

Vecer on Line

Carols will announce the birth of Christ

Christmas Eve and Christmas – holidays for the family

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Christmas Eve is the night of peace, joy and unity when awake we welcome the birth of Christ. Every Orthodox family in their homes decorated with Christmas Eve branches symbolically anticipate news of the birth of Jesus Christ, and when the major holiday Christmas arrives, they will congratulate with the words "Christ is born – certainly he is born."



Orthodox Christian pilgrims celebrate Christmas Eve tomorrow, the day before the big Christmas holiday. According to the Julian calendar, each year, Christmas Eve is on January 6, and Christmas on January 7 - wonderful days when families expect harmony and celebrate the news of Christ's birth.

On Christmas Eve, even from dawn, the voices of children-carols are heard in every house, and with those carols for health and prosperity, symbolize the voice of angels for the birth of Jesus Christ. The hosts give them chestnuts, walnuts, apples, pears in order to preserve this beautiful tradition which is passed from generation to generation.

Macedonians with great respect mark these major holidays, when everyone needs to forget the bad and to give an opportunity for kindness to make people happy. Even the unhappiest and the most deplorable should put a smile on their faces. At least for a moment, everyone should learn to forgive and to open their heart to others.



Christmas Eve is a holiday for the family. This day is not for visiting others and everyone should be in their homes with their closest. According to tradition, the whole family gathers in the evening around the Christmas Eve table, which should be festive and rich, but must be vegetarian (plus fish). Christmas Eve marks the end of the 40-day Advent fast. The housewives prepare baked beans, fish, stuffed cabbage leaves, doughnuts (Macedonian style), potatoes, and add fruit for a richer table.

Customs may vary depending on the location, but almost every table will have home-made bread, bread or the popularly known 'kravajche', in which a coin is placed. Once it (the bread) has been crossed, the host of the house divides the bread among the family members, but also leaves a piece for God and one for the home. It is believed that the one who finds the coin, will have health, happiness and success in the year ahead.

After dinner, the food is not removed from the table, because it is believed that the Lord would come at night to feed. Some leave the food because they believe the spirits of those who are no longer among us will come.

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Today every Orthodox family in their homes decorated with Christmas Eve branches symbolically anticipate news of the birth of Jesus Christ, and when the major holiday Christmas arrives, will congratulate with the words "Christ is born – certainly he is born."



Christmas is a holiday full of symbolism. Regardless of whether in your home Christmas is tradition or you are now studying the symbolism which is to be respected, do not forget that the essence of Christmas is love, forgiveness and compassion, not in the form, which is certainly a reflection of the essence, but which means nothing if you do not spread the spirit of love and compassion.

Tonight, however, on the occasion of tomorrow's celebration on Christmas Eve, in every village, every neighborhood will burn Christmas Eve fires.