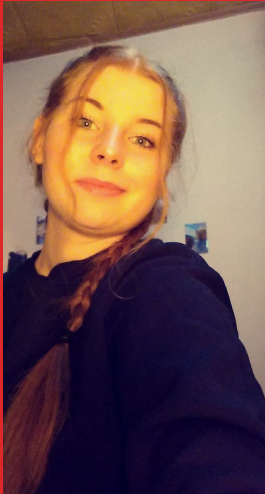




Christmas in Poland

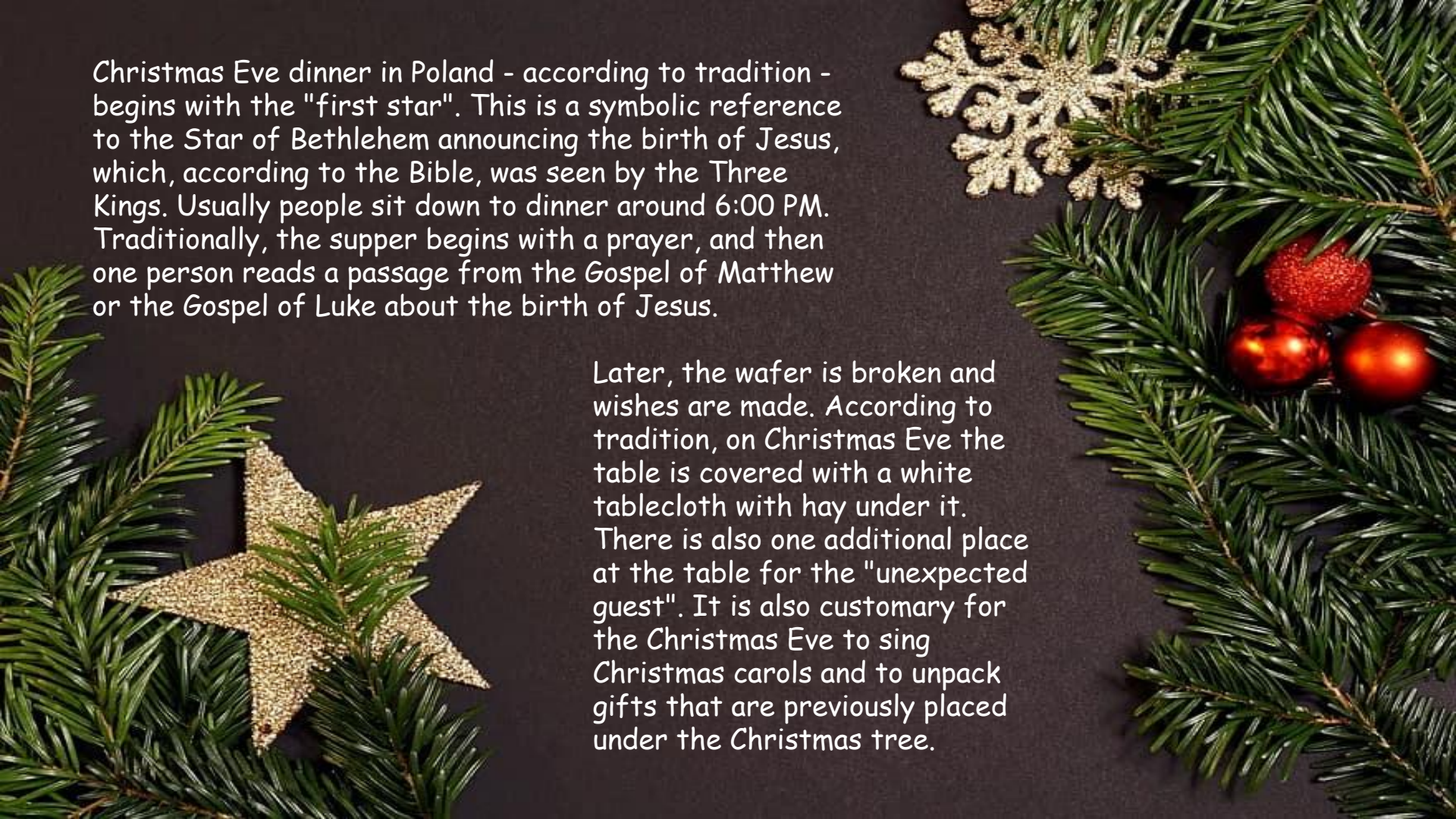
Hi! We are a group from Poland and we want to tell you a little about Christmas in our country. So Christmas is the most important holiday of the year for many Poles. This December Christmas time is for most people a family holiday. It is a period of summing up various spheres of life, especially relationships with loved ones, achieved successes, and the implementation of intended plans. Moreover, many traditions and customs are associated with this holiday, which is important to all Poles. Christmas in Poland lasts three days. They start on December 24, Christmas Eve, and end on December 26.



Celebrations on December 6 in Poland

Traditionally in Poland, Santa Claus Day is celebrated on December 6. The feast in honor of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, is celebrated in many ways and differs from region to region. One thing is certain - it appears unnoticed on the night of December 5-6 and leaves small gifts, sweets and fruit under the pillow.





Christmas Eve dinner in Poland - according to tradition - begins with the "first star". This is a symbolic reference to the Star of Bethlehem announcing the birth of Jesus, which, according to the Bible, was seen by the Three Kings. Usually people sit down to dinner around 6:00 PM. Traditionally, the supper begins with a prayer, and then one person reads a passage from the Gospel of Matthew or the Gospel of Luke about the birth of Jesus.

Later, the wafer is broken and wishes are made. According to tradition, on Christmas Eve the table is covered with a white tablecloth with hay under it. There is also one additional place at the table for the "unexpected guest". It is also customary for the Christmas Eve to sing Christmas carols and to unpack gifts that are previously placed under the Christmas tree.



Depending on a given region of Poland and family traditions, the amount and type of Christmas Eve dishes varies, but it is customary to include 12 different dishes on the Christmas Eve table.

The main
Christmas Eve
dish of Polish
cuisine is
fish,
especially
carp.



Borscht with dumplings



Mushroom soup



Cabbage with peas



Dumplings with cabbage and mushrooms



Compote of dried fruits



Kutia



Poppy



Poppy seed cake



Gingerbreads





Midnight Mass - a solemn mass celebrated at night (usually at midnight or in the evening) on December 24-25, as the second of the liturgical Christmas celebrations. Shepherdess commemorates the waiting and prayers of the shepherds on their way to Bethlehem. In Poland, it is one of the most important Christmas traditions.

On Christmas Eve gifts are brought by an Angel and Baby Jesus. It all depends on the region you live in.

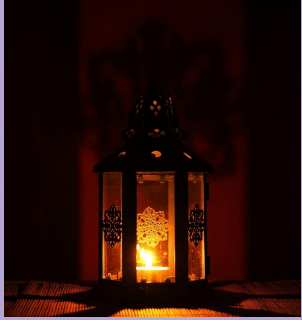


Advent

Advent is a period in Christian churches that lasts from the 1st vespers of the fourth Sunday preceding Christmas to the dusk of December 24, a period reminiscent of waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Advent consists of four Advent Sundays, the first of which begins the liturgical year in Christian churches. Advent is the time when Evangelicals and Catholics are to realize that they are waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. During Advent, the color purple dominates the liturgy.

It is a tradition in Catholic Churches to celebrate masses at dawn in this period, called rorats. These are Masses in honor of the Virgin Mary, in remembrance of the fact that she received the news from the Archangel Gabriel, who announced that she would become the Mother of the Son of God.



advent lantern



The Advent wreath



advent Calendar

Celebrating the New Year will feel familiar in many ways. They are decorated with houses, streets, cities. The meeting takes place at the table with family and friends.

Many prefer to celebrate the New Year at home, but many also go on trips to resorts or clubs.

City dwellers (and tourists with them) can meet for hours in central squares and then celebrate.

Mass festivals take place in the streets, and glossy themed sites. Champagne, fireworks and songs are inseparably connected with Polish culture



*Glory in the highest and peace on Earth!
Let this Christmas bring
You have a lot of love and joy.*



*Merry
Christmas*

