

CHRISTMAS IN POLAND

CHRISTMAS TIME

- ✧ In Poland there are three days of Christmas:

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Second Day of Christmas





BEFORE CHRISTMAS

- ✦ In Poland, Christmas is the one of the most important holiday of Christianity, preceded by several weeks of waiting and reflection. People start preparing for Christmas at the beginning of December.



❄️ CHRISTMAS TREE



**Decorating the
Christmas tree**

- ✖ At Christmas, in every Polish house there must be a Christmas tree. We usually decorate it a day before Christmas Eve.





- ✦ Under a tablecloth we put some hay. It's a symbol of the manger in which Jesus Christ was born. We also leave an additional seat for any stranger that would come to ask for shelter on that day. There should be twelve dishes. Traditionally, there is no meat eaten on Christmas Eve. There is a Christmas candle too.



FIRST STAR

- ✧ Christmas Eve dinner starts when first star appears in the sky.



**Waiting for the first
star**

- ✧ Before the meal, though, we exchange Christmas greetings with each other by giving a piece of Christmas wafer.



Christmas



Sharing wafer (opłatek) is the most ancient and beloved of all Polish Christmas traditions. Opłatek is a thin wafer made of flour and water.


PRESENTS

- ✧ Then we start eating. After dinner, children take presents from under the Christmas tree. Sometimes Santa comes in person to hand the gifts, especially in the houses with small children.



Santa is giving presents



 **Presents under the Christmas**



**Carp in
jelly**



**Mushroom-rice
salad**



Dumplings



Pastry



TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAKES

✦ Before Christmas Eve we prepare many cakes too. They are, like all other dishes, typical Polish food. For example:



**Poppy-seed
cake**



Gingerbread



Cheese cake



Midnight Mass

- In Poland people go to Midnight Mass which is solemn Holy Mass, taking place at midnight on Christmas Eve.
- This is the first Holy Mass at Christmas.
- At this time churches are very beautiful: inside we can see many Christmas trees and a nativity scene.



FIRST AND SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

- ✧ At First and Second Day of Christmas guests, usually family, visit us or we visit them. We spend time in friendly and family atmosphere. We sing carols and eat delicious dishes. Sometimes, especially in the rural areas of the South of Poland groups of young people dressed in traditional costumes walk along villages and sing carols wishing all the best for Christmas.



At our school we celebrate Christmas too.



Students decorate classrooms.



They sing carols.



Children give presents to each other and prepare some food.

