



## December Newsletter

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## **Important December Dates**

(All times are CDT/CST)

### **November 16, 7:33 pm to December 6, 3:22 pm – Mercury Retrograde**

From December 16 until December 1, messenger planet Mercury will be traveling retrograde through fiery Sagittarius, before backing into secretive Scorpio for the duration of this retrograde which lasts until December 6. The truth will inevitably come to light during this phase, as mysteries are revealed and skeletons are forced out of the closet. We may also be asked to review situations that happened a year ago (December 3-22, 2017), when Mercury was last retrograde in Sagittarius. The good news - If similar mishaps and misrepresentations crop up, we'll be better prepared to face them proactively than we were in 2017.

While Mercury wants to analyze every detail and follow facts instead of fiction, Sagittarius wants to skim over the boring parts and skip right to the fun, no matter how foolish this impulse may be. Because Jupiter-ruled Sagittarius wants to embellish stories and make things more interesting than they really are, Mercury's job of doling out hard evidence is made that much more difficult.

To remind you of all that can go wrong during Mercury retrograde, it's normally a time when communication blunders, transportation errors, and technological mishaps happen frequently. This is the perfect time to really think twice before taking action, to complete one thing at a time, and to plan way ahead.

Because Sagittarius is known for its blunt and brutally honest attitude, it would be wise to be as thoughtful as possible during delicate conversations. This fire sign is also known for its visionary mindset which can cause them to put the cart before the horse, so make sure that you try your best to think practically and realistically.

Mercury Retrograde ends on December 6 in Scorpio. Mercury retrograde is often feared by those who follow astrology, but let's not forget that it's only temporary. It's also important to remember that a lot of good can come out of a retrograde period. After all, it's when a planet reverses course, taking us back in time and guiding us through a period of difficult, yet necessary introspection.

While Mercury retrograde begins in expansive Sagittarius, it will station direct in deep-thinking, passionate, and genuine Scorpio on December 6. Because Scorpio makes Mercury more concerned with the truth that lies behind the facade, influence from this fixed water sign will transform the retrograde into something far more thoughtful. Expect uncomfortable information to arise, betrayals to be made apparent, and if you're wondering who you should and shouldn't trust, Mercury Retrograde in Scorpio will definitely let you know.

Although Mercury's backwards tailspin can leave wreckage in its wake, it can also be an opportunity to settle scores, understand the truth, and rethink aspects of your perspective that may not be working. When Mercury turns direct in Scorpio for the second time this year, your intuition will be extremely strong.

## December 7, 1:20 am – New Moon

This New Moon in Sagittarius is square Mars and Neptune. Tempers are probably already frayed because the November 23 full moon was square Mars. Mars conjunct Neptune adds a sinister, underhand influence to the aggression, sexuality and nastiness of Mars in hard aspect. On top of all this, the new moon joins a star in Hercules Constellation which acts like Mars on steroids.

Mars in almost exact conjunction to Neptune is the main influence on the December 7 New Moon. It is a sinister influence because it is square the New Moon. Major themes will be anger, fear, deception, confusion, treachery, scandal, revenge, immorality and perversion.

Fixed star Ras Algethi joins the New Moon to cause irritation from women and a ruthless drive to gain power. The keys to avoiding loss, suffering and disappointment are honesty and integrity. The actions of others are likely to make you angry, mean and vengeful. The best option would be to ignore any provocation. If you must react, then do so in a straight forward, direct and honest way. Don't leave anything to the imagination.

In particular, the New Moon square Mars/Neptune increases the risk of being deceived by fraudsters, charlatans, cult leaders and sexual predators. Beware of charismatic people claiming to have the answers to your problems.

However, this New Moon will stimulate your creativity and imagination. So this a good moon phase for art, music, sculpture, dance and drama. Entertainment, charity work and fighting for social causes are excellent ways to use this ethereal energy safely.

This New Moon is the last in the current eclipse phase which began with the July 2018 Blood Moon Lunar Eclipse. It is a good time to look back over the last five months to check how well you have progressed with your personal goals.

## December 21– Yule/Winter Solstice

### 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

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## **December 23, 11:39 am – Full Moon**

### Wintergreen Moon

As the year draws to a close, we cling to those plants that remind us of the vitality of the growing season. Wintergreen is one of them. Use a wintergreen essential oil to anoint altar candles for the winter solstice to ensure strength and vigor, going into the New Year.

Wintergreen's thick, leathery, green leaves may get a tinge of bronze or red in cold weather, but it is the bright red berries that really pop! The plant's growth cycle is such that the red berries can linger a long time. It is not unusual to see a plant that still has some of the previous year's berries when it blooms in late summer.

Overwhelmingly, the wintergreen used in flavoring today is made from synthetics. Both leaves and berries will render that delicious wintergreen flavor and aroma; however, it is the leaves that are most often used in tea. A towel soaked in the wintergreen tea can be lightly rung out and placed on aching joints or minor skin irritations. A gentle steam from wintergreen-infused water can help with respiratory problems.

~ JD Hortwort in *Llewellyn's Witches' Datebook*

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## **December 25 - Christmas**

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## **December 31 – New Year’s Eve**

### Happy New Year Wish

My Happy New Year wish for you  
Is for your best year yet,  
A year where life is peaceful,  
And what you want, you get.

A year in which you cherish  
The past year’s memories,  
And live your life each new day,  
Full of bright expectancies.

I wish for you a holiday  
With happiness galore;  
And when it’s done, I wish you  
Happy New Year, and many more.

~ Joanna Fuchs

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to enroll.



**Witch SuperCenter December Sale Items**

Kambaba Jasper Rune Set - Regular Price \$19.99,  
Sale Price \$17.99

7 Chakra Stone Set - Regular Price - \$9.99,  
Sale Price - \$8.99

Divination eBook - Regular Price - \$5.99,  
Sale Price - \$4.99

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

Magickal Herbs Kit, 92 Herbs - Regular Price \$69.99,  
Sale Price \$59.99



To see all of our sale items, visit

[http://witchsupercenter.net/store/index.php?main\\_page=specials](http://witchsupercenter.net/store/index.php?main_page=specials)

## New Books & Tarot for December at Witch SuperCenter

Easy Tarot, deck and book - \$19.95

[http://witchsupercenter.net/store/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=85&products\\_id=415](http://witchsupercenter.net/store/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=85&products_id=415)

Dreaming the Divine -\$15.99

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The Real Witches' Coven - \$17.95

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Incense: Crafting & Use of Magickal Scents - \$19.99

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Runes of the Northern Light Oracle Cards - \$19.99

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## Herb of the Month



**Holly** – Fire/Mars; Gender – Masculine; Parts Used - The whole Herb; Magickal Properties – Protection; Uses - The wood is used for all magickal tools, as it will enhance any wish you have. A powerful protection in the home, also said to heighten masculinity if the fruit and leaves are carried by a man.

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

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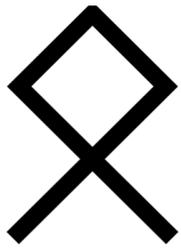
## Stone of the Month

**Bloodstone** – love confidence, strength, control over your life, luck (fire) Bloodstone is known as "the stone of the warrior." This stone enhances courage and brings understanding of the benefits behind each hard-won victory. It helps us to revitalize and open our hearts, tempering strength with compassion. It is a protective stone, and in ancient times was thought to slow bleeding.

This stone is often used by athletes to give them both courage and physical vitality. It is also a prosperity stone, helping to manifest wealth.



## Rune of the Month



**Othala** (O: Ancestral property.) – Inherited property or possessions, a house, a home; What is truly important to one; Group order, group prosperity; Land of birth, spiritual heritage, experience and fundamental values; Aid in spiritual and physical journeys; Source of safety, increase and abundance. Othala Reversed or Merkstave: Lack of customary order, totalitarianism, slavery, poverty, homelessness; Bad karma, prejudice, clannishness, provincialism; What a man is bound to.

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## Tarot Card of the Month

**Five of Cups** – There are certain Tarot cards whose imagery immediately conjure up negative emotions, and the Five of Cups carries such weight. This is a card which signifies loss as well as the painful challenges which stem from that particular loss.

The card depicts a figure who is wearing a black cloak. The person hides his face in what seems to be despair. There are five cups on the ground, three of which have fallen while the other two remain standing. The person, however, doesn't seem to notice that there are two standing cups as he is too busy mourning those which have fallen. There is a powerful river which flows between him and a house or a castle in the distance, indicating that a torrent of emotions have separated him from home.

### Upright Five of Cups Meaning

The Five of Cups symbolizes disappointment, and the feelings that come when things go differently than what you expected. You are feeling unhappy that a certain situation hasn't really turned out the way you had hoped it would. Instead of moving toward a more positive perspective, this card seems to say that you are dwelling in the past, inducing feelings of self-pity and regret. The water which is actually spilled from the cups shows that you might have missed an opportunity. It also shows that the problem is mostly emotional and not material or financial.

The meaning of the Five of Cups shows that you may have certain issues with letting go of things which are in the past. What is more, it also shows that you are unwilling to learn from mistakes that you have already committed. The card is often going to reflect a person who is so caught up in his past that he is absolutely incapable of moving on.



This means that he has a high chance of missing out on new joys that the future can bring.

### Five of Cups Reversal Meaning

When the card is reversed, it shows a significant recovery from the regret as well as proper acceptance of your past. You are beginning to realize all of the implications of your actions, and you have finally come to appreciate the lessons which can be learned from that experience.

You may even start to recognize the overall value of the painful experience you had in the larger scheme of things. You are seeing that the suffering and grief that you endured gave you strength and imbued you with resilience. You are ready to pick up the two remaining cups which are still full and go on with your life in full force.

To learn more about this and other Tarot Cards, get our Basic Tarot Card Reading eBook at

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### Correspondence of the Month

#### Herbs



**Angelica Root** – protection, healing, temperance

**Basil** – money & riches, protection, love

**Chamomile Flowers** – healing, prosperity

**Cinnamon** – protection, healing, love, passion, money

**Clove** – repelling negative influences

**Coriander Seed** – love, fertility, protection

**Cumin** – protection, fidelity, exorcism

**Dill Weed** – protection, love

**Fennel Seed** – protection, healing, purification

**Flax Seed** – money, protection, psychic powers, healing

**Frankincense Tears** – protection, purification, consecration, exorcism

**Mugwort** – protection, divination, clairvoyance

**Myrrh Gum** – high psychic vibrations, spirituality, purification, protection

**Oregano** – protection, love, warding off colds

**Peppermint Leaf** – purification, healing sleep, love, prosperity

**Rosebuds & Petals** – ultimate love, protection

**Rosemary Leaf** – contentment, love, protection, clear thinking, money

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**Sage Leaf** – healing, purification

**Sea Salt** – cleansing, casting circles, purification, grounding, protection

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## Spell of the Month

### Yule Log

Materials:

- A log
- Natural materials such as holly, mistletoe, pine cones, sprays of evergreen, berries, etc.
- Some herbs such as cinnamon sticks
- Twine or wire (to secure everything to the log)



Secure everything to the log in a way that looks pleasing. Traditionally, a Yule log is burned and a piece of the log saved for kindling the next year's log. This is thought to bring health and prosperity to the household for the entire year. If you don't have a fireplace, or for whatever reason don't want to burn your Yule log, you can place candles on it and make a centerpiece.

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