

# SPJST (December Vestnik Project) - Czech Christmas Dinner Customs

This project earns 1 point in the SPJST Youth Clubs Merit Points System. Mail completed project no later than January 10, 2009 to:  
SPJST Youth Program c/o SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

## Czech Christmas Dinner Customs

**C**zech Christmas dinner, typically served on December 24, is connected with lots of customs, rules and superstitions. Very few of them are still observed today —and for good reason! It must have been quite a challenge to put the dinner together and go through with it without a mistake if all of the customs were to be followed! Here are some of them:



- No lights should be lit in the house before the first star comes out. After it does, dinner is served.
- The table should be set for an even number of guests. An odd number brings bad luck.
- An extra plate should also be prepared in case an unexpected guest or a person in need comes by the house at dinner time.
- The legs of the table can be tied with a rope to protect the house from thieves and burglars in the coming year.
- Christmas dinner should consist of nine courses including soup, bread with honey, carp, potato salad, fruit (dried, fresh or canned), dessert (apple strudel or vánočka — Christmas bread), and other foods.
- No alcohol should be served on Christmas Eve.
- No one should ever get up from the Christmas table before dinner is finished. Doing so brings bad luck in the family.
- Everyone should finish their dinner and leave nothing on the plate.
- Any leftovers from dinner (crumbs, fishbones, etc.) should be buried around the trees to ensure they will bear lots of fruit.
- All household animals should be fed after dinner so that no one goes hungry on Christmas Eve.

source: [http://www.myczechrepublic.com/czech\\_culture/czech\\_holidays/christmas\\_superstitions.html](http://www.myczechrepublic.com/czech_culture/czech_holidays/christmas_superstitions.html)

## After reading “Czech Christmas Dinner Customs,” please answer the questions below.

1. When were the lights lit in the houses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Tables should be set with an odd number of settings. True or False  
(Circle One)
3. Why would the legs of the table can be tied with a rope?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Was it good luck or bad luck to get up from the table before every one finished eating? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was done with the leftovers from the dinner? \_\_\_\_\_  
` \_\_\_\_\_
6. All household animals should be fed after dinner so that no one goes hungry on Christmas Eve. True or False (Circle One)
7. On what day is Czech Christmas dinner typically served?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Share a Christmas custom that you and your family observe.

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