

Get up close and make the details of winter stand out!

Amy



DECEMBER 22

Date Nut Bread Day

The national day calendar suggest munching your way through this delicious day! Dates, Nuts and Bread sounds like the making of a yummy treat! However, if that is not in your plans for today show us what deliciousness you are munching on!

Is there a seasonal favorite you can't get enough of?

Amy



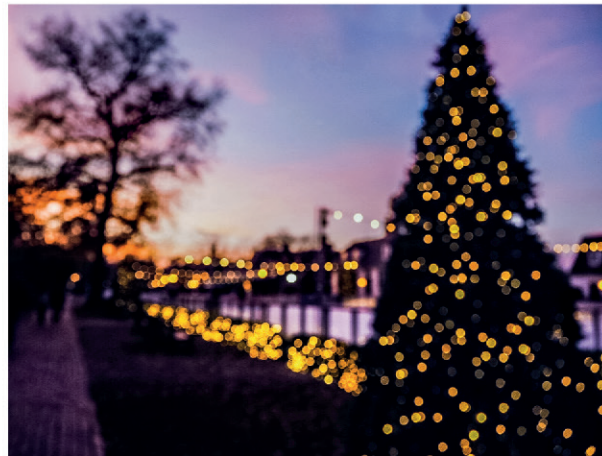
DECEMBER 23
Roots Day
COLOR DAY - GOLD

Roots Day encourages families to delve into their family history, heritage, and ancestry. Share a memory, document stories, and gather photos. It is a reminder of the importance of remembrance and recording names, places and dates before the details become fuzzy!

Throughout the holiday season I like to photograph our Christmas ornaments. Many of them have memories and stories attached; whether homemade, from our travels, or a gift from a friend.

Today document something and consider sharing a memory or it's story.

Amy



DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve kicks off a series of holiday traditions. Some are ancient practices with a modern spin, while others date back hundreds of years. Christmas Eve is filled with both religious and nonreligious traditions. Is there a tradition you enjoy? Maybe your holiday looks different this year and a new tradition is in order?

Here are few suggestions from the National Day Calendar:

- Attend church for a candlelight service or Midnight Mass
- Read the account of Jesus' birth from the book of Luke
- Put out milk and cookies for Santa
- Pass out Christmas cookies and other goodies to your neighbors
- Host an ugly Christmas sweater party
- Gather around the tree with your family and cups of cocoa and share favorite holiday memories
- Go caroling in your neighborhood or at a senior center
- Make a gingerbread house
- Hang up Christmas stockings
- Read Christmas classics like *The Night Before Christmas* and *A Christmas Carol*
- Watch a fun Christmas movie like *Elf*, *Home Alone*, or *The Grinch*
- Rent a limo and look at Christmas lights

The last one is our family favorite...minus the limo ;)

Amy



DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day

From the team at 365 Picture Today

Wishing you peace, joy and happiness - now and always!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Amy, Garnett, Kris and Lee



DECEMBER 26 Boxing Day

Boxing Day gets its name from a time when the rich used to box up gifts to give to the poor. Although its origins are unknown the holiday dates back to the 1800's and was seen as a day of goodwill.

It is a public holiday in the United Kingdom and other British Commonwealth countries such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Over the years the day has become associated with charity events, horse racing, swimming the icy waters of the English Channel, and football.

For others today starts the week long celebration of Kwanzaa and the 12 Days of Christmas have begun.

Show us what your day looks like!

Amy



DECEMBER 27 Fruitcake Day

Does anyone really like fruitcake? Maybe some of you in the community do! I have never been a fan. It does seem like it should be tasty when you look at all of the ingredients individually.

I have always heard jokes about fruitcake. Like, "it seems like no matter what you do to it, the fruitcake always returns." For decades people have been joking about what makes fruitcake so funny, or nasty, and about the countless other things you can do with it besides eat it (i.e. use it as a doorstop). And a few people along the way have made some hilarious jokes about the dreaded holiday "dessert" that still crack us up!

If you enjoy fruitcake, and you happen to have one, take a lovely photo and show us. If you don't, choose another favorite holiday dessert.

I, personally, enjoy Christmas Cookies! In a few days, we will all be trying to diet and take off the holiday pounds. Let's go ahead and enjoy dessert today!

Garnett



DECEMBER 28 Card Playing Day

National Card Playing Day on December 28th encourages us to invite our friends to deal out a hand and play a game or two. With COVID still around, you may have to just play with your immediate family.

Did you receive any new games for Christmas?

Puzzles?

Let's use today to have a little fun before it's time to put all of the holiday decorations away.

Garnett



DECEMBER 29
Tick Tock Day
PHONE PHOTO

According to the National Day Calendar, Tick Tock Day, observed annually on December 29th, reminds us to complete any unfinished business that might need addressing before the end of the year. As the end of the year approaches, there are some things worth considering. Unfinished business usually needs to be wrapped up before the end of the calendar year. Things like larger business purchases and charitable donations for the tax year may need to be transacted before December 31st.

Today's photographic challenge is to capture time. What represents time to you? An Hourglass, watch, clock? It's up to you to show us how you want to capture the moment.

Garnett



DECEMBER 30
Falling Needles Family Fest

Falling Needles Family Fest Day on December 30th serves as a reminder to clean up and recycle the live Christmas tree. A live Christmas tree can dry out and the needles can surely make a mess. They can also become a fire hazard.

Let's use today to capture some evergreen. You can take photos of your wreath or Christmas Tree. Or, you can take a walk in the woods.

Garnett



DECEMBER 31
New Year's Eve

Can you believe it? We made it to the end of 2020. What a year it has been. I am sure as we reflect on this year, we will think about the challenges, but my hope is that we will also remember the good times and our resilience.

One thing I have learned is that there will always be problems and challenges. There may not always be a pandemic, but there will always be something to deal with. We can't always change our circumstances, but we can control how we react to each of them.

Let's celebrate the tough year we just lived through and look forward with hopeful expectation to the new year ahead.

Thank you, 365 Picture Today Community, for being there. We have supported one another and encouraged each other. Our virtual friendship has deepened.

Here's to you!

Garnett

365 Picture Today

DECEMBER PROMPTS

- 1 Eat a Red Apple Day
- 2 Mutt Day
- 3 **B&W** - Package Protection Day
- 4 Sock Day
- 5 Rhubarb Vodka Day
- 6 Saint Nicholas Day
- 7 **Self Portrait** - Cotton Candy Day
- 8 Pretend to Be A Traveler Day
- 9 Pastry Day
- 10 Dewey Decimal System Day
- 11 App Day
- 12 Gingerbread House Day
- 13 Cocoa Day
- 14 Prompt Free
- 15 **Picture Your Today** - Wear Your Pearls Day
- 16 Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- 17 Wright Brothers Day
- 18 Arabic Language Day
- 19 Hard Candy Day
- 20 International Human Solidarity Day
- 21 **Macro Monday** - Winter Solstice
- 22 Date Nut Bread Day
- 23 **Color Gold** - Roots Day
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day
- 27 Fruitcake Day
- 28 Card Playing Day
- 29 **Phone** - Tick Tock Day
- 30 Falling Needles Family Fest
- 31 New Year's Eve

365 Picture Today

WHERE ARE WE HEADED IN 2021?

Congratulations! We have survived (almost) the year 2020!

When we started this journey together in January, we had no idea what would lie ahead. Thank you, again, for sticking with us this first year of 365 Picture Today. There were some bumps and rough roads along the way, but you supported the team, and each other, through it all!

The team chose to follow the national day calendar for 2020 as a departure and springboard for the new 365 Picture Today. Some of you loved it; some of you hated it. We on the team loved it and we on the team hated it. The team appreciates all of your feedback and ideas. We have sorted through it all, discussed it, tried to incorporate as much as we could, and developed a plan for moving forward.

We have added 3 new team members. Please welcome **Danette Badger**, **Lysle Barmby**, and **Diane Perry Russon** to the Team! We are so thankful to be able to spread some of the workload and get some new creative juices flowing. These ladies are going to be awesome!

We are moving back to word prompts. Some of them will be emotive and inspirational and some of them will be concrete and tangible. We will have weekly themes. The themes will bring back personal and color weeks as well as technical and creative weeks. We will have repeating prompts. There will be less food prompts. There will be quarterly challenges. We are keeping the community spotlight. There will be blog posts for inspiration and instruction.

The e-book will be streamlined and simplified. The last page of the book will include all of the word prompts for the month for easy access.

We will continue with daily features on Instagram and weekly features on Facebook.

The team is very EXCITED to head into 2021 with our new format. We think you will like it!

Be on the look-out for e-mail sign-ups and the new 2021 facebook group.

Thank you for being such a great community. You have become family to us and we can't wait to capture life with you in 2021!

PHOTOGRAPHY TIP OF THE MONTH

COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT

Being a part of a community with common interests reduces stress, gives a sense of belonging, provides support, and creates friendships. Thank you for being the BEST Community ever!

365 Picture Today TEAM



AMY

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This year I experimented more with editing apps like Mextures. They are a great way to give an ordinary photo a fun twist. The filter and overlay combinations are truly endless!



GARNETT

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A new photography skill I learned in 2020 was how to use textures in photoshop. I really like how you can harness light and shadows with each texture.



KRIS

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My greatest take away from 2020 is that I learned not to force the photo...things are not always going to be perfect because life is not perfect. I learned to relax and shoot the image that is in front of me. That is real life and that is what I want to remember, imperfections and all.



LEE

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I have learnt a lot about photography this year, nothing completely new but have managed to practice all sorts of skills using mainly Lightroom, which was my goal, not to rely on Photoshop. I have learnt to trust myself and to believe in my photography for me.