

# Summary - Winter: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

Source: [www.jahresfeste.ch](http://www.jahresfeste.ch)

## The Season of Advent

Waiting period until the arrival of Christ (from the Latin 'adventus' - arrival); four weeks, i.e. four Advent Sundays before Christmas

## Barbara

4. December: Anniversary of the martyr Barbara, for whose honour bare branches are put in Water which with a little bit of luck will bloom on Christmas.

## Nicholas

6. December (in certain European countries partially also 24. December): Festival of the remembrance of Bishop Nicholas, patron saint and knight in shining armour.

## Lucy (*Lucia*)

13. December: Festival in honour of the carrier of light, who illuminates the darkness.

## Christmas Eve

24. December: Eve before Christmas day, in some countries the actual Christmas celebration.

## CHRISTMAS

24./ 25. December: Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, light of the world, anxiously awaited mediator of the new covenant with God, prophesied in the OT, Messiah (= the Anointed), saviour, redeemer, who shall overcome the primeval separation between the world of men and of God or between the realm of death and heaven.

## The Twelve Days of Christmas (Twelvetide)

25. December to 6. January = true Christmastime

## Turn of the Year

31. December, Silvester / 1. January, New Year

## Epiphany

6. January: Festival of the visitation of the Magi who sought out Christ and brought gifts to him.

## Valentine's Day

14. February: Day of Friendship and anniversary of the martyr Saint Valentine (originally of the Roman goddess Juno)

## Carnival

Riotous masquerade before the beginning of Lent.