

Poland's Independence, All Souls', All Saints' & St Andrzejki's Day

All Saints' Day, celebrated November 1, has been a festival in Poland and in the rest of the Catholic World for many centuries. In Poland it is a National Holiday, a day when people all over Poland visit the graves of loved ones. They place special candles, which burn for many hours, along with fresh flowers. Cemeteries are lit by many hundreds of these special candles and at night the cemeteries can be seen glowing. Many Poles travel long distances to visit family graves to remember the dead. The holiday is also known as the Day of the Dead. Here in America, the Polish communities continue the festival, but hold it on the Sunday before the 1st of November. The flower of choice is usually Chrysanthemum's.

All Souls Day, celebrated November 2, is when the Church commemorates and prays for the holy souls in Purgatory, undergoing purification of their sins before entering heaven.

Polish Independence Day, is celebrated November 11, to commemorate the anniversary of Poland's assumption of independent statehood in 1918 after 123 years of partitions by Austria-Hungary, Germany & Russia.

St Andrzejki's Day, is celebrated on the night of November 29th through the 30th. (Pronounced an-dzey-ki), is the day of St Andrew, who is Patron Saint of Scotland, Greece and Russia. Traditionally, in Poland the holiday is celebrated by young single girls, but in modern Poland both young single men & women celebrate together. They join party to see their futures and to drink enough to forget the present. Your fortune is told in the form of hot wax. It is poured into cold water, often through a key, and what results in the shapes are suppose to predict your future. Mainly St Andrzejki's Day is about having fun with your friends and enjoying your youth! (While you still have it!)