October 18, 2026

How Orthodox Christians Celebrate a Feast

Saint Sergius School · SSS-L0005



Opening Questions

What makes a day holy or special?

What feasts of the Church do you already know?

What do you notice at church on a feast day?

Why might Christians prepare before a feast?

What Is an Orthodox Feast?

An Orthodox feast is more than a special date on the calendar.

The Church sets aside holy days to celebrate God's saving work and to honour the saints who lived faithfully in Him.

We gather to pray, listen, sing, see, and worship together.

HOLY CELEBRATION

The Pattern of a Feast

PREPARE — before the feast

GATHER — enter the feast

CELEBRATE — worship together

CARRY — live the feast afterward

PREPARE — Before the Feast

THE CHURCH TEACHES US TO PREPARE:

- PRAYER
- FASTING WHERE APPOINTED
- LEARNING THE FEAST
- ATTENDING SERVICES

GATHER — Entering the Feast

We come to church as Christ's people.

We pray, listen, sing, and stand together.

We enter the worshipping life of the Church.

A feast belongs to the whole Church gathered in worship.

The Liturgical Day Begins in the Evening

Vespers begins the next day’s worship

The feast may begin before the calendar morning

The Church enters the feast together

CELEBRATE — The Church Proclaims the Feast

- Scripture
- Hymns
- Icon
- Worship
- Prayer
- The whole Church

We do not merely study a feast. We worship and participate.

Look at the Feast Cycle

What feast scenes do you notice?
Where do you see Christ?
How does this show the rhythm of the Church year?



The feasts form an ordered rhythm around God's saving work.

What Does “Remember” Mean?

The feast becomes part of our life today.

Liturgical remembrance

The Church does not only think about the past. She enters the feast through prayer.

The Church Year Has a Rhythm

Forefeast · Feast · Afterfeast

PREPARE · CELEBRATE · CONTINUE

CARRY — After the Feast

- Remember what God has done
- Continue in prayer
- Show love to others
- Live what the feast teaches
- Return to worship
- Carry it home

A Feast Is More Than a Classroom Topic

A feast is not only decorations, food, or a calendar note.
Its primary home is the Church gathered in prayer.

We do not only learn about a feast. We enter it through the worship and life of the Church.

How can this feast change the way we live this week?

Key Vocabulary

Feast

a holy celebration in the life of the Church

Vespers

the Church's evening service

Hymnody

the hymns the Church sings in worship

Icon

a holy image that bears witness to the feast

Remembrance

remembering in the worship of the Church

Afterfeast

days when the Church continues celebrating

Activity — A Feast from Beginning to End

PREPARE | GATHER | CELEBRATE | CARRY

PREPARE: Before the feast, I might…

GATHER: When I come to church, I notice…

CELEBRATE & CARRY: The feast teaches me to…



Today We Learned

An Orthodox feast is a holy celebration in which the Church remembers God’s saving work and participates in the life of Christ.

PREPARE | GATHER | CELEBRATE | CARRY

We do not only learn about a feast.

We enter it through worship and the life of the Church.