Slovak traditions on Christmas Eve

Jozef Jurko

Typical traditions on Christmas Eve in our family include:

Christmas Eve dinner

Christmas carols

Christmas presents

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve dinner

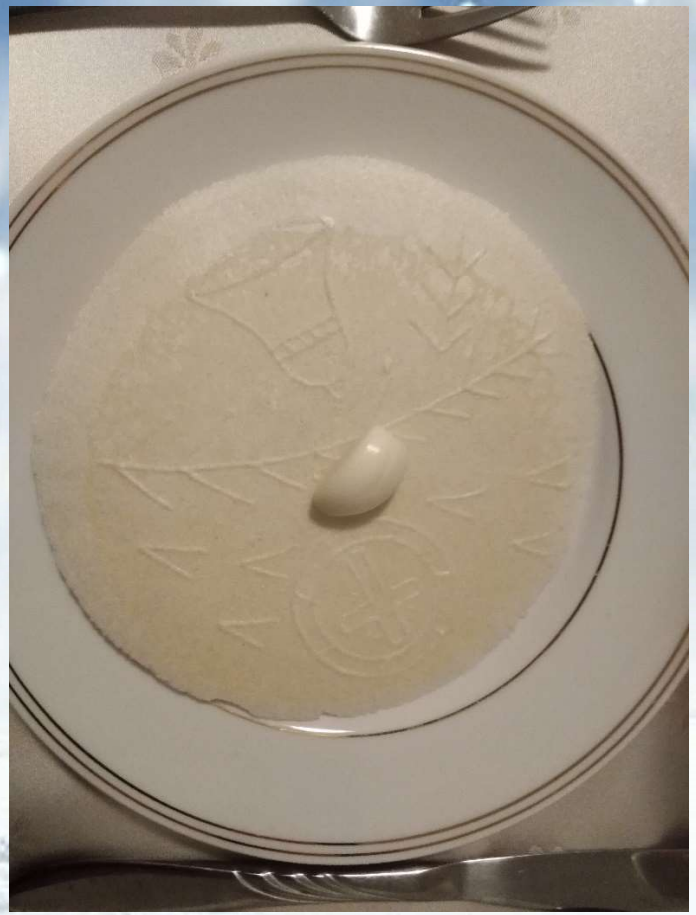
Christmas Eve diner is an integral part of Christmas Eve. All family members are together and eat traditional Christmas Eve meals. The table has to be pepared first.

We begin Christmas Eve dinner with a prayer.

After the prayer, the father of family puts a cross with honey on the foreheads of the family members.

Before we start eating, we cut one apple in half. If it's nice inside, next year will be good.

The first meal are waffers with honey. We also add a clove of garlic to them.



Next meal is traditional cabbage soup. It is eaten with potato pancakes, which we call bandurniky.

After cabbage soup we eat opekance. Opekance are small pieces of bread. They can have different flavors. We usually make cottage cheese, cabbage and poppy opekance.

The last meal is fish. We always have carp. We make carp on two styles: pure (with onion on butter) and horseshoe (coated)

Christmas carols

Carols are songs with a Christmas theme. They are sung at any time during Christmas, but especially on Christmas Eve.

Typical Christmas carols are:

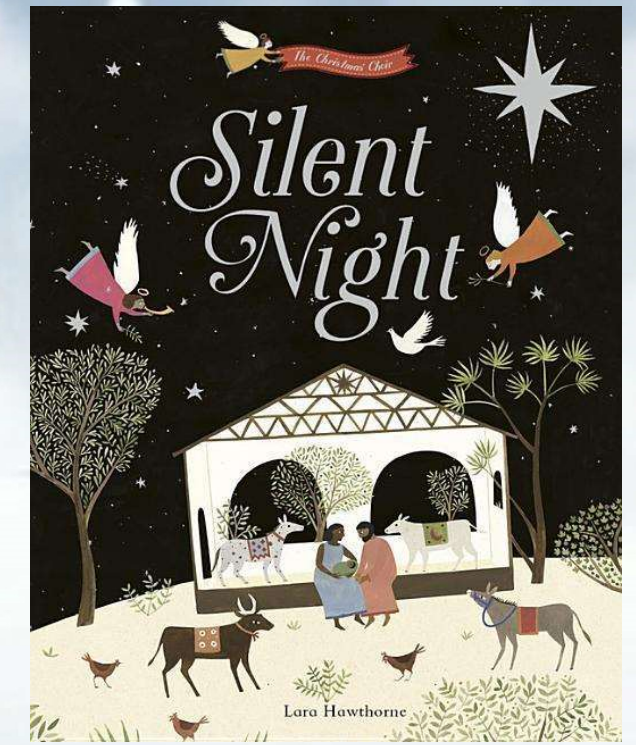
Silent Night

Búvaj dieťa krásne

Do hory, do lesa, valasi

Christ the Lord was born

Let's go, brothers, to Bethlehem



Christmas presents

Christmas Eve is also associated with presents that Jesus brings under the Christmas tree. Children are looking forward to unpack them. Presents tend to unwrap after Christmas Eve dinner.

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve is mainly about the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ. That is why the traditional midnight mass, when Jesus Christ was born, is associated with Christmas Eve.

Thank you for paying attention.