

# Church anniversary - Kirchweih

The church anniversary is a traditional festival in Germany, which is celebrated once in the year. Each village and each city has their own church anniversary. The church anniversary has been celebrated as a religious festival on the occasion of the consecration of a Christian church since the middle age. The church anniversary is most during the day in which the name day of the patron saint of the church is. If the patron saint of the church, e.g., Maria is Ascension, the church anniversary is for this village or the city on the 15th August. For the word "Kirchweih" there are still many other words in Germany, e.g. Kirb, Kerb, Kirwa, Kärwa, Kerm. One day before church anniversary a church anniversary tree is put up. Such a tree is between 25 and 40 meter high. Many young people assemble to find a nice tree and branches from the wood. If they have found a suitable tree and nice branches, they saw off the tree and the branches. For putting up the fair tree the strength is



required by many young and old, athletic men. The church anniversary tree has three big wreaths.



Young women and girls decorated the wreaths and the crown with colored ribbon. On the night of church anniversary festival the tree must be guarded, so that nobody damages the tree from the neighbouring village or other villages. This task is mostly taken over from younger men, because they keep up themselves mostly with beer.



In the church anniversary festival all people go to the church and afterwards the people are dancing, singing, eating and playing. On this festival the people are wearing traditional costumes in Bavaria. The men take leather trousers and the ladies dirndl. Mostly it is celebrated during three days, the day before, in the holiday and during the day afterwards.

