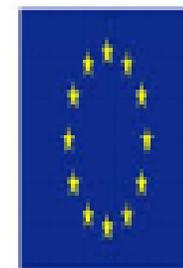


# 136 PS „ LUBEN KARAVELOV“

How we celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas  
in Bulgaria



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# Christmas Eve



- ▶ The symbolism of Christmas Eve
- ▶ On December 24, before the festive table is set, the owner of the house lights the Christmas tree - a cut trunk of oak, elm or pear tree. He mixes the Christmas tree with the Christmas tree, calling: "As many sparks, so many chicks, spikes, calves and children in my home!".
- ▶ The tree stays smoldering all night and keeps the fire alive. It is believed that the light and warmth of Christmas Eve symbolize not only the birth of Jesus Christ. With them on Christmas Eve we invite the dead ancestors and the Mother of God herself, for whom the first piece of bread is broken when breaking the festive ritual bread, to visit us.



## What to put on the table for Christmas Eve?

- ▶ Traditionally, there should be 7, 9 or 12 lean meals on the festive table - 7, because there are so many days in the week; 9, because the pregnancy lasts as long and 12 as the months of the year. According to the church, the food on the table can be up to 33 - the age at which Jesus Christ sacrificed himself to save the human race.
- ▶ The table should be rich and include everything produced in the household such as boiled wheat, boiled beans, sarma, stuffed peppers with beans or rice, oshav, pickles, onions, garlic, honey, walnuts and wine. A walnut is placed in the four corners of the room to illuminate the four corners of the world.



# The Christmas custom - coleduvane

Трапезата не се вдига цялата нощ, за да не избяга късметът. Вярва се, че когато домочадието заспи, близките покойници идват да вечерят. Когато настъпи полунощ и Коледа, тогава ще дойдат коледарите, тогава ще се роди Христос.



- ▶ At midnight on Christmas Eve before Christmas begins the custom of Christmas - the winter custom of fertility, health and luck.
- ▶ Christmas is attended by young men - soon married, engaged or single. They are called carolers, and in different parts of the country the word can sound like carolers.
- ▶ They start their preparation on St. Ignatius Day - December 20, when the separate caroling groups are formed, their leader is determined, who must be older than the others and married, they learn Christmas songs, the clothes are prepared. Tradition dictates that Christmas continue from midnight until sunrise.

## The Christmas custom - Coleduvane



- ▶ The carolers sing on the road, in front of the door and in the house. The ritual songs they perform are different, depending on where they are and the person they are singing about. Songs are sung for each member of the family - from the oldest to the youngest. With their songs, the carolers wish a good harvest and health to the family.





- ▶ The hosts usually give the carolers a cow, money, wine, and the custom itself ends with a feast at which all the carol groups gather. The products that remain after him are donated to the poor, and the money - to the community center, school and church.
- ▶ At Christmas, after the church service, everyone gathers for a dance, which is believed to symbolize longevity. The dinner on December 25 is much richer than the one on Christmas Eve, because meat is already allowed to be eaten.
- ▶ And last but by no means last, don't forget to make a wish at midnight on Christmas Eve! According to the legends, just then the sky dissolves and every wish comes true!

# CHRISTMAS IN BULGARIA

- ▶ Christmas is one of the best holidays. All Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. He was born on December 24-25 in Bethlehem, Judea. The duration of the holiday is 3 days - December 24, 25 and 26.
- ▶ People celebrate the holiday by gathering with their loved ones. For Christmas there is always a Christmas tree, which is decorated with toys, lights and garlands. On December 25, the children receive gifts from their relatives. Traditionally, Christmas cookies are made, which are decorated with warm colors.





- ▶ Santa Claus,
- ▶ also known around the world as Santa Claus, St. Nicholas and Chris Kringle, he is both a historical and a mythological figure. He is depicted as a round old man with a long white beard, dressed in red and white, who sneaks through the chimney at night and leaves presents under the Christmas tree. As a reward, his children are left with a glass of warm milk and a cookie.
- ▶ The prototype of the good old man can be found in the face of St. Nicholas, born and lived in the III-IV century in the Byzantine province of Cappadocia, located in present-day Turkey. He became a bishop at a very young age. He manifested himself as a noble and generous man, deeply religious and devoted to the church. He gave all his wealth to the poor and the unjust. The memory of his generosity is the tradition of people exchanging gifts.



# CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

- ▶ The poinsettia
- ▶ The poinsettia is present in the home, at the top of the Christmas tree, as the personification of the Star of Bethlehem, which led the three wise men to Christ. It is considered a symbol of enlightenment and
- ▶ hope. If it is composed of 8 rays, it means goodness, light, protection. In case the poinsettia has 6 rays, as in Judaism, it is used as a shield against evil forces and spirits.

# The Christmas wreath

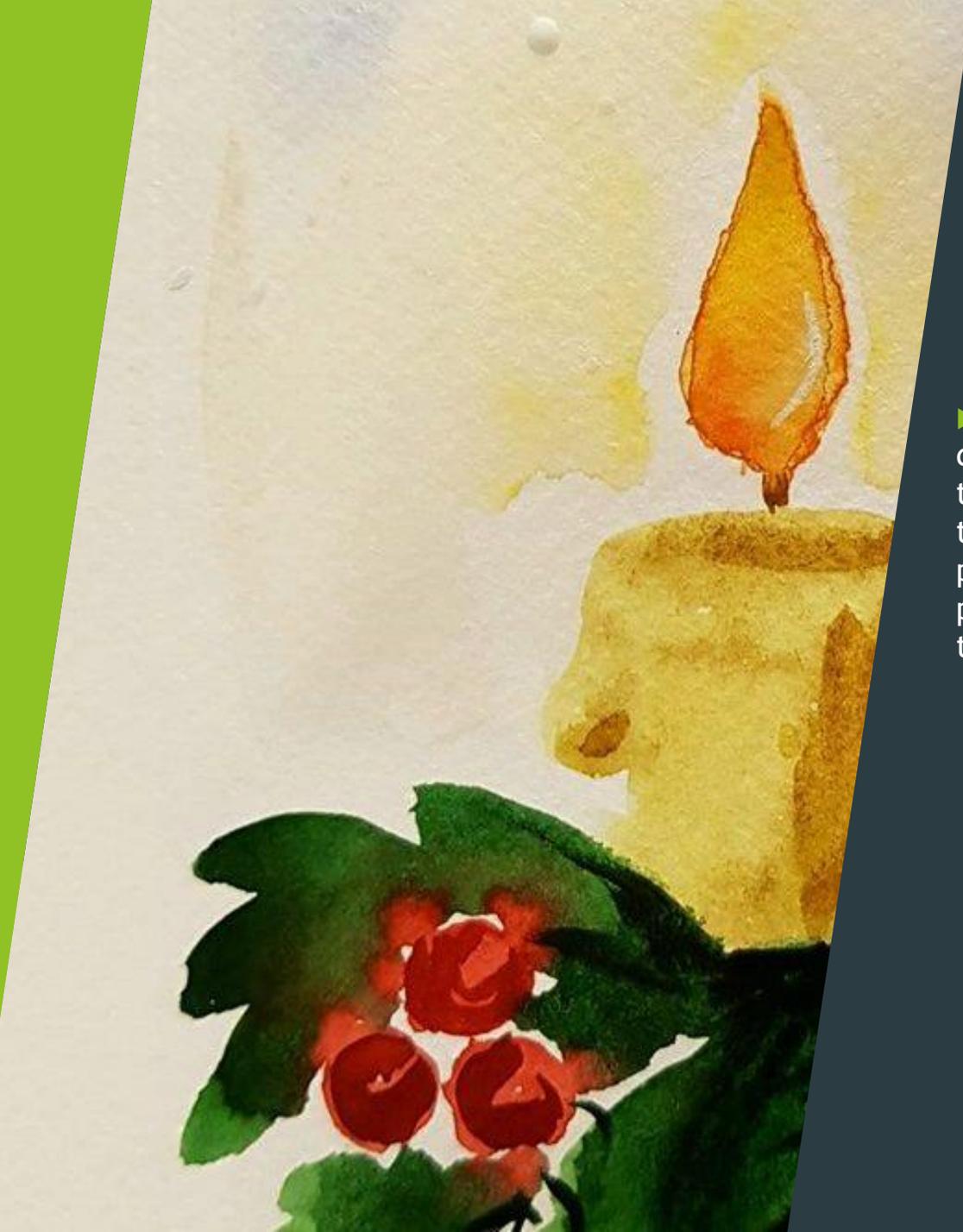
► The Christmas wreath is an indispensable part of the festive decoration of the home. Hooked to the front door, he greets guests and hints at home coziness beyond the threshold. In fact, the wreath symbolizes the cycle of life, unstoppable love and continuity in the family. Often part of its decoration is made with the help of the gel plant - this is also not accidental. Because the leaves of the gel have sharp tips, they are seen as a symbol of the thorny crown that Christ wore, and the red fruits are associated with the shed blood of the Savior.



# Socks full of surprises

► The tradition of hanging Christmas stockings and filling them with gifts is unknown in our country, but in other countries it is part of the holiday rituals. They are used mainly as proof to children that Santa Claus really exists, and are a symbol of his generosity. Legend has it that the white-bearded old man took pity on a poor family and decided to help them. Before leaving the sleigh, he dropped a few gold coins through the chimney. But several socks were hung by the hearth to dry, and the coins accidentally fell into them. The incident spread and people started hanging Christmas stockings hoping to receive some gift from Santa.



A watercolor illustration of a lit candle. The candle is yellow and has a bright orange and yellow flame. Below the candle are green holly leaves and several red berries. The background is a light, textured white.

## Candles for Christmas

- ▶ Candles are a beautiful but dangerous decoration for Christmas, so be careful with them. They began to use them as a symbol of the flame and hope that Christ kindled in people's hearts. In addition, they were perceived as a "guiding light" that guided people to the right path.



# Christmas colors

- ▶ The main Christmas colors are red and green and this is no accident. The green color symbolizes hope, growth and life as a whole, and the red color symbolizes the self-sacrifice of Christ and the shed blood.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

