



Olivia Văn

For as long as I can remember, every February or so, my family and I have celebrated the joyous Tết with festivities, wishes, and delicious food. Tết is extremely important in my country, my culture, and my life.

There are countless aspects that differ Tết from other holidays.

Every year, my siblings and I rush down the stairs to the kitchen table, where several delicious Vietnamese dishes await us on plates and pots. Our eyes gleam upon traveling over the steaming pot of pork stew, large platters of spring rolls, bowls of rice, along with various side dishes and desserts.

Every year, all the children line up in front of our couch, where either my parents, grandparents, or uncle are waiting for us. They hold bright red envelopes laced with intricate gold designs or shiny cartoons. How much money is inside? We wonder, eyeing the “lì xì” with anticipation. To receive the envelopes, however, me and my siblings first have to take turns sharing our New Years Wishes, or Chúc. We wish for the adults to live healthy, live happily, and encounter successes while working. The adults then wish us to do well in school, great health, and good luck.

There are many other things about Tết that make it so unique, but these are the occurrences I remember most. Tết holds a very special place in my heart, and it’s something my family and I will always treasure. ■

For Tet Magazine

Lindsay Nguyen

After being through such hard times, we are finally able to celebrate our New Year. Though our celebration might not be like the last, we can still look forward to having a good time without worrying. As you may know, 2019-2020 has impacted the world along with our lives. It restricted our social life and prevented us from going anywhere. Churches were empty, schools were remote, people were unemployed, and most importantly, you couldn’t even take care of your relatives without being anxious about transmitting the disease with one another. We couldn't do anything at all. But with the new and advanced technology, we were able to quickly make a vaccine which saved many lives. Slowly, we will soon be able to go back to our normal lives, along with being able to enjoy our New Years all together.

This year, our New Year theme is Peaceful, meaning a state of tranquility. Now that we have access to the covid vaccine and booster shot, we can slowly stop worrying about who you make contact with and if they are sick or not. Even if we currently can’t celebrate in a large group like we did before, we should be grateful that we can at least celebrate together within our church community. As long as we continue to monitor our health, wear masks, and respect our distance, we will soon be able to gather around in a large group like we did before. This New Year feels like we are opening a new chapter of our community, with the new year theme as Peaceful, I hope we can peacefully celebrate our New Year in a safe.

