

JANUARY

1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This Seventh Day of Christmas
is a traditional wassailing day.

2

EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

St. Macarius's Day:
patron saint of 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;
St. Rigobert and St. Ramon too.

6

EPIPHANY (TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS)

Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi at the stable in Bethlehem. In many places, like Mexico, today is the big day for Christmas gifts, for it is *El Dia de Reyes*. Epiphany brings with it the traditional closing of the Yuletide festivities... though some traditions carry on all the way to Candlemas!

8

PLough MONDAY, COPPERMAN'S DAY

The Monday after Epiphany, Plough Monday, meant back to work for the men; they began the agricultural year with a ceremonial ploughing of the frozen ground (and some revelry). Copperman's Day is an old Dutch printers' holiday: the apprentices got the day to show off the printing skills they'd learnt in the form of a printed keepsake exchanged for a copper.



5

TWELFTH NIGHT (ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS)

Eve of the Epiphany. The last of the midwinter gift bearers arrive: In Latin America; *los tres reyes* will deliver gifts tonight. In Italy, that's the job of *la befana*, the good witch.

7

ST. DISTAFF'S DAY

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

The traditional day for women to return to their spinning after Christmas. The men would often attempt to light their flax on fire... but the women expected this and the men often found themselves soaked to the skin.

15

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Honoring the great American civil rights leader.

25

BURNS NIGHT

Celebrates Scottish poet Robert Burns, who gave us the song *Auld Lang Syne* that we sang at the start of the month.



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With simple yuletide decorations like these, it's easy to see how some folks in days past kept their homes decorated all the way to Candlemas at the start of February. This garland of spiced oranges and cinnamon is on the mantel at the Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge Historic Site in Stuart, Florida. Read more about the House of Refuge and all these days at the Convivio Book of Days Blog. Convivio Book of Days January 2018 © Convivio Bookworks