
Greek Christmas, New Year and epiphany Customs and habits

— **ΣΤ2 CLASS**, 10th Primary School Palaio Faliro
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Kourabiedes

Kourabies is a typical sweet widely spread throughout Greece, which is classified as a traditional sweet, such as melomakarono, and which is usually prepared at Christmas. Its name comes from the Persian Qurabiye, which means cookie, pastry made of flour, butter and powdered sugar. Refugees from Asia Minor from Karvali in Cappadocia created Nea Karvali in the Prefecture of Kavala in 1924 and carried the traditional recipe of kourabiedes from Asia Minor. So today in Greece the most famous traditional kourabiedes are those of Nea Karvali.

Team B: Kostas, Lydia, Melina

Team D: Marina, Polychronis Giulia

In Christmas day at morning the kids open the gift to santa claus. In after noon meet all the family. We eat turkey with potatoes and for sweet we eat koumbies and melomakaronas. Then we give gifts to each other. We listen Christmas music.

Christoxylo (by Polychronis Papantoniou) In Macedonia, the householder chooses the strongest olive or pine branch from his field and places it in the fireplace of the house. This is also called "Christoxylo", is burned for the whole Twelve Days of Christmas (from the day of Chrtmas until the Lights). According to tradition, the burning of Christoxilo helps Christ to warm himself in the manger of Bethlehem. Every Macedonian tries to burn the Christoxylo of his house up to t

Christmas tree decoration



The decoration of the tree is purely symbolic of the happiness of people and nature with the Birth of the Godman. The first decorated tree appeared in Germany in 1539 and the first ornaments were packaged food or clothing or other useful items, According to tradition, the first to decorate a tree was Martin Luther. However, the view has also been expressed that the custom has oriental origins. According to it, Anastasios I in 512 built a temple in Syria with two brass trees.



In Greece this custom of the fir tree as a Christmas decoration first came with the Bavarian King Otto in 1833 , which means that it had already been established as a custom in the royal houses of Northern Europe. It was first decorated in the palaces of Nafplio and then in Athens, where the inhabitants lined up to admire it. It is noted that in France as a custom it was introduced several years after in Greece .

Team F: Nasos, Kostantinos, Andreas Lorandos

St Basil's Cake ("Vasilopita")

St Basil's Cake is prepared for the dinner of New Year's Eve. Some families in the villages cut the cake after lunch on January 1st, but **most families cut it right after the coming of the New Year at midnight**. This cake, called "**Vasilopita**" in Greek, is dedicated to Saint Basil, who is the Santa Claus in the Greek tradition and brings the gifts to children that first night of the year.

Traditionally St Basil's Cake has a **golden coin inside**. **The person who finds this coin in his piece is considered lucky for all the coming year**.

After midnight on New Year's Eve, the family and friends gather around the table and **the householder or housewife starts cutting the pieces**. The **first piece is for Christ**, the **second for the Virgin Mary**, the **third for the house** and then the householder cuts pieces for the members of the table by order of age. **In the villages of mainland Greece**, the householder **cuts a piece for the livestock and the fields** of the family, if they have any. **In the islands**, they cut a piece for **the boat or the mill**, if they own one.



Polychronis, Evangelos & Stelios

Katerina ,Mary,Athina

In Greece we have a lot of sweets that we eat in Christmas like melomakarona with the best and kourabiedes. Also vasilopita which we eat on new years day which has the lucky coin. If you find it you can luck luck ALL year long!



Sofia, Andriani and Chris

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas it is a lovely day the children go to the Christmas tree and find their gifts. Mum and Dad cook for table a lot of tasty food. At noon all the family meet at the Christmas table. All wear their best clothes. The families listen to Christmas music they eat turkey and for sweet they eat melomakarona and kourabiedes. Then give gifts to each other. It is the best celebration of the whole year !!!



Christmas Carols (Polychronis Papantoniou)

Greek

*Καλήν εσπέραν άρχοντες, αν είναι ορισμός σας,Χριστού τη Θεία γέννηση,να πω στ' αρχοντικό σας.Χριστός γεννάται σήμερα,
εν Βηθλεέμ τη πόλη, οι οEnglish υρανοί αγάλλονται,
χαίρεται η φύσις όλη.*

Good evening Kings,if it is your definition,Christ the Divine Nativity, to tell your mansion.

Christ is born today,the city in Bethlehem,the heavens rejoice,nature rejoices all.

(THE ABOVE TEXT IS TRANLATED USING GOOGLE TRANSLATE)