

SHROVETIDE IN OLD RUSSIA

- It was one of the most ancient festivals of the pagan Slavs. The most important God was Yarilo, the God of the Sun and Fertility. According to ancient beliefs, it was necessary to help Yarilo in his fight against winter, and accordingly the rituals of calling in the spring were observed. In fact, the whole week was filled with festive rituals, fun and games.



Pancake-eating was the main element of Shrovetide.

They were served with

- Butter\Sour cream
- Honey\Jam
- Caviar\Salted fish


Pancakes, round and hot, symbolised Yarilo. The Slavs believed that by eating pancakes they received the vital powers, light, warmth of the sun



Shrovetide week

Translation	English name	Meaning
Встреча	Greetings Kids would go from door to door, wishing everybody all the best and asking jokingly for pancakes.	
		

Shrovetide week

Translation	English name	Meaning
Заигрыши	Games Mummers with effigies would play their games near houses, asking the hosts to come out of the house and invite the Shrovetide Maid in.	
		

Shrovetide week

Translation	English name	Meaning
Лакомки	Sweet Tooth Everyone coming out of their houses had a dish of pancakes and if you met your neighbour you would ask him to help himself.	
 		

Shrovetide week




Translation	English name	Meaning
Широкий разгул	Lavish Thursday It was a day of lavish feasts.	



Shrovetide week

Translation	English name	Meaning
Тещины вечеринки	Mother-in-law's Evenings	
		<p>If the son-in-law was invited, his mother-in-law would arrange a big feast for him.</p>

Shrovetide week

Translation	English name	Meaning
Золовкины посиделки	Daughter-in-law's Parties	
	Young daughters-in-law were supposed to invite their husbands' relatives to treat them with pancakes.	



Shrovetide week



Translation

English name

Meaning

Прощенное
воскресенье

**Forgiveness
Sunday**

Everybody both young and old would ask one another to forgive and forget offences. It was also customary to visit cemeteries.

