

DECEMBER

5

ST. NICHOLAS' EVE,

KRAMPUSNACHT

Visits from mysterious Midwinter gift bearers begin as St. Nicholas wends his way through this dark night. In Austria and Germany, he is accompanied by Krampus; he has different companions in other parts of Northern Europe.

6

ST. NICHOLAS' DAY

St. Nicholas is sacred to Greece and Puglia and many other places.

7

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We light two purple candles.

12

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Sacred to Mexico and Latin America.

13

SANTA LUCIA'S DAY

Sacred to Italy and Sweden. Lucia, whose name means light, is another Midwinter gift bearer.

14

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT;

CHANUKAH BEGINS AT SUNSET

The eight night Festival of Lights begins, and Christmastime is near: We light two purple candles and one rose candle on this joyful Advent day known as Gaudete Sunday.



The church choir proceeds to Midnight Mass.

21

MIDWINTER SOLSTICE: 10:02 AM EASTERN;

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It's the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and we light three purple candles and one rose candle for Advent. Hide not your light.

24

CHRISTMAS EVE

With the day's setting sun,
we enter into Christmastide.

25

CHRISTMAS DAY

A day outside ordinary time, with Twelve Days of Yuletide festivity to come.

26

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY; BOXING DAY;

KWANZAA BEGINS

A focus on unity, self-determination,
cooperation, purpose, creativity, faith.

31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Fast away the old year passes.



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"Happy Christmas," a postcard by Alfred Moritz Mailick, circa 1902, featuring characters easily imagined as the Mellstock Church Gallery Choir in the opening chapters of the Thomas Hardy novel, *Under the Greenwood Tree*. Convivio Book of Days December 2025