Feast of the Seven Fishes 2026 Planner and Cook-Ahead Plan

Seven courses for Christmas Eve, Thu., Dec. 24, 2026

Thursday
December 24, 2026

Feast of the Seven Fishes (Christmas Eve)

WHAT IS OPEN, CLOSED OR CHANGED

STATUS	PLACE OR SERVICE	DETAIL
☑ **Open**	**Meat on Christmas Eve (canon law)**	Not a listed abstinence day; canon 1251 names Fridays, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday

PLAN AHEAD

WHEN	TO DO	DONE
Mon., Dec. 21 3 days before	Buy salt cod and start soaking it in the refrigerator	☐
Tue., Dec. 22 2 days before	Choose seven dishes and write the shopping list	☐
Wed., Dec. 23 1 day before	Buy fresh fish and shellfish; make sauces and salads	☐
Thu., Dec. 24 On the day	Fry last and serve; keep a seven-course checklist	☐

FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES (CHRISTMAS EVE) IN THE COMING YEARS

YEAR	DATE
2027	Fri., Dec. 24
2028	Sun., Dec. 24
2029	Mon., Dec. 24
2030	Tue., Dec. 24
2031	Wed., Dec. 24

Key

☑ Open - open, regular service

My notes

Source: CalendarDate.com for Christmas Eve dates; National Geographic and the Philadelphia Inquirer for the tradition. The prep schedule is our own advice.