



TRADITIONS IN RUSSIA

# EASTER TIME IN RUSSIA

BY BORIS

During Easter time you can find many different traditions across the country. The following bulletin gives an overview of the most popular ones in Russia.

Nowadays Easter traditions derive mainly from Russian-Orthodox Church. But these traditions were suppressed during communist time and they returned only slowly since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.





Priest blessing food at a Mass



Food on a cemetery



Russian Easter bread "Kulich"

Orthodox-Christianity is the predominant religion in Russia. Therefore Easter is celebrated according to the customs of the Russian-Orthodox Church. All churches hold night services and organize religious processions the day before Easter. The Mass on Easter Saturday is the most important ceremony and goes until dawn. Another important part of the Easter ceremonies is the blessing of the Easter bread "Kulich" and Easter eggs by the priest.

A widely spread tradition in Russia is to visit cemeteries on Easter Sunday. Visiting cemeteries appeared and became popular during the Soviet times. This tradition is not religious and therefore not approved by high church officials.

People often bring food to the cemetery when they visit their deceased and toast to them.

"Христос Воскрес" ("Christos voskres!") means "Christ is risen!" and it is the way people greet each other on Easter in Russia. The counterpart answers then "Воистину воскрес!" ("Truly, He is risen!").