



*Orthodox  
New Year* The Orthodox New Year falls on 14 January 2018. It is also known as the Old New Year according to the Julian calendar. The Julian calendar was introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 BC and replaced the Roman calendar, which was based on the phases of the moon.

In the Julian calendar, a “common” year has 365 days divided into 12 months; every four years is a leap year, with a leap day added to the month of February. At the time, February was the last month of the year, and Leap Day was February 24.

Many Orthodox Christians who observe the New Year’s Day date from the Julian calendar may spend the day reflecting on the previous year and think about meaningful resolutions for the New Year.

Many people celebrate the day with family or friends to welcome the New Year. Activities may include fireworks, large meals and music entertainment.

Some churches hold Orthodox New Year events such as parties or dinners. Those who attend these events may pray for the New Year and toast their drinks. Some churches host gala dinners to raise funds for charitable causes or church building restorations.

The tradition of the Old New Year has been kept in many Russian and former Russian states Palestine, Jordan, Armenia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Moldova, Ukraine, Wales (as Hen Galan) and Switzerland (as alter Silvester).

In Scotland, the Old New Year has traditionally been held on 12 January. Also in Scotland, the coastal town of Burghead in Morayshire celebrates the eve of the Old New Year with "The Burning o' the Clavie". Old New Year is the 12th of January in this district as well. (A clavie is vertical wooden planks called “staves”).