

# JANUARY

*I*

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

The Seventh Day of Christmas brings us 2021. A traditional day for wassailing the apple trees.

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## TWELFTH NIGHT

It's the Eve of the Epiphany, and the last of the Midwinter gift bearers arrive: In Latin America, *los tres reyes magos* will deliver presents tonight. In Italy, that's the job of the kindly old witch known as *la befana*, who sweeps away Christmas each year.

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## EPIPHANY, LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Marks the arrival of the Magi at the stable in Bethlehem. The Magi brought gifts, and in many places, like Mexico, today is the big day for Christmas presents. Epiphany brings for some the close of the Yuletide season, though we celebrate, like many others, through to Candlemas at the start of February.

*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.*



*Midwinter bounty: a burlap sack of chestnuts from Italy.*

*II*

## PLOUGH MONDAY, COPPERMAN'S DAY

Back to work for the men on this Monday after Epiphany. In Holland, it's Copperman's Day, when printers' apprentices had the day off to work on their own projects.

*18*

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Honors the great civil rights leader.

*25*

## BURNS NIGHT

Literary holiday celebrating the great Scottish poet Robbie Burns.



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The year's dark nights continue as the days begin to grow a bit longer. Roasted chestnuts are a favorite part of our quiet midwinter celebrations to dispel the night. Convivio Book of Days January 2021 © Convivio Bookworks