Celebrating Feasts in the Byzantine Rite

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.