



Shogatsu, or Japanese New Year, is a very special time in Japan—a time for people to return to their ancestral homes, spend time with their families and get in touch with their roots. According to Shinto belief, New Year is the time when the Kami, the New Year God Toshigami-sama, bring good fortune to homes.

How do you say "Happy New Year" in Japanese?

あけまして

A KE MA SHI TE

おめでとう

O ME DE TO

ございます

GO ZA I MAS



In a corny Edo-style pun, the long, thin noodles are said to represent the desire to live a long and frugal life.

They carry feelings of valuing human connections and hopes for the coming year.

In major temples, the temple bell is rung 108 times.

Hatsumode is the first visit to a shrine or temple of that year.

Hundreds of people line up at the main hall for a prayer.

Once you reach the front of the line you typically put in some change into the coin box, ring the bell, and pray for a good year.

Kagami-mochi is an essential offering to the kami.

Mochi rice cake are a traditional food and considered a symbol of a good harvest.

Ozoni (Japanese New Year Mochi Soup) is for New Year's Day breakfast.

Recipes of Osechi Nyori (from JUST ONE COOKBOOK)

Osechi-nyori is the dishes that grace the table for the first three days of the year. It is a lot of work to make at home so these days people purchase sets made and sold in department stores, convenience stores and on the Internet.

Juunisi (Eto) means 12 zodiac animals.

rat - nezumi
ox - ushi
tiger - tora
rabbit - usagi
dragon - tatsu
snake - hebi
horse - uma
sheep - hitsuji
monkey - saru
rooster - tori
dog - inu
boar - inoshishi

The parents and grandparents give their children small money in a small envelope as a New Year's gift.

On January 1st, families in Japan gather at home.