

JANUARY

I

NEW YEAR'S DAY

The Seventh Day of Christmas delivers us to 2026. It is a traditional day for wassailing the apple trees.

5

TWELFTH NIGHT

On this Eve of the Epiphany, the last of the Midwinter gift bearers arrive: in Latin America, *los tres reyes magos* will deliver presents tonight, while In Italy, that's the job of the kindly old witch called *la befana*; she sweeps Christmas away for another year.

6

EPIPHANY, LITTLE CHRISTMAS

The Twelve Days of Christmas close with Epiphany, marking the arrival of the Magi at the stable in Bethlehem. It's gift-giving day in Spain and Latin America. Most folks end their Yuletide celebrations with Epiphany's passing, but many will continue the midwinter cheer to Candlemas at the start of February. This is the old tradition we follow here!

7

ST. DISTAFF'S DAY

First of the Back to Work holidays... the traditional day for women to return to their spinning after Christmas.

*Partly work and partly play,
Ye must on St. Distaff's Day.*



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Twelfth Night, the night before Epiphany, signals the close of the Yuletide Season. Cover star: "Singing Round the Star on Twelfth Night" by Cornelis Troost, pastel and gouache on paper, c. 1740. Convivio Book of Days January 2026



Star carolers at Twelfth Night.

I2

PLOUGH MONDAY, COPPERMAN'S DAY

Back to the plough for the men. In Dutch print shops, it's Copperman's Day, when apprentices make their own prints.

I7

FEAST OF SAN'ANTONIO ABATE

In Italy, a day of feasting. St. Anthony the Abbot is a patron saint of bakers and of animals (especially pigs).

I9

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Honors the great civil rights leader.

20

ST. AGNES EVE

This eve of St. Agnes Day is one for romantic divination in which young girls might see visions of their future husbands.

25

BURNS NIGHT

Literary holiday toasting and celebrating Robert Burns, the national bard of Scotland, with Burns Suppers.