

Holidays

New Year's Day



- Origins
 - prehistoric
 - in 153 BC the Romans selected January 1st for civil reasons: It was the day after elections in which the newly elected assumed their positions.
- Celebrations
 - fireworks
 - countdown
 - parties
 - **KISSING** your love at the stroke of midnight
 - family meals
 - football!

Saint Valentine's Day



Origins

- unsure as to the true identity of Saint Valentine, but most likely a church martyr
- said to have been imprisoned and while there, cured the jailer's daughter from blindness.

Celebrations

- sending love notes (simply called "Valentines")
- candy, flowers, dates
- cupid shooting an arrow

Saint Patrick's Day

Origins

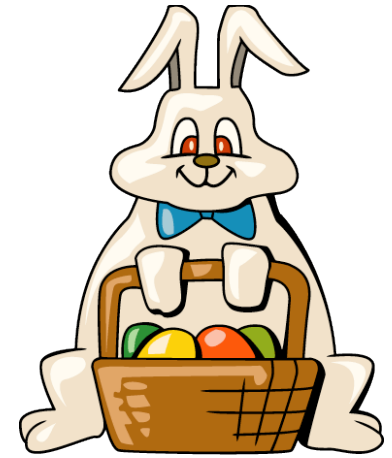
- St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. sold into slavery at 16, he was a shepherd for 6 years before escaping. From this spiritual awakening, he began a life long journey of divination, leadership, and ecclesiastic responsibility as a Deacon, Priest, and Bishop of Ireland.

Celebrations

- Wear green/shamrocks
- Drink beer
- Celebrate all things Irish



Easter



Origins

- The MOST Holy Day for all Christians
- The day Jesus was resurrected from the dead (Matthew 28:2-7)
- Always on a Sunday, follows a Holy Week

Celebrations

- For Christians, sunrise service and breaking of the Lenten fast
- For others, Easter eggs, Easter Rabbits, new clothing

Mother's Day

- Anna Jarvis was very devoted to her mother and shortly after her death started a large letter writing campaign to institute a celebration of mothers. Dr. Howard, a minister, dedicated a Sunday to mothers and more specifically to Mrs. Jarvis. Mrs. Jarvis' favorite flowers, carnations were supplied by Anna to the parishioners. May 10, 1908.

Mother's Day

- Ironically, Jarvis was never a mother herself. After caring for her sick mother and her blind sister, she never married. She also became disenchanted with the commercialism of the holiday. In her later years, she lost all her property, her eyesight, and her health. Friends collectively paid for her fees to a sanitarium where she died a pauper.
- The holiday was quickly adopted by other states and countries and in 1914, a resolution was passed in congress establishing the second Sunday in May to be officially recognized as Mother's Day.

Father's Day

- Harry Meek, past president of Chicago's Uptown Lions Club, is acknowledged as the creator of Father's Day. He promoted the idea through Lions Club speeches and eventually it was adopted. They set the day as the Sunday nearest his birthday which is the third Sunday in June.



Father's Day

- Mrs. John Bruce Dodd also promoted the idea of a Fathers Day in commemoration of her own father. As a widower, he raised six children while farming in eastern Washington state. In 1909, she conceived the idea during a Mother's Day service. This prompted her to write a proposal to the Spokane Ministerial Association. The Spokane YMCA agreed to promote it. In 1910, Spokane became the first city to honor fathers.

Father's Day

- Ironically, Spokane was supposed to celebrate its first Father's Day on June 5, 1910, her father's birthday but the local ministers did not have enough time to prepare their sermons. It was pushed back to the nineteenth, the third Sunday in June, the same day selected by the Uptown Lion's club in Chicago. The holiday continue to gain popularity until it was finally officially established by President Nixon in 1972.

All Saints Day

Origins

- 4th century
- A day to honor all Christian martyrs
- In 835 AD, the pope moved this day to November 1st to Christianize the pagan holiday of Halloween



Celebrations

- Also known as “All Hallows” or “Hallowmas”
- Celebrated mostly by Catholic and Orthodox Christians



Halloween

Origins

- Name means “the evening before All Saints Day”
- Pagan holiday - belief that the dead came back to life on this day
- Believed by pagans that ghosts hung around the table, begging for food

Celebrations

- Today there is no religious or “evil” meaning to the celebrations
- Kids dress up and go house to house
- “Trick-or-Treat”

Thanksgiving



Origins

- English settlers (pilgrims) were being persecuted for their faith.
- They escaped to America and landed on November 11, 1621
- The first Thanksgiving was a feast held to give thanks to God and the Indians who helped them through the first year in America

Celebrations

- Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated with a big family meal - usually turkey
- parades
- time spent with family
- football
- Beginning of the Christmas shopping season!

Black Friday

- The day after Thanksgiving
- So-called because this is the day American retailers go from “being in the red” to “being in the black.”
- Biggest shopping day of the year



Christmas

Origins

- To early Christians, Christmas was the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth
- Pagans celebrated different winter festivals

Celebrations

- December 25 (Certainly NOT the true date of Jesus' birth) is celebrated by a mix of traditions from many different origins.
- Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus), Christmas trees, lights, reindeer, gifts, etc