



Make a Selaviq Star

One of my fondest Christmas memories from when I was a little girl in our small mission parish, was of wearing a white angel's robe and stovepipe hat, both made by my mother, with gold ribbon wound about me in an X-shape. My sisters were similarly dressed, and my brother was dressed as a little shepherd. We were in an ancient Nativity play, one we had heard many stories about as having been performed in the old country before our families had settled here. We were small enough to not have to memorize any lines, just a song in Old Slavonic which we sang with all our hearts. We had often heard of how the men of the village in Europe would travel from house to house after Holy Supper on Christmas eve, sometimes carrying a brightly decorated star, reciting the same lines, and singing the same songs. They would be offered a drink and some food as they went, joyfully spreading the message that the angels had once given to the shepherds on that other cold night. My grandparents came to watch us at the church after Liturgy, smiling as they heard the familiar message, this time said in unfamiliar English. Perhaps they remembered having seen this as a child or even participated in it as we were doing. Perhaps they thought they might never witness this event again in their lifetime.

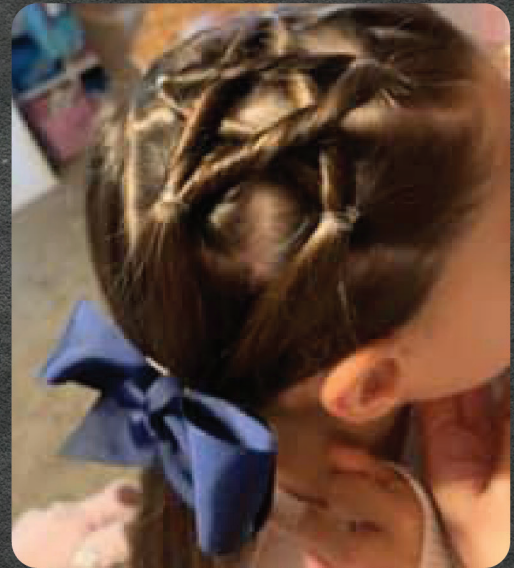
The Slavic people took this Christmas Star tradition wherever they went whether it was to my home in northeast Pennsylvania, or to Canada, or even to the Yupik people of Alaska who call this Selaviq, and keep this tradition to this day.

MAKE A CHRISTMAS STAR AND GO CAROLING!

- Draw an eight-pointed star onto a piece of card stock or craft foam.
- Then cut it out and decorate it with markers, stickers, sequins, glitter glue, buttons, jungle bells, whatever you happen to have on hand!

Remember, the shinier the better.
After all, it's the Christmas Star!!

- When you're finished decorating it, fasten it to a dowel or a long stick and parade it around for all the neighborhood to see! Maybe even carry it with you as you go caroling!!



Byzigirl Nativity Hair style!

Try out this Nativity Star hairstyle for Christmas Divine Liturgy this year! You will need the small clear rubber headbands to achieve this look.

HERE ARE THE STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS!

- Damp hair works best.
- Brush all your hair smooth and take up a one inch section on the very top of your head, the same hair you would put up to make a mohawk!
- Tie this to one side.
This will be the top point of your star.
- Next, take another one inch section to the right of the first section. Turn this into two small ponytails, one near your face and the other towards the back of your head. These will be your middle two star points.
- Repeat step two, but make the ponytails slightly closer together. These will be your bottom points of the star. Take the ponytail that you made in step one and divide it in half.
- Twist each half and secure it to the bottom points of your star.
- Take the top ponytail on the right and divide it in half. Twist the hair and secure one half to the point straight across and the other to the bottom left star point. Take the top ponytail on the left and secure it to the bottom right ponytail.
- Now, you can curl all the rest of the loose hair and leave it down or gather it into a ponytail at the side nape of your neck.
- Add a bow to make the look extra festive!

- by Lynne Wardach

- by Kh. Jocelyn Abyad