

FESTIVALS IN POLAND

JANUARY

1.01 New Year (sleep long/go to church/sing a special carol)

6.01 Twelfth Night (go to church/have herbs and chalk blessed/write K+M+B letters on the door frame)

21.01 Grandmother's Day (visit grandmother/give presents/kindergarten-make presentations)

22.01 Grandfather's Day (visit grandfather/give presents/kindergarten-make presentations)

FEBRUARY

14.02 St. Valentine's Day (invite partners to eat out/give red roses-gifts)

THE LAST THURSDAY BEFORE ASH WEDNESDAY

Thusty (=Fatty) Thursday (eat doughnuts)

THE LAST TUESDAY BEFORE ASH WEDNESDAY

Shrove Tuesday (eat herrings/drink vodka/dance till midnight)

THE FIRST DAY OF LENT

Ash Wednesday (go to church/have the head sprinkled with ash to remind about death/to fast)

MARCH/APRIL

8.03 Women's Day (give women flowers)

21.03 The first day of spring (drown, straw effigy)

1.04 Fool's Day (play tricks, cheat)

THE LAST SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER

Palm Sunday (go to church with "palms"/bless)

THE LAST THURSDAY BEFORE EASTER

Maundy Thursday (very solemn Mass to commemorate Christ's Last Supper)

THE LAST FRIDAY BEFORE EASTER

Good Friday (the Way of the Cross/no Mass/to fast)

EASTER SATURDAY (go to church with a basket full of food - dyed eggs/sausage or ham/ salt/lamb etc/a priest/to bless)

EASTER SUNDAY

Go to church-procession/ meet for Easter breakfast-share the egg)

EASTER (WET) MONDAY

pour a bucket of water on someone's head

MAY

1.05 Labour Day (go on picnics/ march and demonstrate)

3.05 Constitution Day (President/deliver a speech/army parade)

26.05 Mother's Day (presents/flowers/ kids presentations in kindergardens and schools)

JUNE

CELEBRATED ON THE THURSDAY AFTER TRINITY SUNDAY

Corpus Christi feast (processions/ church)

1.06 Children's Day (presents/ parties/ fun fairs)

23.06 Father's Day (presents/ kids presentations in kindergardens and schools)

24.06 Midsummer Night (garlands/ bonfires)

AUGUST

15.08 The Feast of Assumption (bless flowers and herbs/ go to church)

SEPTEMBER

THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH (SUNDAY)

Harvest Day (farmers/bless the crops/have open air parties in the country)

30.09 Boy's Day (presents/ parties for boys)

NOVEMBER

1.11 All Saints' Day (go to the churchyard-graveyard-cemetery-burial place/ light candles/bring flowers – chrysanthemums/ gather above the graves of relatives and friends)

11.11 Independence Day (President/deliver a speech/army parade)

30.11 St. Andrew's Day (pour wax through the key hole/ to tell the fortune-foretell the future/ dance/ play/ have a good time)

DECEMBER

6.12 St. Claus Day (leave presents "under" pillows at night)

24.12 Christmas Eve (look for the first star in the sky/share the holy wafer/ eat supper together with the whole family/ 12 dishes: carp, borsh with mushroom ravioli, mushroom soup, cabbage with peas, flaxseed soup, poppy seed cake, and many others/ find presents under the Christmas tree/ sing carols/ go to church for the midnight mass – shepherds' mass)

25.12 Christmas Day (meet family for dinner/go to church)

26.12 II Day of Christmas (visit friends and relatives)

31.12 New Year's Eve (go to balls/ dance/ drink champagne and alcohol/ look at fireworks displays/ have fun/ wish everybody a Happy New Year at midnight)*

* Anna Pławecka©2015