

## MEANING

- From Old English for Christian religious service (“Mass”) on day of Christ’s birth.
- Culmination of the important religious season of Advent (“arrival”).
- Celebration of the Christian belief in the birth of Jesus.

## GREETINGS

- “Merry Christmas.”
- “Happy Christmas.”

## WHEN

- Most Christians (in the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant traditions) celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25 of each year.
- The religious calendar of most Eastern Orthodox Christians (e.g, Greek Orthodox Christians) follows the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar. Because of the difference between the two calendars, Christmas falls on January 6 or 7 for most Eastern Orthodox Christians.



## COMMON PRACTICES

- Many Christians celebrate this holiday by giving gifts and attending religious services.
- Occasion for the singing of Christmas carols (that is, songs of joy), such as “Silent Night” and decorating Christmas trees.
- Most Christians usually observe the day before Christmas as “Christmas Eve.”

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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# Christmas

English

[Kris·muh·s](#)



- Christmas is a national holiday in the United States.
- The MSU Academic Campus is on season break on December 25 and maintains reduced staffing through the holidays.
- Eastern Orthodox Christians may request time off on and near January 6 or 7. Students, staff, and faculty should be given the opportunity to reschedule any tests, exams or study or work activities that must be scheduled at this time.

Type of Calendar:

Advent



FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

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