



### *Polish Christmas Traditions*

Some countries share common Christmas traditions and customs. Christmas has always been a beautiful, family celebration, no matter what place we come from. Decorating Christmas trees is known for people around the world. The same can be said about giving each other presents. So what makes Polish Christmas so special?

***Do you leave an \_\_\_\_\_ at the table?***

This tradition is present in almost every Polish family. Preparing dishes and Christmas tables should be done with a great care, but before you start tasting the food, you need to make sure one \_\_\_\_\_ is left \_\_\_\_\_. Why? We should celebrate Christmas with the people we love, but it's also necessary to welcome the lonely ones, who because of different reasons can't share this special time with anybody else.

***Don't forget to prepare \_\_\_\_\_ dishes!***

Every dish symbolizes one month of the upcoming year. You should try a tiny bit of each dish, to make sure the next year brings you a lot of luck and happiness. The most common Polish dishes include- pierogi, beetroot soup with ravioli (little dumplings with mushrooms), mushroom soup, fish soup, cabbage with mushrooms, cabbage with peas, poppy seed cake (makowiec), carp, dried fruit compote and gingerbread cookies.

***Don't start eating till you see the \_\_\_\_\_!***

Most Poles can't imagine starting their Christmas Eve supper without looking for the \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky. This tradition is rooted in the New Testament and the Star guiding the 6 Wise Men to Bethlehem.

„\_\_\_\_\_ *Home* \_\_\_\_\_” *every Christmas is a must!*

Every year, after Christmas Eve supper, there's one special reason to switch your TV on. The families gather in front of the TV screen to watch the same comedy and laugh at the same jokes. It's difficult to explain why Poles love this film so much, but the tradition stays the same every year.

*Have you talked to your \_\_\_\_\_ yet?*

According to Polish beliefs, on this special day of the year you might be able to hear your \_\_\_\_\_ speaking with a human voice. And if you're lucky enough, you can even have a short talk with them.

*No \_\_\_\_\_ allowed!*

Although recently this custom has been disappearing, some families still decide to avoid eating \_\_\_\_\_ on this special day. The tradition is connected with our strong, Catholic beliefs. But don't worry, you can still find different fish dishes on our Christmas tables.

*Forget about presents, \_\_\_\_\_ is the most important part of our Christmas Eve supper.*

It's made from water and flour, but for Catholic Poles, it is a religious symbol. Each family member gets one \_\_\_\_\_ and should share a piece of it with the other people, before sitting down to Christmas table. In this way families and friends can exchange good wishes for the upcoming year.

*Put some \_\_\_\_\_ under your tablecloth.*

The \_\_\_\_\_ and the white tablecloth symbolize the birthplace of Jesus Christ. In some places in Poland, the family member who takes out the longest and the straightest piece of \_\_\_\_\_ will have a good and successful year.



Can you guess the Polish customs?

*Do you leave an \_\_\_\_\_ at the table?*

*Don't forget to prepare \_\_\_\_\_ dishes!*

*Don't start eating till you see the \_\_\_\_\_!*

*„\_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_” every Christmas is a must!*

*Have you talked to your \_\_\_\_\_ yet?*

*No \_\_\_\_\_ allowed!*

*Forget about presents, \_\_\_\_\_ is the most important part of our Christmas Eve supper.*

*Put some \_\_\_\_\_ under your tablecloth.*

