

*Merry
Christmas!*

*Winter customs and
traditions in Bulgaria*





December



January



WINTER CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

December



St. Nicolas day



Christmas eve



Ignazhden

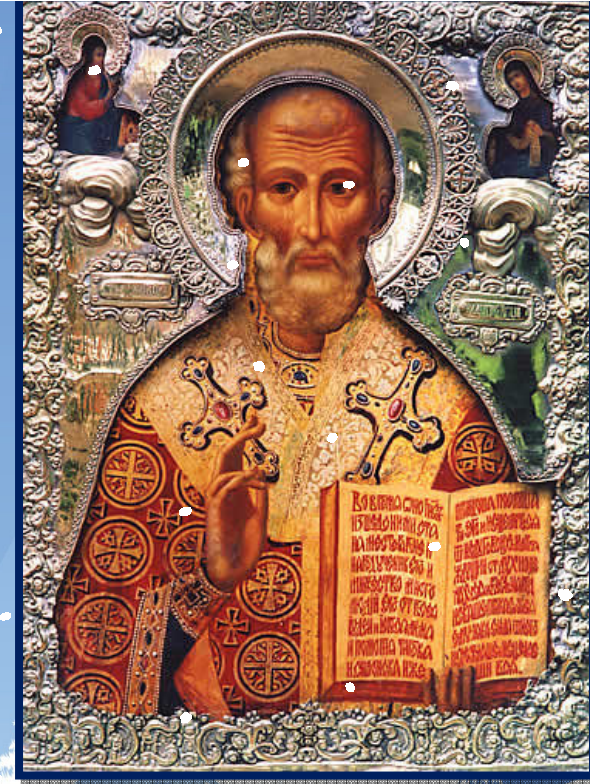


Christmas



Stefan's day

St. Nicolas day

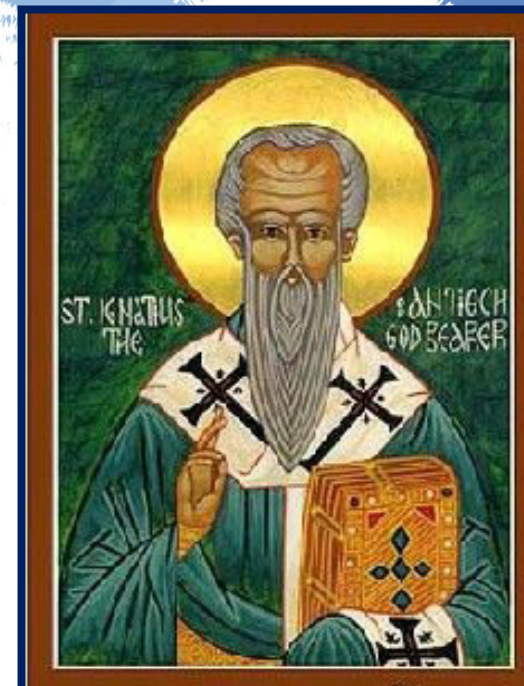


St. Nicolas day - 6th of December— is one of the biggest holidays with a strong family character. It's dedicated to Saint Nicolas, the patron of the sea, the sailors and fishermen. The most typical ritual is the preparing a special meal called Rybnik. The women carefully clean the fish flakes, so they don't fall on the floor, because it is believed that, if anyone steps on it, he will be sick and could die.

According to the Bulgarian tradition 20th December is the day we celebrate **Ignazden**. The hosts are careful who first will enter in their home this day (what is person's character) and guess what will be the year: successful or not. On the morning the oldest woman makes ritual bread and cooks vegetarian meals for lunch. In Western Bulgaria the women make special kolacheta like dolls.



Ignazden



Christmas Eve



Christmas Eve, called Little Christmas, is celebrated in family. Christmas Eve – is one of the biggest family holidays, left over the time in the arch of the Bulgarian national holidays. Christmas Eve is all about preparing for the big day-Christmas. Dinner can not begin until all its members don't gather around the festive table.

Christmas

In many Christian countries 25th December - Christmas is the most important holiday of the year. On this day in Bulgaria we could meet the carolers in bulgarian "KOLEDARI". They are unmarried men lead by a stanenik-their chief. The men play and sing in front of the people's doors. They say blessings for every member of the house and the hosts give them gifts. This day on the table we put bread, chicken, bean and other. If anyone wishes something on Christmas it wish will become true.



Stefanovden



27th of December according to the folk calendar is the last holiday of the year. The day is celebrated by families. The younger ones go to they're godparents and family members. In some places in Bulgaria the celebrations begin in honor of the mice. You can't go out at night or work with wool and sharp objects. Good wishes on this day are for health in the New year.



January



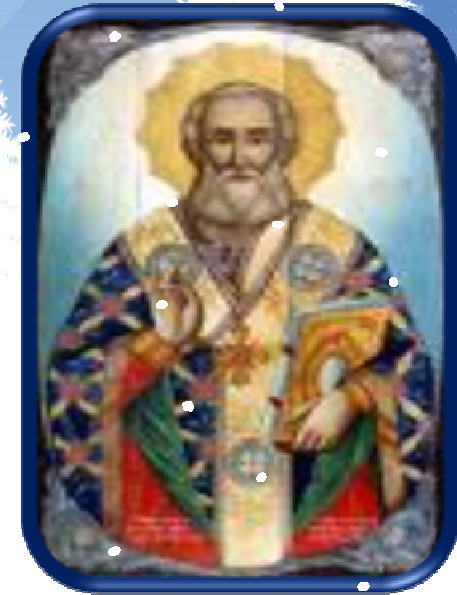
Vassil's day



Ivan's day



Jordan's day



Atanas's day



Vassil's day



The most famous in our national calendar is Vasilyovden, known today as New Year. It is marked in the early hours of January 1st. Little boys go in every house with their decorated cornel stick "SURVACHKA" in Bulgarian and they tell blessings for people they meet for the country and the agriculture. The owner of the house gives them gifts and money. Traditional holiday food: bread, boiled rooster, goose, dried fruit and other.

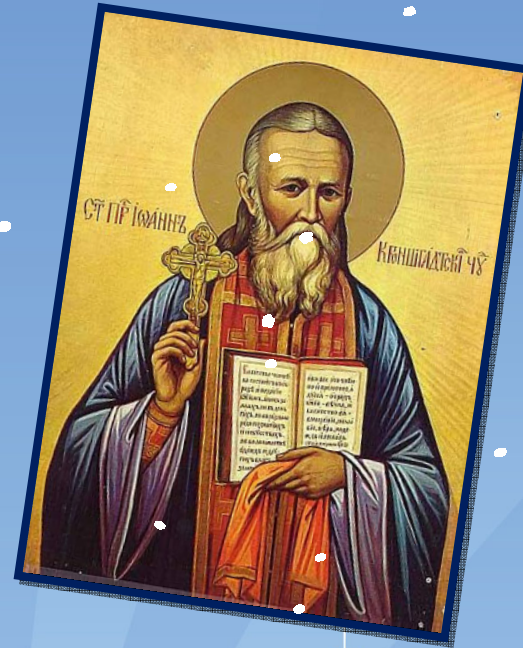
Jordanovden



This day is called Voditsi because anyone who wants to be healthy this year goes and washes himself in the river. The priest makes the ceremony, and then throws the cross into the water. Young men swim in competition and one, who will get the cross first, will have very good and successful year. The priest pour water for health, the girls wash their faces with it in order to be beautiful. On the table we put only meatless meals.



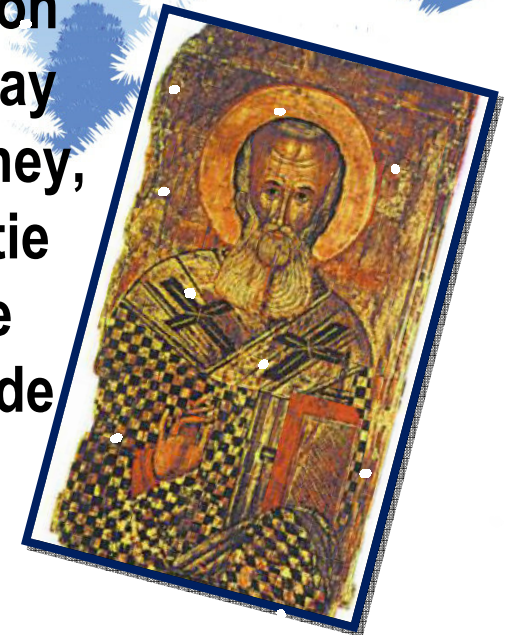
Ivanovden



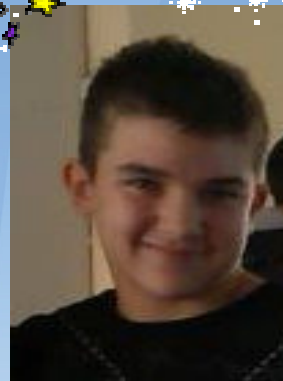
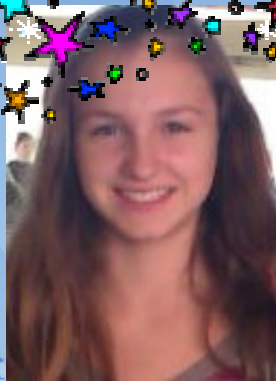
The rituals on 7th January are in honor of Saint Ivan. According to Bulgarian tradition on this day the ritual bathing is for the health. The couple's married a year ago do that. They bring with them wine, bread and meat. On the table we put boiled wheat, beans, dried fruits, pie, pudding, grilled sausage and pork ribs with cabbage.

Atanasovden

According to the traditional calendar, St. Atanas is the patron saint of pets. He takes off his jacket and put's on his dress. He goes into the mountains and chases away the winter. Housewives make and give cakes with honey, pierced with a sprig of basil. Young men and women tie swings, sing songs and dance. In some places people kill a black hen and give boiled wheat or specially made bread this ritual is health related.



Merry Christmas
Dear Comenius Friends



Made by:
Maria Topalova
and
Anatoliy Tsvetkov
7th "A" grade