

FEBRUARY

1

ST. BRIGID'S DAY, IMBOLC, CANDLEMAS EVE

We step upon the bridge from winter to spring: 40 days past Christmas, halfway between winter solstice and vernal equinox. Tonight, remove any last vestiges of yuletide greenery from your home.

2

CANDLEMAS, GROUNDHOG DAY

At sunset, we light every lamp in the house. Traditional weather marker day: *If the sun shines bright on Candlemas Day, the Half of the winter's not yet away.*

3

ST. BLAISE'S DAY

St. Blaise protects against maladies of the throat.

4

VENICE CARNEVALE BEGINS

The pre-Lenten festival in Italy continues through Shrove Tuesday.

5

ST. AGATHA'S DAY; LANTERN FESTIVAL

The festivities of Chinese Lunar New Year conclude today. In Sicily, bakers celebrate their local patron saint Santa Agata with decadent pastries called *minne di vergine*, while giant towers are carried through the streets of Catania.



Shrovetide and the earliest stirring of spring: this is February.

14

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Where love takes root, let it grow.

21

SHROVE TUESDAY; MARDI GRAS

Pancakes for supper!
Final day of Carnival Season.

22

ASH WEDNESDAY; CONCORDIA

Here begin the 40 Days of Lent:
*Remember man that thou are dust
and to dust you shall return.*
Engage life fully then.

At Concordia, ancient Roman feast of goodwill, we gather for a meal to settle all disputes.



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Shrovetide are the three days just before the start of Lent. It's also the name of this 2013 painting by Igor Novikov. Convivio Book of Days February 2023.