The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Here's How Russia Celebrated Christmas Eve (in Photos)

December 25, 2019



While Russia's Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas Eve according to the Julian calendar on Jan. 6, the country's many other Christian denominations celebrate it on Dec. 24 — together with much of the Western world.

To celebrate the holiday, thousands of Catholics, Protestants, Lutherans and adherents of other Christian denominations attended services in churches across Russia on Dec. 24.

Here's a look at the celebrations through Instagram:

In Moscow, big Christmas services were held at churches including the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary, the Evangelical-Lutheran Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul and the Church of St. Louis of the French.

Embed:



Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Doupack Olya (@olya_doupack) 24 Дек 2019 в 9:29 PST

"It's so crowded in the church at midnight. But there's always a beautiful mass, choir, organ and Christmas carols," a parishioner wrote.

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Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Rodriguez Now (@denis.v.rodriguez) 24 Дек 2019 в 10:32 PST

Online videos showed crowds of people walking to church bells and music.

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Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Arseniy Viktorovich (@zedjdee) 24 Дек 2019 в 1:13 PST

Russia has had large Catholic, Protestant and Lutheran communities since the 18th century.

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Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Gal Brauer (@galbrauer) 24 Дек 2019 в 12:12 PST

"Christmas Eve on Dec. 24 is considered a fasting day. There is a tradition of Christmas dinners, Christmas Eve celebrations at the family table or among parishioners. There is also a tradition of breaking special Christmas bread," Fr. Igor Kovalevsky, a Catholic priest in Moscow, told the state-run TASS news agency.

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Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Natalie Les (@natashaless.english) 24 Дек 2019 в 1:42 PST

Christmas midnight mass was also served in St. Petersburg's Church of St. Catherine on Nevsky Prospekt, the city's main street.

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Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от ⋆ HELLGA MAC'TAVISH ⋆ (@helecka_the_insane) 24 Дек 2019 в 11:24 PST

Services were held in many different languages for the different expat communities.

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Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Олеся Андреевна (@olesiandreevna) 24 Дек 2019 в 12:28 PST

Languages included Russian, English, Polish and French.

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Публикация от raikovairi (@floshakarasiova2019) 24 Дек 2019 в 3:43 PST

Here is the Roman Catholic parish of St. Anna in Yekaterinburg, decorated with a Christmas tree and the perfect place to find a festive mood.

Embed:

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от борямех (@boriskamex) 24 Дек 2019 в 12:52 PST

Here is a video of beautiful music being played at a church in Kaliningrad, Russia's westernmost region.

Embed:

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Анастасия Вершинина (@nastia_schastia) 24 Дек 2019 в 10:52 PST

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