



December Newsletter

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Important December Dates

(All times are CDT)

December 12, 10:37 am - Full Moon

Gemini Moon

The Full Moon in Gemini is excellent for divination, rituals to seek inspiration or brainstorming. You could incorporate all three by using bibliomancy. Take a book about the subject you wish to explore. Open it at random and without looking, point on the page. Read the sentence your finger landed on. Does that passage give you any new ideas or insights? Repeat three or four times, either with the same book or different books on the same subject. Meditate on the sentences you have to read.

Another way to seek ideas is to invoke the Muses. The nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne were each attributed to a different art: epic and heroic poetry, music, lyric and erotic poetry, history, tragedy, sacred poetry and geometry, dance comedy and astronomy and astrology.

Choose the Muse most relevant to your field. Prepare an altar with symbols of your art or other specialty. Include a picture of the Muses or symbols of your art or other specialty. Include a picture of the Muses, or your Muse, if you can. Cast a circle, then ask for help and inspiration. Promise to pursue your art faithfully. Do some artistic work, spend a little time in circle writing, drawing, singing or practicing your instrument.

~ Magenta Griffith

December 21 - Yule

Yule

Animals/Mythical Creatures - Yule goat (Nordic), reindeer stag, squirrels, Yule cat, Sacred White Buffalo, Kallikantzaroi-ugly chaos monsters (Greek), trolls, phoenix, Yule elf, jule gnome, squirrels, wren/robin

Gemstones - cat's eye, ruby, diamond, garnet, bloodstone

Incense/Oils - bayberry, cedar, ginger, cinnamon, pine, rosemary, frankincense, myrrh, nutmeg, wintergreen, saffron

Colors/Candles - gold, silver, red, green, white

Tools/Symbols/Decorations - bayberry candles, evergreens, holly, mistletoe, poinsettia, lights, gifts, Yule log, Yule tree, spinning wheels, wreaths, bells, mother & child images

Goddesses - Great Mother, Befana (Strega), Holda (Teutonic), Isis (Egyptian), Triple Goddess, Mary (Christian), Tonazín (Mexican), Lucina (Roman), St. Lucy (Swedish), Bona Dea (Roman), Mother Earth, Eve (Hebrew), Ops (Roman Holy Mother), the Snow Queen, Hertha (German), Frey (Norse)

Gods - Sun Child, Saturn (Roman), Cronos (Greek), Horus/Ra (Egyptian), Jesus (Christian-Gnostic), Mithras (Persian), Balder (Norse), Santa Claus/Odin (Teutonic), Holly King, Sol Invicta, Janus (God of Beginnings), Marduk (Babylonian) Old Man Winter

Essence - honor, rebirth, transformation, light out of darkness, creative inspiration, the mysteries, new life, regeneration, inner renewal, reflection/introspection

Dynamics/Meaning - death of the Holly (winter) King; reign of the Oak (summer) King, begin the ordeal of the Green Man, death & rebirth of the Sun God; night of greatest lunar imbalance; sun's rebirth; shortest day of year

Purpose - honor the Triple Goddess, welcome the Sun Child

Rituals/Magick - personal renewal, world peace, honoring family & friends, Festival of light, meditation

Customs - lights, gift-exchanging, singing, feasting, resolutions, new fires kindled, strengthening family & friend bonds, generosity, Yule log, hanging mistletoe, apple wassailing, burning candles, Yule tree decorating; kissing under mistletoe; needfire at dawn vigil; bell ringing/sleigh-bells; father Yule

Foods - nuts, apple, pear, caraway cakes soaked with cider, pork, orange, hibiscus or ginger tea, roasted turkey, nuts, fruitcake, dried fruit, cookies, eggnog, mulled wine

Herbs - blessed thistle, evergreen, moss, oak, sage, bay, bayberry, cedar, pine, frankincense, ginger, holly, ivy, juniper, mistletoe, myrrh, pinecones, rosemary, chamomile, cinnamon, valerian, yarrow

Element/Gender - earth/male

Threshold - dawn

To learn more about this and other Sabbats, get our Sabbats eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=25&products_id=70&osCsId=so3cteipocab4pkntof6rl1253

December 25 - Christian Christmas

The holidays are a time to revel in the gratitude and love we feel for one another. Here are 25 meaningful ways to celebrate your togetherness this season.

1. Go for a family nature walk near your home to collect seasonal items that you can use in your holiday decor. If you live near a forest, the obvious choices are pine boughs and pinecones, but long dried grasses can look just as festive tied with a holiday bow.
2. Make a few handmade holiday cards this year as a family.
3. Make appreciation cards. Replace the annual Christmas letter in your holiday cards with a brief letter of appreciation for the recipient.
4. Create or purchase new ornaments each year for the tree. Create or shop for an ornament that reflects a defining event or sentiment for the year.

5. Enjoy a Family Night with special holiday crafts or games.
6. Start a Christmas themed puzzle somewhere in your home. A puzzle table, placed in a quiet room is great for holiday visitors. Whenever your guests want to get away from the action, they can retreat to work on the puzzle. This can be a great stress reliever, and it is wonderful for those guests who always have to be busy doing something.
7. Play special music. Ask everyone for their favorite holiday CD. Allow each family member to choose and keep them in the CD changer.
8. Take a photo of your children standing in a particular spot each year (in front of the tree, by the front door) anyplace that will be consistent from year to year. Make a special holiday ornament or scrapbook album that depicts the growth and change of your family each year.
9. Research the holiday traditions of your nationality. Adopt a few of these traditions into your annual celebration each year to celebrate your heritage.
10. Ask each child to write a Dear Santa letter. (Small children can draw pictures). Keep a special record of these letters in an album or treasure box.
11. Create an evening tradition of taking a family walk or drive in your neighborhood to view the holiday lights.
12. Cut snowflakes from wrapping paper, festive holiday advertisements, or holiday cards, and string them together into a festive garland.
13. Adopt a special cause each year and spend some time as a family helping those in need, or raising or donating money for a charity of your choice.
14. What are your favorite holiday memories? Pose the question tonight at the dinner table. Use the answers to plan the celebration. You may be surprised at the special memories that have nothing to do with gifts or elaborate events.
15. For fifteen minutes, write down things in your life that you are grateful for. Ask each of your family members to join you in creating their own lists.
16. Bundle up and head outside. Make snow angels or build a snow fort with your kids. When it is time to warm up, build a cozy fire and roast marshmallows in your living room.
17. What is your favorite homemade holiday treat? Write down the recipe, and share it with your friends. Encourage them to do the same.
18. Challenge each member of your family to fill a box or bag full of items to give away. Decide as a family where to make a donation.
19. What was the best book you read this year? With whom would you most like to share its message? Purchase a copy for them and drop it off, anonymously.
20. Take your family to a performance of The Nutcracker. Purchase a CD or DVD of the Nutcracker to bring the memories home.
21. The holidays can take their toll. Make a holiday tradition of recharging your own batteries. Gather your daughter and your best friend and head to the day spa for a much deserved pedicure or massage.
22. Reach out to those whom you have not seen all year. It takes a little extra effort this busy time of year, but make a goal to send a card or note to someone you think about but do not see much anymore.
23. Keep a "Joy Journal" this holiday season, in which you record the funny things your kids say, joyful times you share, your favorite things to do with your family (and by yourself), and all the things for which you are grateful. Use your Joy Journal as a reminder of the facets of your life (and this holiday season) that are really important.
24. Give small and simple gifts (homemade cookies or a small book) to a few of the people who make your everyday life easier, such as the trash collector and postal carrier.
25. Share your family traditions with friends and ask them to tell you about the family traditions that make their holidays sweeter.

December 27, 6:22 am - New Moon

Dark & New Moon: Combined Ritual

by Lady Amhranai

This ritual is meant to be done on the crux between the Dark and New Moons. Many people would never think to put the two together. They have been combined here because we can both rid ourselves of negatives (the dark moon) and bring in the new (the new moon) all at one time. Some people like to keep them separate, but you may find time where this is very useful. Please remember that this is only a sample ritual, and that each one really needs to be personalized in order to develop your spirituality and further yourself down your own chosen path! It is also a solitary ritual and would have to be altered for coven use.

Create the magick circle. Quietly and somberly trace the circle widdershins (counter clockwise, as opposed to deosil, this is a time of banishing) sprinkling some salt throughout the boundaries of your sacred space. Some like to circle this three times.

Stand directly in the center of the ritual space. Calm yourself and do a little deep breathing. When you are ready, proceed to the North and begin calling the elements to join you.

Facing the North, hold your arms straight down to the earth and say,

"Great Guardians of the North, holder of the element of earth, join me here in this circle for the observance of the crux of the dark to the new moon. Be the keeper of this, the first quarter of my circle on this night! I welcome you with open arms, and open mind, and an open heart. I thank you! Welcome and Blessed Be."

Slowly make your way to the West. Facing West, embrace yourself with your arms warmly and say,

"Great Guardians of the West, holder of the element of water, join me here in this circle for the observance of the crux of the dark to the new moon. Be the keeper of this, the second quarter of my circle on this night! I welcome you with open arms, and open mind, and an open heart. I thank you! Welcome and Blessed Be."

Again slowly make your way to the South. Facing South, raise your arms straight out to either side of you and say,

"Great Guardians of the South, holder of the element of fire, join me here in this circle for the observance of the crux of the dark to the new moon. Be the keeper of this, the third quarter of my circle on this night! I welcome you with open arms, and open mind, and an open heart. I thank you! Welcome and Blessed Be."

Finally, slowly make your way to the East. Facing East, raise your arms straight above you and say,

"Great Guardians of the East, holder of the element of air, join me here in this circle for the observance of the crux of the dark to the new moon. Be the keeper of this, the final quarter of my circle on this night! I welcome you with open arms, and open mind, and an open heart. I thank you! Welcome and Blessed Be."

Stand directly in the center of the circle, arms raised high above your head, and say,

"Holy Keepers of Balance, holders of spirit, the point between all elements, join me here in this circle for the observance of the crux of the dark to the new moon. This is very much your time, where the lunar month is perfectly balanced between cycles. Teach me your mystical ways on this very holy night, and help me to further know my own spirituality, and the mysticism which surrounds me. Welcome and Blessed Be."

At your altar, facing any direction and using a comfortable position, call upon the gods to join you.

"Holy God, father of our existence, I call upon you this night. This is the time you are making the very important transition from Sage, to Sun King! A transition needed to guide the world through each cycle of life. Show me your gifts so that I may fully learn from them. Teach me more about myself, by teaching me more about you. I thank you for your presence this holy night, and I ask you to stay as I observe this holy lunar festival. I greet you with open arms, an open mind, and an open heart. Welcome and Blessed be."

Take a minute to calm/think before you go on. Take a second to feel the presence of the God. When you are ready, call the Goddess, saying,

"Great Goddess, mother of all, I call upon you this night. This is the time you are making the very important transition from Crone to Maiden! A transition needed to guide the world through each cycle of life. Teach me more about myself, by teaching me more about you. I thank you for your presence on this very holy night and I ask you to stay, so that we may celebrate this, your holy festival. I greet you with open arms, an open mind, and an open heart. Welcome and Blessed Be."

When you are ready (take a minute) sit in the center of the circle. Contemplate the things in your life you wish to rid yourself of. Really concentrate about whether you should rid yourself of those things, and if perhaps there are other, more pressing concerns to rid yourself of. Focus on this deeply and draw a mental image of it. From this point you can either draw this image, and burn it, offering it to the gods to use and disperse among the universe, or some other action to help yourself be rid of this. Often a physical action, representing a wanted result, makes the result that much easier to achieve. It is called sympathetic Magick.

This is the time of introspection, and of learning from both the Crone and the Maiden. Gather your thoughts, calm yourself into a near meditative state. Standing in front of your altar, slowly light a black and a white candle and say,

"Great Hecate, holy Innana be here with me now. Grant me your wisdom, and teach me your holiest of secrets, saved only for the dedicated. Show me your true will, and reveal to me your many faces. Show me the time of balance between dark and light, life and death. Please teach to me the secrets of the great balance between the cycles, and grant me the wisdom of your very being"

Extinguish all other candles from the circle, let alone the two candles. Holding your arms above you, first allow Hecate's presence to enter into your body slowly. DON'T rush this in any way! Feel her wisdom, feel the experience of death for renewal. Live the end of the cycle through her. Slowly, and quietly at first begin to chant,

"Great Hecate, show me your being, grant me the way"

until it builds up.

Next allow Innana's presence to enter into your body slowly. Feel her playfulness and the life she brings. Feel through her the transition into life. Slowly, and quietly at first begin to chant,

"Great Innana, show me your being, grant me the way"

until it builds up. Build it up until you are ready (by this point you should feel dazed!) but remember not to over do it. When you are done, fall to the ground, place your hands there and allow the excess energy to run freely into the ground. Take some time, this is very important!

Take some time to focus on what you would like to begin in your life. Visualize it, work spellcrafting for it, etc. Be sure that what you want is also what you need. Be sure to thank the Gods when asking for anything. This is also a great time to dedicate yourself to some new path, or new venture.

Use this time to dance, sing, chant, and most of all play! This is a youthful exuberant time, use it to remind yourself of who and what you are. Learn to see the world around you as a child does. This is a great time for clay and crafts, instruments and drumming (and alone it can really be a blast). There is a story of one woman, who every new moon, threw off her clothes and danced the circle skylad, nearly in a frenzy. This was an important time, she said, to get in touch with her youthful, maiden, innocent side. To learn to love her body again. (She was 73! If we could all learn like that!)

Remember to celebrate and take some time to commune with the Gods. When you are done, meditate on what you have experienced and learned. Allow the Crone and Maiden to guide you through this meditation.

When you are ready, come out of the meditative state (take as long as you need). Slowly raise yourself (you will be tired!), and light a few illuminating candles. Extinguish the black and white candles, saying,

"Hecate and Innana, I thank you for the wisdom you have bestowed, and am forever grateful for your teachings. I hope to walk down this path with you again! Blessed Be."

Place your focus on your cakes and ale (substitutes are almost always required here, bread and juice or mead (for the moon) are excellent replacements). Taking the cakes in your right hand, say aloud,

"I bless this food, fruit of the earth, body of the goddess. Great God and Goddess, holy Guardians of the quarters, I ask you to partake in this feasting with me, on this night. Blessed be."

Eat some of the food, eat what you need. Leave some to later put outside for the animals (what we take from the earth, we must try to give back again). Take up the ale/wine in your right hand and say,

"I bless this drink, holy nectar of the earth, life blood of existence. Great God and Goddess, holy Guardians of the quarters, I ask you to partake in this feasting with me, on this night. Blessed be."

Drink some of the liquid, saving some for later. While you drink it, imagine the pure cleansing energy of it flowing into you. Take some time to truly appreciate your experience on this night. When you are ready take some time to personally thank and bid farewell to the elements, starting with North and ending with East. If you notice we begin by using acts of the dark moon, and end with acts of the new, and it can be quite confusing to close and open the circle in the same direction! After this is finished, thank and bid farewell to the God and Goddess, remembering that without them, you would not be here.

Slowly open the circle again. You have finished the ritual, and might want to take some "down time" recording what you can remember of the meditation, as well as any other feelings or teachings you gained from this night. Above all, RELAX!

December 31 - New Year's Eve

New Year's Ritual

Spend the day on December 31st by taking some time to be quiet and reflect on the year that is drawing to a close. Think about the people that mattered most to you, your greatest accomplishment, challenging difficulties and the lessons you learned.

Take a purification bath. Scrub yourself with sea salt and wash yourself thoroughly in the water. Feel free to anoint yourself with your favorite oil or perfume.

Contemplate the patterns in your life that keep you stuck. Write down the limiting beliefs or habits that you wish to leave behind with the old year. In a fireproof bowl or fireplace, safely burn the paper. As the paper burns, be aware that you have just made space for new ideas people, and opportunities to enter your life. Carefully, throw out the ashes when they cool.

New Items at Witch SuperCenter

Pentacle, Triquetra & Triple Moon Brass Wind Chimes -

<http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=24&osCsid=uucodgths43jhufm9jjahfskj2>

Pentacle, Triquetra & Celtic Design Wood Wall Hangings –

<http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=24&osCsid=uucodgths43jhufm9jjahfskj2>

Pentacle Yoga Mat –

http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=39&products_id=381&osCsid=i6a

Pentacle, Triquetra & Dragon Yoga Lounge Pants -

<http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=39&osCsid=uucodgths43jhufm9jjahfskj2>

Pentacle & Triquetra Shirts -

<http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=1&osCsid=uucodgths43jhufm9jjahfskj2>

Triquetra & Pentagram Caps -

<http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=1&osCsid=uucodgths43jhufm9jjahfskj2>

Pentacle, Triquetra & Celtic Design Tapestries & Cushion Covers –

<http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=24&osCsid=uucodgths43jhufm9jjahfskj2>

To see all of our new items, visit

http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/products_new.php?osCsid=so3cteipocab4pkntof6rl1253

Witch SuperCenter December Sale Items

Healing with Herbs eBook – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

Bloodstone Drop Pendulum – Regular Price \$17.99, Sale Price \$15.99

Incense Making Kit – Regular Price \$24.99, Sale Price \$22.99

Wicca Starter Kit w/Love Spell – Regular Price \$29.99, Sale Price \$27.99

Peppermint Tea – Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price \$4.99

To see all of our sale items, visit

<http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/specials.php?osCsid=so3cteipocab4pkntof6rl1253>

Herb of the Month

Cinnamon - Fire/Sun, Gender - Masculine, Parts Used - Bark, Magickal Properties - Protection, Healing, Love, Passion and Money wishes. Uses - Burn to promote clairvoyance and protection, add to other appropriate money herbs for an excellent boost, wear an amulet for passion in men, and mix with other appropriate healing herbs to add energy and quickness to healing

To learn more about this and other herbs, get our Magickal Herbs eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=25&products_id=64&osCsid=so3cteipocab4pkntof6rl1253

Stone of the Month

Topaz - Removing negativity, topaz transforms it to joy and enhances individuality and creativity. It helps the wearer to see the big picture, understanding their own motivation and desires as well as the intents of those around them. Topaz improves the intellect, promotes health and wealth. It instills discipline and gives the wearer the impetus to act on their dreams, thus bringing them into materialization.

Topaz is a powerful stone in the way that quartz is. It is a balancing and calming stone that balances emotions, releases tension, balances emotions, and can bring joy. Topaz is also believed to bring success and good fortune, and synchronicity. It is also used for protection, particularly protection from the evil eye and greed. It also is said to bring creativity, individuality, true love, and hope. Spiritually it brings in spiritual love and peace. Physically, topaz aids with gout, blood disorders, hemorrhages, poor appetite, tissue regeneration, tuberculosis, aging (reverses), endocrine system.

Rune of the Month

† **Nauthiz:** (N: Need.) Delays, restriction. Resistance leading to strength, innovation, need-fire (self-reliance). Distress, confusion, conflict, and the power of will to overcome them. Endurance, survival, determination. A time to exercise patience. Recognition of one's fate. Major self-initiated change. Face your fears. Nauthiz Reversed or Merkstave: Constraint of freedom, distress, toil, drudgery, laxity. Necessity, extremity, want, deprivation, starvation, need, poverty, emotional hunger.

To learn more about this and other runes, get our Rune Dice Book at

http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=25&products_id=80&osCsid=so3cteipocab4pkntof6rl1253

Tarot Card of the Month

Eight of Cups - It is appropriate that the figure on the Rider-Waite Eight of Cups is walking near a marsh or pool, because a stagnant swamp is the best symbol for the emotional stagnation portrayed here. This happens when the flow of energy and love that pushes us forward stops, and when you simply start drifting through life on the placid ocean, waiting for the wind to return. In such times, waiting is usually not the best solution because it is unlikely that anything will get done if you just sit there. This is one of those times when you might just have to break out the paddles and row.

Recognizing when it is time to move on, away from difficult times, is the primary theme of the Eight of Cups. Since it is a Cups card it refers mainly to relationships, those where you are giving too much and not getting nearly enough in exchange. A one-sided relationship of this type will cause you nothing but pain for as long as it lasts, and when the Eight of Cups appears in a reading relating to such a relationship, it is a powerful wake-up call that cannot be ignored. Take a look at your situation and see what can be done to balance things out a little.

Another type of energy stagnation illustrated here is simple lethargy, the lack of motivation and desire to achieve. Such apathy generally manifests as complaining about how good the past was and how bleak the future looks. The lesson the Eight of Cups gives us in this case is this: the past is gone and it cannot be changed, so you might as well make the most of the future. You cannot go backward and you cannot stay where you are, and the time has come for you to move on. This is in many ways a card of self-discovery, urging you to pursue your true path and find something better. An old ambition may have to be abandoned but a new one will certainly arise.

Tying into this theme, and usually fitting with the card's symbolism, is the notion that physical sacrifices must be made for spiritual growth to happen. Just look at the card again: the man walks away from his eight golden cups, neatly stacked, to the barren wasteland ahead. This represents a search for higher truth when the everyday truths of the material world are no longer sufficient to satisfy the soul. In many ways the Eight of Cups is tied to the Hermit and the Hanged Man, who give up their friends and their freedom, respectively, to seek wisdom. The sacrifice intended on the Eight of Cups comes from the heart, but the wisdom earned fills the void that is created.

To learn more about this and other Tarot Cards, get our Basic Tarot Card Reading eBook at http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=25&products_id=71&osCsid=so3cteipocab4pkntof6rl1253

Correspondence of the Month

Seasons

Summer - love, marriage, friendship, beauty, courage, fire magick, strength, protection, magickal and physical energy

Spring - healing, air magick, ecological rituals, fertility, finances

Autumn - money, employment, water magick

Winter - Earth magick, introspection, meditation, magickal exercises, banishing, seeking past lives

To learn more about this and other correspondences, get our Magickal Correspondences eBook at http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=25&products_id=68&osCsid=so3cteipocab4pkntof6rl1253

Spell of the Month

Money Bottle Spell

a thin, tall bottle
5 pennies
5 dimes
5 quarters
5 kernels of dried corn
5 kernels of dried wheat (or 5 tsp. wheat flour)
5 sesame seeds
5 cinnamon sticks
5 cloves
5 whole allspice
5 pecans

Place each item into your thin, tall bottle (a spice bottle will do). Cap it tightly. Shake the bottle with your receptive hand for five minutes, while chanting:

Herbs and silver,
Copper and grain;
Work to increase
My money gain.

Place the money bottle on a table somewhere in your house. Leave your purse or wallet near the bottle when at home.

To receive more spells, get our Wicca 101 and Beyond: A Witch's Grimoire eBook at http://witchsupercenter.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=65&osCsid=so3cteipocab4pkntof6rl1253