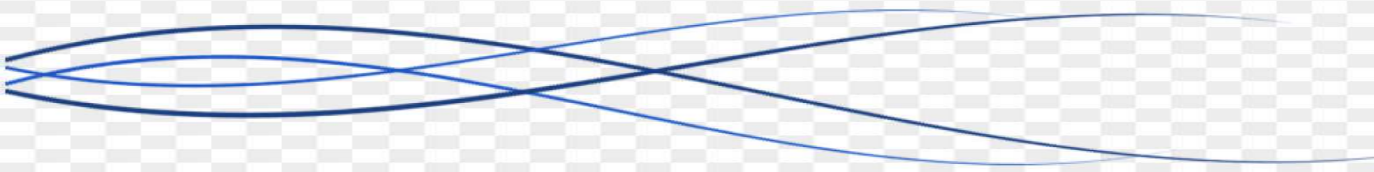


Every nation, every state has different customs and traditions that are passed down from generation to generation.

Every tradition can teach us something valuable about the country and its culture.



In our country Macedonia also has many customs and traditions that have remained from the past. Many holidays are celebrated here, such as Christmas, which is also celebrated in many Christian countries, Theophany, Carol - Singing Day, All Souls Day.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the day of Christ's birth according to Christian tradition. It is the second biggest holiday in Christianity after Easter.



Churches using the Gregorian calendar, including all Catholic, Protestant and most Orthodox churches, celebrate it on December 25th. Churches using the Julian calendar, including the Macedonian Orthodox Church, celebrate Christmas on January 7th.

Theophany or
Epiphany - the day on
which according to
Christian tradition St.
John the Baptist
baptized Jesus Christ
into the Jordan River.



THEOPHANY



It is celebrated on
January 19th in
churches using the
Julian calendar
(including Macedonia)
and on January 7th in
churches using the
Gregorian calendar.



This gives importance to baptism as one of the most sacred secrets of Christianity. Baptism also means spiritual birth, that is the beginning of human life in faith.

That is why the godfather is considered the spiritual parent of the baptized and closest relative. This holiday ends the twelve so-called Unbaptized days.



How is it celebrated in Macedonia?

In Macedonia, Theophany is celebrated with the arrival of all the believers in the church, church singing is held in the church and then the Holy Cross is thrown into the water (pool or river) anyone who wants can jump and try to catch the cross and the happiest is the one who will catch the cross.

CAROL- SINGING DAY

СЪКОГ- ПИПИНГ ДВА

Christmas Eve or Carol- singing day is the day before the birthday of Jesus Christ (Christmas), according to Christian tradition.



According to the Julian calendar, which is led by the Macedonian Orthodox Church, Christmas Eve falls on January 6th each year.



The essence of the holiday is in the joy of Christians before the great day - the birth of Christ. At the same time, this day ends the Christmas fast.



How is the Carol – Singing Day celebrated in Macedonia?



Traditionally, in Macedonia, the family gathers for dinner on Christmas Eve. Rich food is prepared exclusively with fast food.

On Christmas Eve, a unleavened cake with a coin is spinning.



Early in the morning on Christmas Eve, children sing and walk around the houses where they receive gifts such as nuts, chestnuts, money and more recently chocolates and sweets.

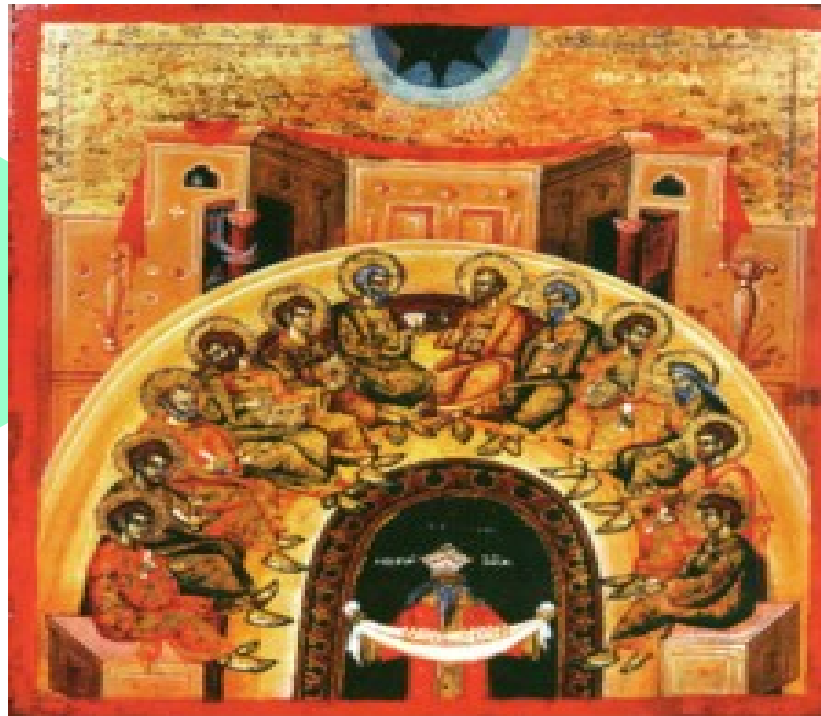
Also in the evening a fire is lit.



ALL SOULS DAY

All souls day one of the twelve possible Christian holidays.

One of the happiest and brightest holidays in Christianity celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles on the fiftieth day of Christ's resurrection.



The traditions and beliefs of the citizens of Bitola during the "All souls day" are giving food to the souls of the deceased.

Macedonian traditional cuisine

Tavche-gravche

Traditional Macedonian specialty. It is prepared from fresh Macedonian beans, first boiled and then baked.



Macedonian ajvar



Ajvar - a special kind of salad made of red peppers. Ajvar is one of the most delicious specialties and biggest secrets of Balkan cuisine, and originates from Macedonia.

Rakija

Alcoholic beverage popular in the Balkans. It is made almost exclusively from fruit, but there are rakia that are made from honey or nuts.



Stuffed peppers



Piperki polneti or peppers, are also stuffed very popular dish in Macedonia. Peppers are stuffed with ground meat with rice and spices then baked in the oven.

Zelnik

Zelnik is a popular phyllo stuffed pastry, usually filled with ground meat, spinach, cheese etc.



Sarma

Stuffed cabbage rolls, or sarma, is a traditional Macedonian food which is prepared mostly in winter.



Moussaka



There are plenty of moussaka recipes. Mainly it is prepared with potato slices and minced meat.

Shopska salad

When you say salad in Macedonia, you mean Shopska salad. People from all around the world say that they've never tasted such a good tomato or a cucumber as in Macedonia.



Piftija



Piftija is a traditional Macedonian dish usually served in winter.

Village pot

There are many recipes of village meat and everyone makes it according to their own taste. It's a traditional Macedonian dish, basically consisted of meat and onion. It is usually prepared in winter.

