

Tết Nguyen Dan is the commonly known acronym for the Vietnamese New Year; it is abbreviation for Tết Nguyên Đán, which translates as “Festival of the First Morning of the First Day”. It’s also recognized as the Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year. Despite the many similarities between the Vietnamese Lunar New Year and the Chinese Lunar New Year, these are unique holidays with distinct traditions. In Vietnam, the lunar new year is based on



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Tết has always been my favorite time of the year. Everybody is able to celebrate Lunar New Year and people from around the diocese come to witness the unification of the Vietnamese people. Learning about Vietnamese culture and my heritage is a challenge for me because I’ve never actually been to Vietnam. In a way, celebrating Lunar New Year helps me connect to what it’s like to be Vietnamese. I get to wear traditional clothing, eat Vietnamese food, and most importantly, interact with other children around my age. I’m able to make long-lasting friendships with people who don’t go to my school, or even live near me. Tết brings many different kinds of communities together, and I find that beautiful and fascinating. Tết also allows me to dance and sing with my fellow group mates. Although most children are forced into these activities, it’s always great to be able to get out of your comfort zone. Being comfortable with unfamiliar things like dancing or interacting with new people are skill sets that I can bring along in my life. That being said, Tết is a joyful time of the year to relax, and reunite with families and friends. It’s a time for most people to find the best version of themselves. That being said, I will always enjoy being able to be with my family, and learning more about my culture.

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By Natalie Nguyen – TNTT Nghĩa Sĩ