

JANUARY

1

Happy New Year!

This 7th Day of Christmas is a traditional day for wassailing.

2

8th Day of Christmas

St. Macarius's Day:
patron saint of confectioners.

3

9th Day of Christmas

St. Genevieve's Day:
Sacred to Paris.

4

10th Day of Christmas

St. Titus's and St. Gregory's Day;
St. Rigobert and St. Ramon too.

5

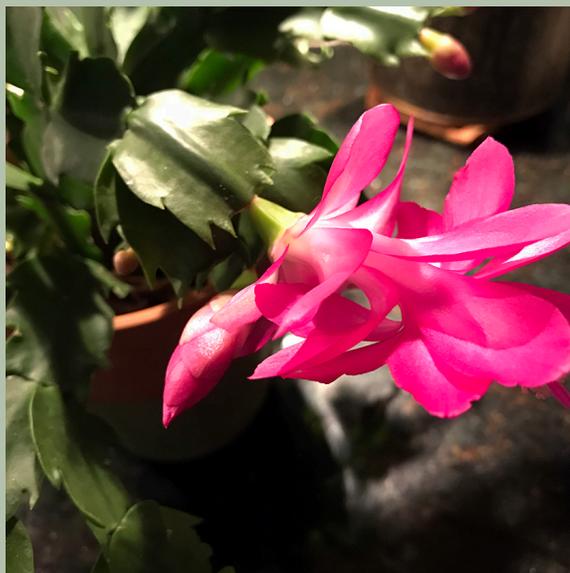
Twelfth Night (11th Day of Christmas)

It's the Eve of the Epiphany, and 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 the kindly old witch known as *la befana*.

6

Epiphany (12th 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!



7

St. Distaff's Day, Plough Monday, Copperman'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. This year, it also happens to be Plough Monday, when the men began the agricultural year with a ceremonial ploughing of the frozen ground (and some revelry). Both Plough Monday and Copperman's Day fall on the Monday after Epiphany. Copperman's Day is an old Dutch printers' holiday: the apprentices got the day off for their own projects to show off the printing skills they'd learnt in the form of a printed keepsake exchanged for a copper.

21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Honoring the great American civil rights leader.

25

Burns Night

Celebrates the great 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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Our Christmas Cactus came into bloom just a few days ago with impeccable timing.

Read more about all these days, and find recipes, too, at the Convivio Book of Days Blog. Convivio Book of Days January 2019 © Convivio Bookworks