

coverstory

BY MICHELLE WILSON

"I Want a Dog for Christmas, Charlie Brown" airs Sunday on ABC.



Naughty or nice? Santa's made a list and checked it twice

With just a few days left until the "big day," the scheduling elves are hard at work, making sure viewers get their fill of all the holly, jolly programming TV has to offer.

As the on-screen Santas are eager to deliver these programming packages, we took a sneak peek at who's been naughty and nice this holiday season.

Nice – Food Network: There's sugar, spice and everything nice as the candied cable net bakes up the season finale of "Holiday Gingerbread Showdown" on Sunday, Dec. 22, followed by the season finales of "Holiday Baking Championship" and "Christmas Cookie Challenge" on Monday, Dec. 23. Here's hoping Eddie Jackson left a cold glass of milk for the big guy.

Nice – CBS: The network offers up its annual tradition of spotlighting inspirational stories of lives changed through adoption in Sunday's telecast of "A Home for the Holidays With Idina Menzel." Kids and Christmas go together like Rudolph and his nose-so-bright. Speaking of bright lights, "Come on down!" as the "The Price Is Right" unwraps two nights of holiday-themed specials featuring the cast of "SEAL Team" and Seth Rogen, airing Sunday and Monday.

Naughty – Frank Shirley, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation": Because, what other list would you be on by being a cheap, lying, no-good, rotten, four-flushing, low-life, snake-licking, dirt-eating ... well, you get the drift. Though it's been airing throughout the month on AMC, the season wouldn't

be complete without the film's Christmas Eve showing on Tuesday, Dec. 24. No Tylenol needed.

Naughty – Higbee's department store Santa in "A Christmas Story": Poor Ralphie shouldn't have been criticized by Santa for his gift request. Sure, Ralphie may take a ricochet BB to the glasses, but the "icicles on the garage" take the rap. TBS and TNT offer their 24-hour marathon.

Nice – NBC: The Peacock Network offers up its traditional showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" on Christmas Eve (Tuesday) as well as "Christmas Eve Mass" later in the evening.

Naughty – The Grinch, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas": OK, though it's airing Wednesday, Dec. 25, on NBC, and he turns good in the end, it's still a steep uphill climb from being a three-decker sauerkraut and toadstool sandwich with arsenic sauce!

Nice – ABC: Happiness is a warm puppy as Sunday brings "I Want a Dog for Christmas, Charlie Brown"; "Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town" arrives Tuesday; "Disney Parks Magical Christmas Day Parade" marches out Wednesday.

Naughty – "Twisted Sister: A Twisted Christmas Live": Sorry. The sweet sounds of the holidays shouldn't be "twisted" through heavy metal. This airs Tuesday on AXS TV.

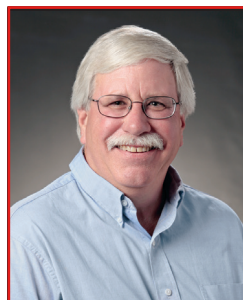
Naughty – "Bad Santa" (2003): Need we say more? MTV offers up this Billy Bob Thornton-starring comedy Tuesday. We're sure there will be coal found in that stocking.

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