

# • june



*It's June, and we reach Old Midsummer, the warm and open counterpart to December's "bleak midwinter". Celestial events like the solstices have long been considered times more conducive to magic and the melding of worlds. William Shakespeare depicted this brilliantly in his comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream. This is a fine time to read the play or see it again and to allow some suspension of disbelief, just for a little while, just for the fun of it.*

IMAGE: "OBERON AND TITANIA FROM 'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM,' ACT IV, SCENE I" BY THOMAS STOTHARD. OIL ON PAPER MOUNTED ON BOARD, 1806.



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## 8 PENTECOST, WHITSUNDAY

Fifty days past Easter: the descent of the Holy Spirit. Known also as White Sunday; it is traditionally the day for brewing Whitsun ale.

## 13 ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA'S DAY

Sacred to Italy. Italian grandmothers will offer novenas today.

## 14 FLAG DAY

Commemorates the official adoption of the stars & stripes flag of the United States.

## 15 FATHER'S DAY

Honor and cherish them all, fathers given and fathers chosen.

## 16 BLOOMSDAY

From James Joyce's *Ulysses*: Leopold Bloom's adventures in Dublin, June 16, 1904.

## 19 JUNETEENTH

Hard-earned freedom celebration: we should never become complacent about our liberties.

## 21 SUMMER SOLSTICE

### 6:51 AM IN LAKE WORTH

Midsummer, the longest day of the year.

## 22 FESTA DEI GIGLI (FEAST OF THE LILIES)

Great towers are paraded and rocked through the city of Nola, Italy, celebrating St. Paulinus, whose feast day is today.

## 23 ST. JOHN'S EVE

Midsummer revels begin on this night of bonfires, feasting, storytelling, divination, magic and revelry.

It is the night of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

## 24 ST. JOHN'S DAY / OLD MIDSUMMER

Summer may have just begun by the almanac, but the Solstice and St. John's Day are linked through the ages as "Midsummer." Summer is traditionally considered to begin with May Day, midway between the Vernal Equinox and the Summer Solstice. This more logical reckoning of time makes these longest days of the year the natural midpoint of summer.

## 28 (ABOUT) RAMADAN BEGINS (AT SUNSET)

Patience, humility, spirituality. This month of fasting begins with the first sighting of the new moon.