

Audio Index:

Slow dialog: 1:10

Explanations: 3:46

Fast dialog: 16:56

The holidays in my family are very **diverse** . Our **custom** is to celebrate Christmas every year as a **religious observance**, complete with **Advent wreathes** and **Midnight Mass**. Most of my **in-laws** observe Christmas **purely** as a **secular** holiday, with the focus on **exchanging gifts, stockings, a Christmas tree**, and other traditional customs. There is a lot of listening to Christmas music,Âmy favorites are the **carols** sung by **Nat King Cole** ,Âand sometimes even some **eggnog**. My nieces and nephews enjoy the day the most, especially when they get to open the gifts **under the tree** from **Santa Claus** .

One of my brother-in- laws is Jewish, and so he celebrates **Hanukkah**, the **festival of lights**, when he lights a candle each of the eight nights on the **menorah**. My niece gets a small gift each night of Hanukkah and of course **spins the dreidel**. With both celebrations in the same family, we sometimes call it ***Chrismukkah***.

But the holidays are no longer just Christmas and Hanukkah in the United States. More recently, there are some people who celebrate a new holiday, **Kwanzaa**. This is a mostly **African- American** event, with parades and other parties to highlight African-American **heritage**. Started here in Los Angeles, this celebration runs for 1 week after Christmas, and is a mostly secular celebration.

Whatever tradition you celebrate, December is always a festive time of year.