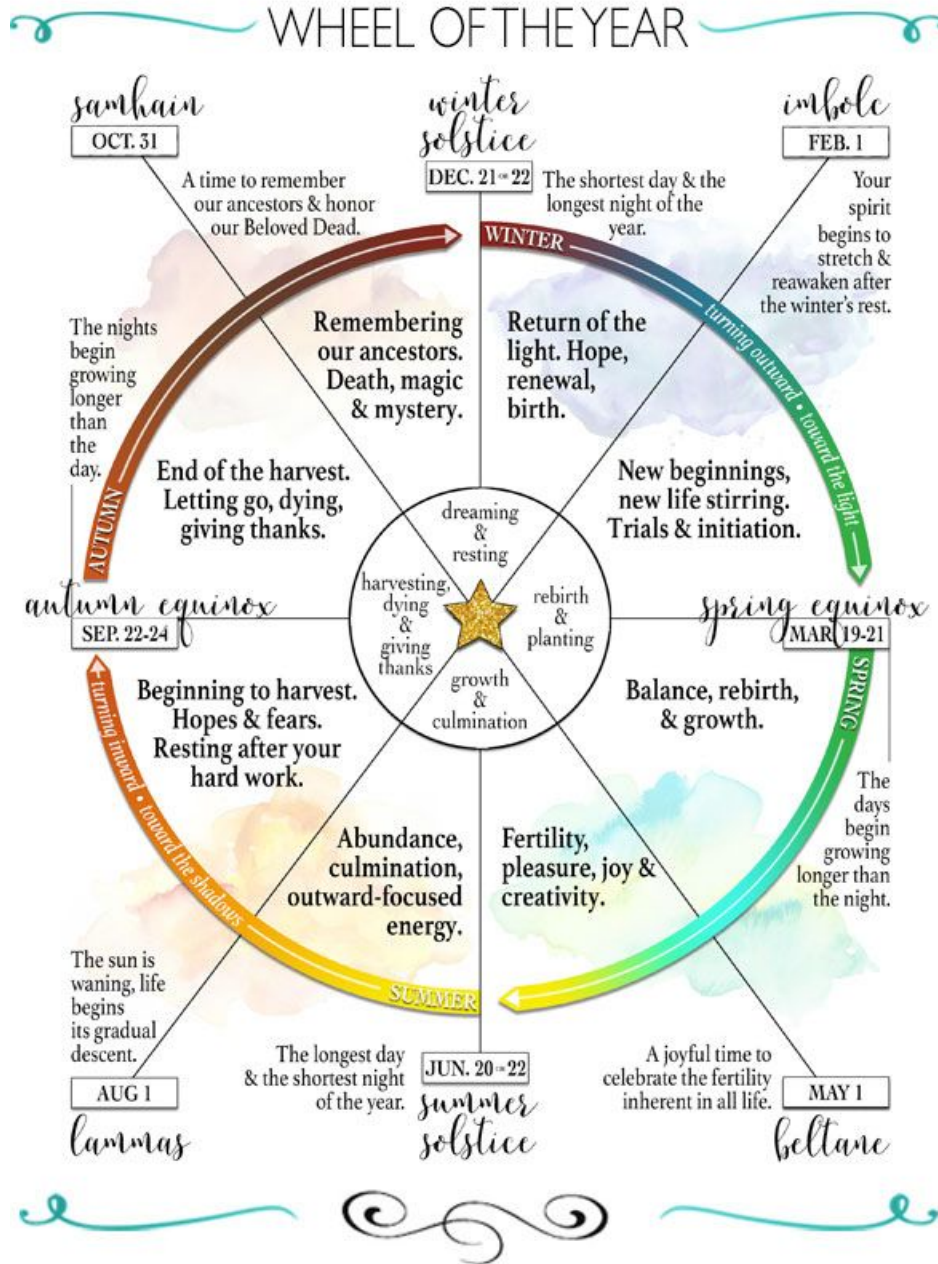


The Wheel of the Year

Following the Sabbats (Major and Minor)



Above is an image of the Wheel of the Year – with both Major and Minor Sabbats (Sabbats are days of celebration)

The Major Sabbats

Imbolc: St. Brigid's Day

Names: Imbolc / Oimelc / St. Brigid's Day

Date(s): February 1st

Origins: Irish-Celtic

What we celebrate: we recognize the initial breaking of winter ground into spring (early stages) and the milking of the ewes. We celebrate Saint Brigid and Goddess Brigid, and ready ourselves for warmer days to come.

Symbols of the season: Snowflake, white flower, snow, crocuses, lambs, and milk.

Lore: Light every lamp in the house, or light candles in each room to represent the sun's rebirth. If snow is on the ground, or falling, walk around in it and draw a sun with your projective hand. Make Saint Brigid's crosses or dolls to celebrate Saint Brigid. A bonfire is appropriate as the ancients tended Saint Brigid's flame for years, never letting it burn out.

Gods/Goddesses: Goddess Brigid, Saint Brigid, the Maiden

Magical Workings: New life, success, rebirth, new love, seeds of opportunity.

Decorations: Candles, flowers (snowdrops, crocus, and daffodils), oil lamps, besoms, corn dollies, Brigid's crosses, wreaths, woolen yarn, and stuffed sheep.

Animals: Lambs and birds.

Beltane: May Day

Names: Beltane / Beltuinn / May Day / Walpurgisnacht

Date(s): May 1st

Origins: Celtic

What we celebrate: The first day of the month of May is a celebration of fertility, abundant life, and the union of the God and the Goddess to procreate.

Lore: Hold festivities in a forest or near a living tree. Create a small token in honor of the wedding of the God and Goddess to hang on a tree. Weaving and planting are traditional. Erect a traditional maypole and dance around with ribbons. Light a bonfire.

Deities: Druantia, Horned God, **Green Man**, Fairies, Fertility Deities, Flora, and Cybele.

Magical Workings: Fertility, success, abundance, love, passion, education, and healing.

Decorations: Maypole, ribbons in trees, candles, fire, bags of flowers, strings of beads, garland, carvings, phallic symbols, cups, cauldrons, wicker man, symbols of love and fertility.

Animals: Deer, goat, rabbit, and ram.

Lughnasadh: Lammas

Names: Lughnasadh / Lammas / Loaf-Mass

Date(s): August 1st

Origins: Celtic

What we celebrate: This is the first of three harvest festival sabbats and it occurs at the height of summer. During this celebration, we focus on the story of Lugh, a Celtic god. Fruitfulness and abundance are key themes as plants are yielding bounty and the Sun is high in the sky.

Lore: Plant the seed of a fruit. Weave wheat or make corn dollies. Visit lakes, orchards, fields, hills, and wells. Pick blackberries and grapes. Bake bread from wheat and other bountiful crops. Drink wine.

Gods/Goddesses: Lugh, Tuatha de Danann, Gaia, and Mother Goddesses.

Magical Workings: Fruitfulness, endurance, love, strength and skill, handfastings, success.

Decorations: Sheaves of wheat, barley, oats, fruits, berries, grapes, the sun, the god.

Animals: Woodland animals, birds, and deer.

Samhain: All Hallows' Eve

Names: Samhain / All Hallows' Eve / Hallowe'en / All Souls Night

Date(s): October 31st – November 1st

Origins: Celtic

What we celebrate: This is the Pagan new year and night of the dead, when the spiritual world has its thinnest veil. Samhain is the third of the three harvest festival sabbats and the last festival of the Holly King. This sabbat honors the year's last harvest— anything harvested after Samhain belongs to the fay and is not to be eaten by humans. We honor our **ancestors** with offerings and dumb suppers. We invite them to feast with us.

Gods/Goddesses: Hades, Hel, Demeter, **Hecate**, Lilith, Baba Yaga, The Morrigan, Maeve, Kali, and Crone Goddesses.

Magical Workings: Spiritual awakening, communion with the dead, psychic abilities, success and bounty, divination, ancestral work.

Decorations: Jack o' lanterns, witches, werewolves, moons, gourds, costumes, brooms, pumpkins, candy, squash, bails of hay, dried leaves, bats, lanterns, cobwebs, apples, corn husks, and candles.

The Minor Sabbats

Yule: Winter Solstice

Names: Yule / Winter Solstice / Jul

Date(s): Approx. December 21st

Origins: Germanic

What we celebrate: On this sabbat, we celebrate the winter solstice, which is the longest night of the year. We remember the death of the Holly King and the rebirth of the Oak King (giver of light), and we honor family and friends. This holy day symbolizes the return of the sun's reign over the sky, as from here on out the days will once again become longer than the nights.

Deities: Oak and Holly Kings, Odin, Jesus, Cailleach, Mother Mary, La Befana, Berchta, St. Lucia, Elves, and Santa Claus.

Magical Workings: Fertility, rebirth, family, healing, love, strength and reflection.

Decorations: Holly, mistletoe, spruce, poinsettia, evergreen trees, ivy, yule logs, pine cones, snowflakes, snowmen, oranges, suns, candles, lights, reindeer, yule bock (goat), and elves.

Animals: Reindeer, moose, mice, snowy owls, horses, snowy foxes, and white animals.

Ostara: Spring Equinox

Names: Ostara / Eostre / Spring Equinox / Vernal Equinox

Date(s): March 21st (approx.)

Origins: Germanic

What we celebrate: The changing of the season and the arrival of spring. The earth's rebirth and awakening from a long, harsh winter as well as fertility and motherhood are celebrated. Resurrection in its purest form.

Traditions and rituals: Collect wildflowers from a field or, at the very least, a florist shop. Plan to walk in gardens, parks, or forests to celebrate nature on this sabbat. Plant seeds, do gardening and yard work. Herb magic. Make an Ostara wreath. Paint or dye eggs; celebrate the Easter bunny with Easter baskets. Feed birds with bird seed. Write your intentions for the spring on an egg and bury it near your front doorstep.

Gods/Goddesses: Eostre, Persephone, Demeter, Jesus, Cybele, Zeus, Osiris, Horus, Freya, Mithras, Blodeuwedd, and Saraswati.

Magical Workings: Success, blossoming love, passion, budding friendship, rebirth, fertility.

Decorations: flowers, bunnies, buds and blossoms (can be worn too), spring water & flowers in cup/cauldron, bird nests, birds, robin's eggs, eggs of all kinds.

Animals: Birds, baby chicks, rabbits, lambs, deer, baby animals of all kinds.

Midsummer: Summer Solstice

Names: Midsummer / Summer Solstice / Litha

Date(s): approx. June 21st

What we celebrate: Summer solstice is the longest day of the year. At this time, we honor the wedding of heaven and earth and the sun in all its powerful glory.

Lore and Traditions: Leap fire for purification and renewed energy. Make a cloth pouch of herbs such as lavender, chamomile, St. John's Wort, Vervain, or others. Mentally pour all troubles into this pouch as you construct it. Burn in balefire and visualize troubles burning and blowing away for good. Put out offerings of cake and milk or mead for the faeries.

Gods/Goddesses: Sun Gods, Mother Goddesses, Fertility Gods, and the Fay.

Magical Workings: Healing, love, weddings, energy, fairy magic, and protection magic.

Decorations: Candles, fairies, strawberries, suns, greenery, flowers, trees, and ribbons.

Mabon: Autumn Equinox

Names: Mabon / Autumn Equinox / Witches' Thanksgiving

Date(s): September 21st approx.

Origins: Celtic

What we celebrate: Mabon is the second of the three harvest sabbats and occurs at the autumnal equinox when the season changes from summer to fall. At this time, day and night are divided equally and we pay respect to impending night. Druids celebrate Green Man; Wiccans celebrate the aging Goddess who is turning from Mother into Crone and the God preparing for death and rebirth.

Gods/Goddesses: Mabon, Modron, Green Man, Demeter, and Mother Goddesses.

Magical Workings: Reaping success, abundance, protection, hearth and home.

Decorations: Acorns, oak sprigs, pine or cypress cones, wheat stalks, fruits and nuts, basket of dried leaves, gourds.