

THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*"Holly and mistletoe, candles and bells,
I know the message that each of you tells."*

~ Leland B. Jacobs



Tree of the Month – Pine

Pines are conifer trees or shrubs that are prized for their crisp, refreshing scent. They are the largest type of conifer, with 187 different species. These hearty trees can survive in a wide range of climates, from deserts to rainforests, and do well in subpar soil. However, they thrive best in mountainous areas with ample rainfall and favorable soil. Not only are pines flexible enough to bend with and endure large snowfalls but they also are resistant to fire. Pinecones protect the plant's seeds from harsh weather conditions. Pines are fast-growing, long-lived trees that are a popular



choice for landscaping, timber, and Christmas trees. These trees are especially good at preventing soil erosion and providing windbreaks. Pines can live between 100 to more than 1,000 years. The oldest living pine, a Great Basin bristlecone named Methuselah, lives in Inyo National Forest in eastern California and is over 4,800 years old.

Special Days

Cyber Monday
December 2

Winter Solstice
December 21

Christmas
December 25

**Hanukkah Begins
at Sundown**
December 25

Boxing Day
(UK and Canada)
December 26

Kwanzaa Begins
December 26

New Year's Eve
December 31

Flower – Holly



December's flower is the hearty, vibrant holly plant. Its bright red berries and glossy, deep green leaves have come to symbolize the winter holiday season, and particularly Christmas. Holly also symbolizes truth, protection, fertility, and eternal life. In fact, some holly trees live up to 400 years. Holly grows in temperate and subtropical climates. Its berries are slightly toxic to humans but can be eaten by birds. Some types of holly leaves are used to make tea.

Birthstone – Turquoise



Turquoise has been valued for its tremendous beauty for thousands of years. Archaeologists have discovered turquoise jewelry on the mummified bodies of queens in Egyptian tombs and in ancient burial sites in Argentina, Peru, and Mexico. The Inca used the stone to craft beads and figurines, while the Aztecs used it to make pendants and ritual masks. The Chinese were carving it for decorative art over 3,000 years ago. Turquoise is also often used as a love charm.

Birthday Sweets

December 1–7: Bread Pudding

You are practical, organized, and reliable. But it's your sly sense of humor and tender side that make you the belle of the ball. Your friends count on you to throw epic parties, and you always make your loved ones feel special.

December 8–13: Pie

A natural leader, you have confidence and charisma in spades. The key to your success is always listening to and caring about others. While you enjoy socializing, you also love a quiet afternoon with a book or a bubble bath.

December 14–22: Cheesecake

Spiritual and intuitive, friends call on you for guidance and comfort. You are careful with your words; when you speak, your wisdom shines through. You are also known for your elegance, bravery, and charm.

December 23–31: Cookie

Sweet, loving, and fun, you have more friends than you can count. You are responsible, smart, and bookish but also have a silly side that makes everyone smile.



The Long Night Moon

December's full moon aligns with the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. It is known as the cold moon, the long night moon, or the wolf moon, and is a prime time for reflection and gratitude for the wonders of life.

December Zodiacs

Sagittarius (The Archer)
December 1–21

Capricorn (The Sea Goat)
December 22–31

December is the 12th month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The ancient Romans initially made December the tenth month, but later, when January and February were added, December became the final month. In the northern hemisphere, this month has the shortest daylight hours of the year. Did you know that December starts on the same day of the week as September and ends on the same day as April every year?

Around the World

How do you say *December* in different languages?

- Spanish – Diciembre
- Portuguese – Dezembro
- Icelandic – Desember
- German – Dezember
- Hindi – Disambar
- French – Décembre
- Polish – Grudzień
- Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Flemish, Dutch, Hungarian, and English – December
- Italian – Dicembre
- Hawaiian – Kekemapa

What's Lucky in December?

Lucky Color: Green

Lucky Animal: Coyote

Lucky Letters: L and M

Lucky Day: Wednesday

Lucky Plant: Narcissus



December Birthdays

Andy Williams (singer) – December 3, 1927
 Joan Didion (writer) – December 5, 1934
 Eli Whitney (inventor) – December 8, 1765
 John Milton (writer) – December 9, 1608
 Sarah Chang (violinist) – December 10, 1980
 Rita Moreno (actress) – December 11, 1931
 Archie Moore (boxer) – December 13, 1913
 Viola Wells (gospel singer) – December 14, 1902
 Jane Austen (novelist) – December 16, 1775
 Ty Cobb (ballplayer) – December 18, 1886
 Lenny White (drummer) – December 19, 1949
 Annie Lennox (singer) – December 25, 1954
 Johannes Kepler (astronomer) – December 27, 1571
 Patti Smith (poet/singer) – December 30, 1946