



The **Step-by-Step Course** to Understanding & Creating a Waldorf-Inspired Homeschool

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## COMMON WALDORF FESTIVAL DAYS:

**Michaelmas (Sept.29)** The feast of St. Michael. Known as the conqueror of the dragon (and also the one who through Satan out of heaven) with his starry sword, Michael gives us strength to slay the dragons of materialism and egoism. You can feel a change in the air. It is a time to harvest what was sown in the spring and what grew all summer. The earth is beginning to contract as we begin to prepare ourselves to go inward, and to prepare for the coming winter.

**Samheim (Halloween Oct.31)** Halfway between the equinox & solstice, the beginning of the season of “dark”.

**Martinmas (Nov.11)** The feast of St. Martin, The most famous legend of his life is that he once cut his cloak in half to share with a beggar during a snowstorm, to save the beggar from dying of the cold. Traditionally a lighted lantern walk and singing is how it is celebrated, lighting the way through the dark nights of this time of year.

**St. Nicholas (Dec 6)** My girls favorite! There is a lot you can read about this as in European countries he is the bringer of gifts. Put your shoes out Dec. 5th and in the morning treats and trinkets fill them. Great resource is <http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/who-is-st-nicholas/> (stories and tons of info).

**St. Lucia (Dec.13)** The feast day for St. Lucy where the eldest girl wears a crown of candles, white gown and red sash. She serves breakfast. We had a lot of fun with this!

**Advent (Nov & Dec)** Starts 4 Sundays prior to Christmas- It is the coming preparations for the Christ child.

**Winter Solstice/Yule** The birth of the Sun is the shortest day of the year. After which the sun starts shining longer each day. My favorite festival! Solstice Sun, Shining Bright! Shortest Day & Longest Night. Solstice Wish of Hope & Cheer: Peace on Earth, throughout the Year!

**Candlemas/Brigid/Imbolic** Marks the growing presence of the sun and when the candles were made and blessed for the year. (Also GroundHog day in US).

**Spring Equinox (Mar 21-22)** First Day of Spring Day and Night are equal. We always plant our spring garden then and our wheat grass for our Easter baskets. Easter- Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Coloring eggs and the Hare or Bunny is always fun. Nature is waking up and everything is new and reborn.

**May Day (May 1)** May Day may be best known for its tradition of dancing the maypole dance and crowning of the Queen of the May. In ancient times, it was considered the first day of summer (thus Midsummer being mid June) There are many traditions on this day for fair maidens and the fest of fertility.

**Summer Solstice/Midsummer Night** The celebration of Midsummer's Eve (St. John's Eve among Christians) was from ancient times a festival of the summer solstice. Some people believed that golden-flowered mid-summer plants, especially Calendula, and St. John's Wort, had miraculous healing powers and they therefore picked them on this night.