

Monito Monita - Exchange Gifts

By [MM Del Rosario](#)



Christmas is the season of gift giving. In keeping with the tradition of giving, Filipinos have their own version of exchanging gifts or Kris Kringle, it is called "*Monito Monita*". This is usually done among groups of friends, classmates or officemates.

The mechanics of exchanging vary, some can be as simple as asking the participants to bring a gift, on an agreed amount which are later on raffled off to the participants, on Christmas Party.

Others starts several weeks ahead of the gift-giving time which is usually the Christmas party. All participant's name are put in a box and each member will draw a name from the box and whoever you got will be your Monito/Monita and you have to buy a Christmas present for him/her. You cannot reveal your Monito/Monita's name- it will be a secret until the revelation day.



The rule is simple.

The mechanics is easy. *You have to give your Monito/Monita a small gift every day or every week, the frequency depends on the rules the group have set upon.*

Most group choose a theme each week like:

- something soft
- something sweet
- something long and hard
- something green or blue
- something round

It can be a lot of fun to see the different ideas people come up with and it get everyone in the holiday spirit.

The identity of the giver is only known at the *Revelation Day* when the final gift is given to participants' Monito or Monita, usually there is an agreed amount on how much the gift will cost.

In some cases, all the participants have to post their "wish list" about what gift they want to receive so it won't be hard for the giver to decide on what to give their Monito /Monita and you will receive a gift you have been expecting.



Just a reminder

Don't ask to trade names with anyone. Maybe you don't know the person who's name you've drawn, or perhaps you're nervous to give the boss or your teacher a gift. No matter your reason, never ask anyone to trade names with you--it could get back to the person, and they may feel you have something against them. If your monito or monita is someone you don't like, Christmas time is the time to forget your differences.

Read More About Christmas in the Philippines

- [Parol - Filipino Christmas Lantern](#)
Parol is a traditional Filipino Christmas decoration, a five point star-shaped Christmas lantern. Parol reminds the Filipino Christians of the star of Bethlehem that guided the Three Wise Men on their way in search of Baby Jesus.
- [Christmas Caroling in the Philippines](#)
Caroling is a part of the Filipino Christmas tradition. Once the Dawn Mass known as "Misa de Gallo" or "Simbang Gabi " starts, carolers will be on their feet singing Christmas carols from house to house...
- [Filipino Christmas Tradition - Simbang Gabi](#)
Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition, it is a series of nine dawn masses, the mass starts as early as 4:00 a.m. It begins on December 16 and ends on the midnight of the 24th of December.
- [New Year Celebration in the Philippines](#)
New Year's eve celebration in the Philippines is quite different compared to other countries. Filipinos literally start the year with a bang, with lots of firecrackers. This article also includes some of Filipinos New Year's beliefs and practices.

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