

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN POLAND



# Is Christmas important in Poland?

Christmas is the most important holiday right after Easter

Christmas is important because Jesus Christ was born on that day

Christmas Eve commemorates this holiday.



## Advent in Poland

The Christmas period starts on December 1. In Polish churches, children and adults go to special services and call them "Roraty".

On this date, we are waiting for the birth of Jesus.

# “Roraty”

During the mass Children approach the altar lit by Advent lanterns. The church is lit only by candles on the altar and lanterns.

The Holy Mass begins with the extinction of the light, which symbolizes the darkness of sin that ruled over the world before the coming of Jesus Christ.

When we start to sing "Gloria", the lights come on. It symbolizes the coming of the Lord Jesus and the light he brings to us.

This is a photo of "Roraty"



# Advent wreath

Advent wreath has 4 candles and measures the time until the birth of Jesus Christ by lighting one candle each Advent Sunday

## Symbols

- Lighting candles- means alert for the coming of Christus. On Christmas Eve, all the candles lit symbolize the coming of Christ.
- Green symbolize lasting life
- Circle shape symbolize the eternity of god, which has no beginning or end, and the eternity of Jesus Christ's life
- The whole advent wreath is a symbol of God's people waiting in love and joy

This is an Advent wreath



# Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve begins in the evening of December 24.

Christmas Eve begins with the appearance of the first star. The appearance of the first star commemorates the appearance of the star of Bethlehem. That evening, the children look at the sky looking for the first star. Only when he shows up do family members sit down at the table.



# Meals and wafels

After the appearance of the first star, the whole family collapses with a wafer and commemorates the last dinner. When meals are on the table, everyone prays.

Then they sit down and eat 12 meals in memory of the 12 apostles.

In each region of Poland, the dishes are a bit different, but the majority of the country is carp. Our region includes: Carp, Red cabbage with mushrooms, Fish soup, dumpling with cabbage and mushrooms in the side, beans, compote, soak, borscht, potatoes, gingerbread.

There is a tradition that every meal on the table must be tasted, and that one cannot leave the table before everyone has finished dinner.



# Christmas gifts

In Poland it is celebrated by giving presents. Gifts are placed under the Christmas tree.

The tradition refers to the gifts that the Three Kings gave Jesus in Bethlehem.



# Money under the plate

There is also a tradition that people put money under the plate. People believe it brings good luck to finances.



# Hay under the tablecloth or table

Hay on the tablecloth or table symbolizes the poverty in which Jesus was born, and the white tablecloth resembles his clothes.

Hay symbolizes modesty, but it is also supposed to bring prosperity to the family.



# Christmas Carols in Poland

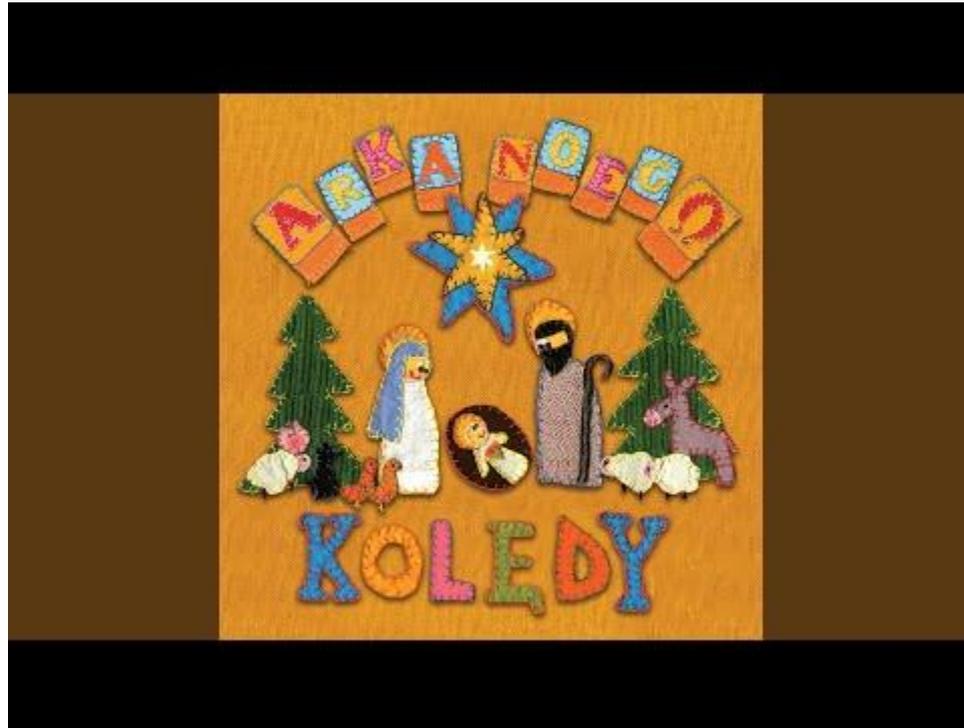
Christmas carols are songs about the birth of Jesus

In Poland there are many Carols and the most popular are:

- "Przybieżeli do Betlejem Pasterze"
- "Cicha noc, święta noc"
- "Pójdźmy wszyscy do stajenki"
- "Gdy się Chrystus rodzi"
- "Wśród nocnej ciszy"



# Carol: “Przybieżeli do Betlejem Pasterze”



Carol: “Cicha noc, święta noc”



Carol: “Pójdźmy wszyscy do stajenki”



# Carol: "Gdy się Chrystus Rodzi"



Carol: “Wśród nocnej ciszy”



And these are all our Christmas Eve traditions in Poland



Thank you for your attention.  
Merry Christmas!

