

OBSERVANCES

Yule: The pagan celebration of the winter solstice is known as Yule, and it's one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world. It simultaneously celebrates the shortest day of the year, midwinter, and the return of the Sun. It's also a festival of rebirth.

Christmas Day: *Christmas is an annual sacred Christian holiday that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, the spiritual leader and founder of Christianity. While many people celebrate Christmas to honor Jesus's birth, it's also celebrated as a cultural holiday across the globe.*

Hanukkah: The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. The Hanukkah celebration revolves around the kindling of a nine-branched menorah, known in Hebrew as the hanukkiah. On each of the holiday's eight nights, another candle is added to the menorah after sundown; the ninth candle, called the shamash ("helper"), is used to light the others. Jews typically recite blessings during this ritual and display the menorah prominently in a window as a reminder to others of the miracle that inspired the holiday.

Kwanzaa: Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili, a language spoken in [Africa](#), and refers to the joy and unity many Africans have when celebrating the harvest season. Celebrated every year from December 26 through January 1, Kwanzaa is a week of festivities honoring African American culture and heritage. The holiday encourages people to honor seven principles: unity, self-determination (helping yourself succeed), collective work and responsibility (teamwork), cooperative economics (sharing), purpose, creativity and faith.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Yule
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day Hanukkah	26 Hanukkah Kwanza	27 Hanukkah Kwanza	28 Hanukkah Kwanza
29 Hanukkah Kwanza	30 Hanukkah Kwanza	31 Hanukkah Kwanza	Hanukkah (to January 2nd) Kwanza (to January 1st)			