



January

*Out with the old, in with the new.
This is a month of old traditions,
beginning with the Twelve Days
of Christmas, half of which are
in the old year, while half
are in the new.*

1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! (SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS)

It's New Year's Day, a traditional day for wassailing.
(From the Old English toast *Wes Hel*: "Be of good health!")
Toast the apple trees with cider!

2 EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

St. Macarius's Day: Patron saint of cooks and confectioners.

3 NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

St. Genevieve's Day: Sacred to Paris.

4 TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

St. Titus's and St. Gregory's Day,
as well as St. Rigobert and St. Ramon.

5 TWELFTH NIGHT (ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS)

Eve of the Epiphany, Festival of the Three Kings in Latin America.
In Italy, *la befana* makes her rounds, delivering small presents.

6 EPIPHANY (TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS)

Arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem. In many places, this is the big
day for gift-giving. Traditional closing of the Yuletide festivities.

7 ST. DISTAFF'S DAY

Partly work and partly play; Ye must on St. Distaff's Day:
The day when women traditionally returned to
their spinning after Christmas.

12 PLOUGH MONDAY

Back to work for the men; this day traditionally marked the
beginning of the agricultural year, with a ceremonial
ploughing of the frozen ground.

ALSO COPPERMAN'S DAY

Traditional day in Holland in which printers' apprentices got
the day off to work on their own projects and show off their
printing skills – typically a keepsake exchanged for a copper.
(We suggest a higher level of generosity!)

19 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

25 BURNS' NIGHT

Celebrates the birthday of the great Scottish poet
Robert Burns, who gave us *Auld Lang Syne*.

Our best wishes to you for the new year. . .
May 2015 be kind to us all!



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