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A New England Tradition Returns: Old Sturbridge Village Presents Christmas by Candlelight 2025

*Step into a historic Christmas with caroling, carriage rides, tree-lighting,
Santa Claus and more*

Tickets On Sale Now - Early Discounts Available

Sturbridge, M.A., November 5, 2025 - Experience the magic of the holiday season with one of New England's most beloved traditions as [Christmas by Candlelight](#) returns to **Old Sturbridge Village** on select dates from **November 28 through December 30, 2025**.

For more than 20 years, this festive experience has welcomed thousands of visitors eager to experience the magic, history, and charm of an early New England Christmas brought to life across the Village's scenic grounds.

Visitors will be transported to a **cozy, firelit village** aglow with hundreds of candles, lanterns, and twinkling lights. There will be **live acoustic music, horse-drawn carriage rides, baking over crackling wood fires**, and visits **with Santa Claus himself**. Each night, guests can gather for a **heartwarming tree-lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m.**, stroll the enchanting **Christmas Tree Trail** - featuring more than 100 beautifully decorated evergreens - and cross the magical **Wish Bridge**, where thousands of heartfelt Christmas wishes are left each year. They can savor seasonal treats, discover one-of-a-kind gifts, and soak in the charm of a holiday celebration unlike any other in New England.

Lastly, throughout Christmas by Candlelight, costumed **historians** will reenact the spirit of the season through **immersive craft demonstrations, storytelling, and timeless holiday traditions** - offering visitors a glimpse into how families celebrated nearly two centuries ago.

"Christmas by Candlelight offers a truly unique way to celebrate the season - by slowing down and stepping back in time," said **Rhys Simmons, Director of Interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village**. "We're proud to provide an experience that blends New England charm, history, and holiday spirit in a way that delights families year after year."

Highlights of Christmas by Candlelight

- **Sparkling Lights & Festive Sightings** - The Village will shine with lanterns, string lights, and beautiful Christmas decorations. Guests can stroll along the **Christmas Tree Trail**, enjoy a **horse-drawn carriage ride**, cross the magical **Wish Bridge**, and gather for the **4:30 p.m. tree-lighting ceremony** held each evening.
- **Merry Music** - Live performances by local musicians will fill the Village as part of *Upon a Midnight Clear: An Acoustic New England Christmas*, presented by ClockJack Productions - featuring cherished carols and beloved holiday favorites.
- **Cozy Christmas Traditions** - Discover the history behind classic holiday customs like nutcrackers, stockings, and homespun gifts. Enjoy mulled **cider, gingerbread**, and a **600+ piece miniature nativity**, and explore winter celebrations from around the world - this year highlighting **French-Canadian traditions**.
- **Santa and Storytelling** - Meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus in their warm and cozy cabin and be captivated by the enchanting sights and sounds of miniature trains as a **full-model train display** captivates guests of all ages.
- **Creative Crafts** - Watch skilled artisans bring history to life - see the tinner at work, visit with the printer, watch the potter spin clay, observe stockings being knit, and witness cabinetmakers crafting wooden toys. Guests of all ages can also **take home a free craft kit** to continue the holiday creativity at home.
- **Delicious Delights** - Warm up with a comforting cup of soup or stew, then relax by the bonfire with **hot cocoa, cider, or a signature cocktail**.
- **Stocking Stuffers** - Find the perfect holiday gifts at the **Ox & Yoke Mercantile**, featuring Village-made pottery, tin, candy, spices, and ornaments. The shop opens at **1:00 p.m.** or visitors can **shop online** for holiday delivery.
- **Gingerbread House Contest** - Join a beloved *Christmas by Candlelight* tradition and marvel at the imaginative creations in the Village's **annual Gingerbread House Contest** and cast a vote for a favorite. Feeling inspired? **Enter your own sweet masterpiece by November 16th here!**

Christmas by Candlelight Tickets and Event Details:

- Tickets are limited and expected to sell quickly. Members and non-members alike can save by **purchasing tickets online** before **November 28th**.
- **Christmas by Candlelight** runs from **2:00 to 8:00 p.m.** on the following dates: November 28, 29, 30 and December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
- **Tickets are timed in arrival blocks** - 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00 p.m. - and guests may arrive any time after the start time listed on their ticket. All activities are ongoing or

repeat throughout the evening, **with the exception of the special lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m.**

Christmas by Candlelight 2025 is made possible through the generous support of Country Bank, Southbridge Credit Union, The Overlook, and the Publick House.

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MEDIA - *For additional b-roll, images, and interview requests, please contact Angela Giovanello at pr@osv.org.*

About Old Sturbridge Village

Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is New England's largest living history museum, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. More than 200,000 visitors interact with costumed historians each year, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on more than 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection of more than 40 historic buildings - including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms, restaurants, shops, and three water-powered mills.

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass., Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. For details, visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.