

## Christmas Traditions Around the World

depicted mass hymns observed reenact shelter elaborately secular largely Saint resemble graves accordance Citizens roughly wrapped

The Philippines: Christmas season begins in September with the feast of \_\_\_\_\_ Pio and ends in January, meaning nearly half the year is Christmas in the Philippines. The event closest to December 25th is a nine-day \_\_\_\_\_ called Simbang Gabi, which includes \_\_\_\_\_ and Filipino foods. Christmas Eve is celebrated all night and then followed by a day of family talks and gift giving. Maligayang pasko (Merry Christmas)!

Mexico: In the nine days before Christmas, children and adults dress up as Mary and Joseph and \_\_\_\_\_ their search for lodging on their way to Bethlehem. Groups of "pilgrims" visit different neighborhoods and sing songs in request of \_\_\_\_\_. The host replies in song and offers drink and food. Children try to break a star-shaped piñata and do not receive gifts until January 4th. Feliz Navidad!

Ethiopia: Christmas Eve is celebrated on January 6th in \_\_\_\_\_ with the local Ge'ez calendar. On that night, priests lead processions through cities in traditional clothing and carry \_\_\_\_\_ decorated umbrellas. In the morning, people feast, presents are exchanged, and some people play sports. During the Timkat procession, \_\_\_\_\_ 12 days later, a stone replica of the 10 Commandments is \_\_\_\_\_ in rich fabrics and carried by priests on their heads. Melkam Ganna!

Finland: Finns believe that the Winter Solstice brings out the spirits of the dead. On Christmas Eve, celebrated at \_\_\_\_\_ the same time, Finns place candles around the \_\_\_\_\_ of relatives. Hyvää Joulua!

Vietnam: Christmas was only recently reintroduced to \_\_\_\_\_ Buddhist Vietnam after a relaxation of restrictions in the early 1980s. It is a mainly a Jesus-free \_\_\_\_\_ event. Santa is sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ on a scooter instead of a sleigh and Vietnamese Catholics gather in churches that \_\_\_\_\_ temples. \_\_\_\_\_ visit city centers in throngs and later eat Christmas chicken soup. Chúc Giáng Sinh Vui Vui!