HOLIDAYS HAPPENING HERE

• Memorial University •

ADVENT
Dec. 1-24, 2019
Advent is observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.

BODHI DAY
Jan. 2, 2020
Bodhi Day is celebrated on the eighth day of the twelfth lunar month, observed Dec. 8 in Japan. It is the Buddhist celebration of the Buddha’s awakening or enlightenment.

CHRISTMAS
Dec. 25, 2019
Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Today, the holiday is celebrated with gift-giving, and social gatherings, decorations and food.

DONGZHI FESTIVAL
Dec. 22, 2019
Celebrated by Chinese and many East Asian cultures, Dongzhi celebrates the coldest part of the year and the promise of warmer weather and spring. Families eat Tang Yuan, glutinous rice balls that symbolize togetherness.

HANUKKAH
Dec. 22-30, 2019
Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the rededication of the second temple in Jerusalem. It is also known as the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah is celebrated with games, traditions and festive foods.

KWANZAA
The celebration was developed to bring African-American families together with the use of the “first fruit” harvest. There is a seven-candled candelabrum that is lit daily during the festival, each day of the festival holding a different greeting.

NEWTONMAS
Dec. 25, 2019
Some atheists have chosen to celebrate Newtonmas as opposed to Christmas. Newtonmas is in honour of Sir Isaac Newton’s birth date.

WINTER SOLSTICE
Dec. 22, 2019
Modern day neo-pagans typically celebrate the winter solstice. The festival goes by different names depending on the group (e.g: Wiccans and Asatru celebrate Yule).

YALDA
Dec. 21, 2019
Yalda is an Iranian festival celebrated on the longest and darkest night of the year. It is a winter solstice celebration that is today associated with feasting and giving expression to hope for success and well-being in the coming year.

YULE
Yule is when the dark half of the year relinquishes to the light half. It runs from the end of December into January. It is celebrated by Wiccans, Druids and Asatru.

ZARTOSHT-NO-DISO
Dec. 26, 2019
Commemorates the death of the prophet Zoroaster. This day is marked as one of the most important days of mourning in the Zoroastrian religion.