



## Welcome



Dear Friends,

In the lives of men and women are elemental values that are untouched by change or time and give form and meaning to what we do. Some of these values are honesty, courage, kindness, wonder, love for growing things and gladness to live.

This holiday season, whatever our faith, let us come together with confidence and unity through the values we share. Let the spirit of understanding and compassion fill our hearts. The meaning of Christmas will continue to deepen as we keep discovering the true nature of love, joy, and peace, not only at this time of year, but all year round. May the closeness of friends, the comfort of home, and the unity of our nation renew our spirits this festive Season. Here is a wish for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2019.

Take care,

Maryann Sivak, C-RS National President  
[president@c-rs.org](mailto:president@c-rs.org)

## Christmas Eve Po Našomu

Author Unknown

T'was the night before Roždestvo  
And all through the house  
The Rusnaks all gathered  
To eat sauerkraut.  
The kolach was nestled  
All snug in its dish  
While babalky were cooking  
And so was some fish.  
Women in their babushkas  
And men in their capshs  
Had all settled down  
With food in their laps.  
When out on the lawn  
There arose such a clatter  
We all left our meal  
To see what was the matter.  
Away to the window  
Cetka flew like a flash  
Screaming "Lock all the doors  
And hide all the cash."  
And what to our wondering eyes  
should appear  
But a pagač-shaped sleigh  
And reindeer.  
With a little old Rusnak  
So lively and quick  
We knew in a moment  
It was Big Južik.  
More rapid than ružanci  
His reindeer all came  
As he shouted, "On Stefan,"  
And each reindeer's name.  
"On Stefan, on Petro



And each reindeer's name.  
"On Stefan, on Petro  
On Janko and Georgij  
On Vasil, on Andrej  
On Pavel and Dimitrij."  
Then out to the smokehouse  
The reindeer all flew  
With a sleigh full of kolbas  
And Big Južik, too.  
Down the smoke vent he came  
With a leap and a bound  
Dancing a csardas  
And twirling around.  
He did a short polka  
Then went to his work  
And gave us pirohi  
Then turned with a jerk.  
We gave him kapusta  
And Zedo's old clothes  
Then we sang D'ivnaja Novina  
And up the smoke vent he rose.  
But we heard him exclaim  
As we took off our coats.  
"Veselyj Svjat to all  
And to all dobru noc!"

## Holy Night Supper (Vilija)

Customarily, twelve strict-fast foods are served, representing the twelve apostles. Traditionally, the food is served from common bowls and platters from which all share. This is symbolic of family unity.

The following is a sample of strict-fast foods are served at Vilija, with variations from village to village. Only twelve are served at each gathering.

Wine	Honey
Slivovice	Vegetables
Garlic	Prunes
Bobalki	Sauerkraut
Pirohy	Mushrooms
Pea Soup	Potato and Bean soup
Mushroom soup	Rice/Mushroom stuffed holubky
Mashed potatoes	Krachun (strict-fast bread)



### Recipe for Krachun (strict-fast Christmas bread)

2 cups warm water	6 cups all purpose flour
1Tbsp sugar	¼ cup oil
1 Tsp salt	1 pkg dry yeast

In a small sauce pan dissolve 1 tsp sugar and yeast in ½ cup lukewarm water. Let the yeast mixture stand 10 minutes.

In a large bowl add sugar and salt to the rest of warm water. Mix everything together. Mix well. Knead about 10 minutes or until smooth. Place in a greased bowl and let rise until double in size (about two hours). Punch down and cut into 2 loaves. Shape, cover and allow to stand, covered, on board for 20 minutes. Flatten each loaf and reshape. Place in greased pans and allow to rise again. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour or until golden brown.



## Save the Dates

### Sunday, December 16, Parma, OH

The C-RS Cleveland Chapter presents "Kolodej, Food and Recipes for the Christmas Holidays" from 2-4 pm at the Parma Library, 6896 Powers Blvd, Parma, OH.

Do you know any of the carols that were a huge part of our ancestors' celebration of Christmas? Would you like to learn? Retired cantor Ed Bobulsky has graciously offered to teach us these special songs. We hope to have some booklets for you to take home, so please call and register in advance so that we may have enough for all. We will also share foods and recipes of the season. The event is free - call (440) 331-3856 to register.

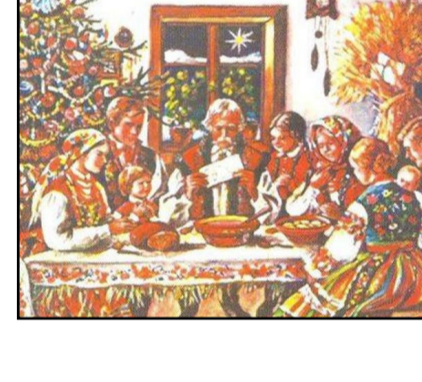


### Thursday, December 27, Plano, TX

Please join the C-RS Dallas Chapter for our 5th Annual "Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas Dinner & Party" from 7-9 pm at the "Taste of Poland European Tavern", 2301 N. Central Expressway, Suite 155, Plano, TX 75075.

Each Christmas season, we joyously gather to celebrate our heritage with our families, dear friends, and new friends. Don your cheeriest holiday apparel and come out for the evening with us!

This will be a casual get-together. All ages are welcome, no need to be of Carpatho-Rusyn ancestry.... just bring a good appetite and a smiling face! Purchase your own dinner from the wonderful ethnic menu.



We also invite you to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament, under \$10, and share in the fun of our "Famous Ornament Exchange"!

RSVP or register: Please RSVP by December 20th to CRSDallas@rusvzop.net, or register at <https://crschristmas.eventbrite.com>.



### Saturday, January 5, Seattle WA

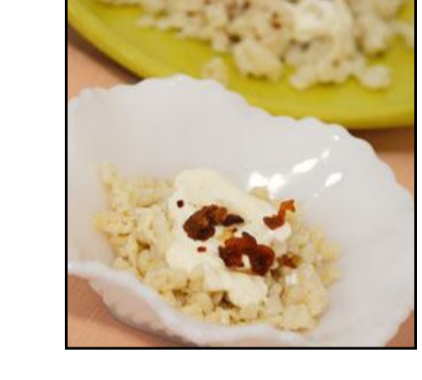
The Pacific Northwest Branch invites one and all for a social gathering at Sebi's Bistro in Seattle, Washington from 4-7 pm. Please RSVP with a note so we can give the restaurant an accurate count. For more information, contact [ak@c-rs.org](mailto:ak@c-rs.org). We look forward to seeing you and yours!



### Saturday, January 12, Burr Ridge, IL

The C-RS Lake Michigan Chapter announces and invites you to their Annual New Years Rusyn Pot-Luck Luncheon at St. Peters and Paul Orthodox Church Hall, 6980 South County Line Road, Burr Ridge, IL.

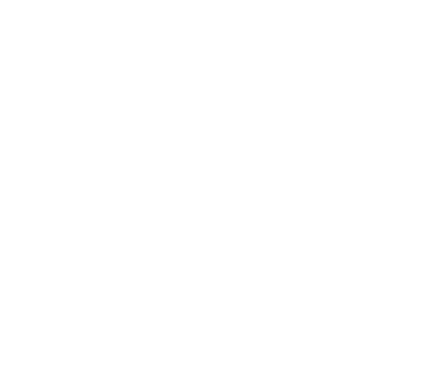
Join us in a program of "Sharing Past Christmas Suppers." Let's share 1) Something from our past Christmas Suppers. 2) One thing that occurred with your family 3) A saying, joyous funny event or special sentiment.



Please RSVP by January 10th to Arlene Gardiner (a-gardiner@sbcglobal.net) or Ken Cuprisin (708.895.3074). Let us know what your favorite Rusyn or other dish will be bringing. Feel free to share why it's your favorite or even the recipe!

### Saturday, January 26, Ambridge, PA

Known for reviving and preserving those cherished recipes of the old world, Ambridge resident John Righetti will hold a series of classes to teach how to make some of our region's ethnic favorites. Then you can make them for parties, family dinners and gatherings with friends. You will learn how easy these time-honored recipes are to make and the regional variations on each so you can use the same basic recipe with very different tastes.



Classes are on Saturdays from 10 am-12 p.m. at the Visitor's Center Village, Ambridge PA. Each class is \$35 and includes all your food supplies. Take home what you make!

Class 3 on Sat. Jan. 26 will feature stuffed cabbage and halushky. These two classic east European dishes—learn them both! Whether you call them holubky, sarma, golabki or toltott kapusta, stuffed cabbage are easier to make than you think – and each nationality has its own recipes. Learn the basics and how to regionalize it so that your stuffed cabbage are classically Polish... or Hungarian ...or...

Halushky – it just means pasta in East European languages, so cabbage doesn't have to be part of it. Learn the top 5 dressings that can be used with them to make this the ultimate side dish – or dessert!

To register, contact John Righetti at 412 518 7149 or rusynone@gmail.com.

**News contributions are welcome!**  
Please submit your content to [am@c-rs.org](mailto:am@c-rs.org).

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Please submit news contributions to [am@c-rs.org](mailto:am@c-rs.org).

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society (C-RS) is a national 501(C)(3) organization founded in Pittsburgh, PA in 1994. As stated in our mission statement, the C-RS is dedicated to manifesting Carpatho-Rusyn culture in the United States and supporting Rusyn culture in the homeland in east central Europe. Information about joining C-RS and a membership application may be obtained on the C-RS membership website at <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org/>