

# Celebrating Feasts in the Byzantine Rite

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1. The feast begins with the night before the day of the feast itself – for a major feast, several days earlier. Preparation may include fasting and special services.
2. If you don't know anything about the feast, find out about it!
3. Meditate on the feast-day icon.
4. Attend the services of the feast – and pay attention to the prayers, to make them your own.
5. Each feast day may also have its own traditions and special rites. Learn them!

## Ranks of feast, according to the liturgical books:



Great Feast of the Lord  
Great Feast of the Mother of God  
Great Feast of the Saints



Saint with an all-night vigil



Saint with the polyeleos



Saint with the Great Doxology



Saint with six stichera

(no sign) Ordinary saint

## Ranks of feast, according to church usage

Holy Day of Obligation	Full cycle of services; faithful are obliged to attend
Solemn holy day	Full cycle of services; faithful are encouraged to attend
Simple holy day	Divine Liturgy at a time convenient for the faithful to attend

Traditionally, the full cycle of services consists of Vespers, Matins, Divine Liturgy, and (in some places) Vespers on the evening of the feast itself.