



MARTINMAS LANTERNS



The tradition of making Martinmas lanterns comes from Germany. On the night of November 11th, German children walk in processions carrying lanterns and singing songs. Oftentimes a man on horseback dressed like St. Martin walks along beside them.

It is possible that the lanterns arose out of the the traditional St. Martin bonfire, which is still lit in a few

cities and villages throughout Europe. The light from the bonfire and the lanterns symbolizes the light that holiness brings to the darkness of the world, just as St. Martin brought hope to the poor through his generosity and kindness.

Making homemade lanterns with your children or grandchildren and then processing around the neighborhood is a wonderful way to keep this Martinmas tradition alive.

A simple lantern can be made from a dry, clean jar, some colored tissue paper, and glue - I like to use Mod Podge because it leaves a glossy finish. Tear or cut the tissue paper to form pictures or abstract, colorful designs. Apply a thin layer of glue, place the paper on the jar, and cover with another thin layer of glue. Leave to dry overnight. Secure a wax candle tealight (or LED) to the inside bottom of the jar, and make a handle with string or wire.

Vanilla Horseshoe Cookies

- 1 c butter or margarine
- 1/2 c confectioners' sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2 c all purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 c rolled oats, uncooked

Cream butter or margarine; add sugar gradually while continuing to cream; beat until fluffy and stir in the vanilla, flour, and salt. Knead the rolled oats into the dough while still in the bowl. Roll out about 1/4 inch thick and cut into strips 6" long by 1/2" wide. Shape strips into horseshoes on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 325 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove carefully, as cookies break apart easily.

