

# Wiccan Rituals and Seasonal Festivals

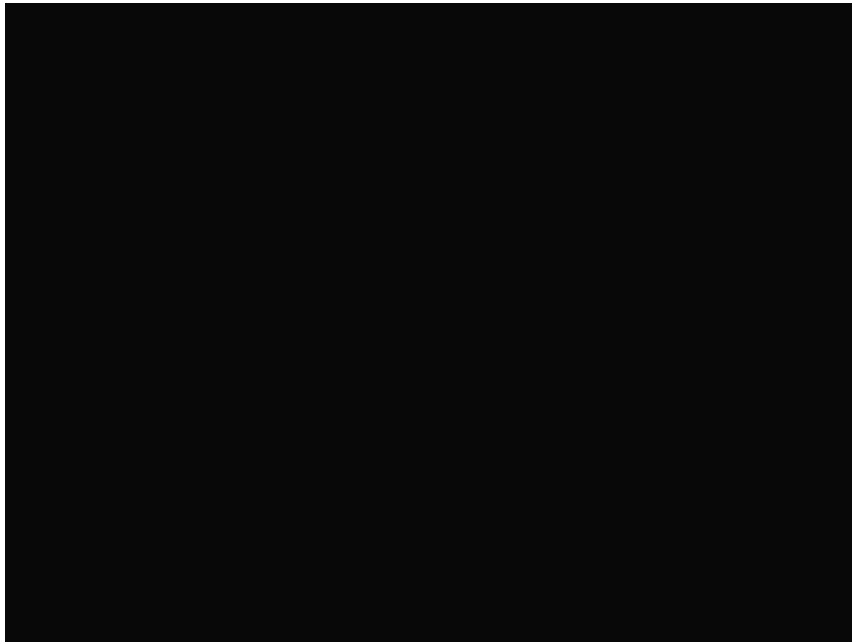


# Rituals: Casting the Circle



- The Sacred Space is the Circle
- Casting the Circle is the first ritual step
- Calling the four quarters
- Raising energy
- Opening the circle

# Witch's Tools



Wand - symbol of air, thought, imagination, east

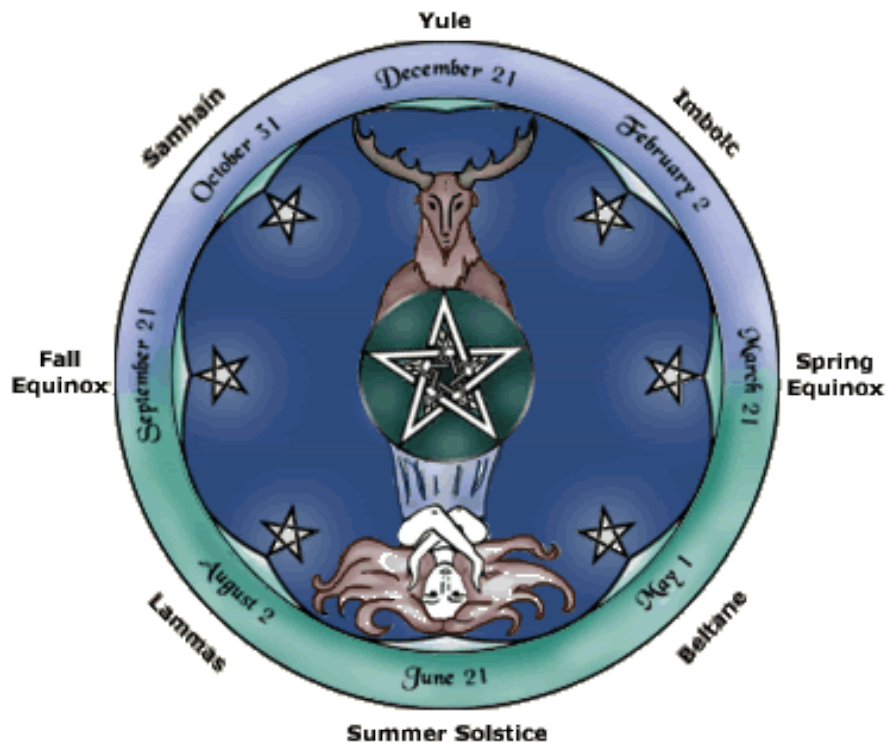
Athame - symbol of fire, willpower, conviction, south

Cup - symbol of water, life, birth, emotion, west

Pentacle - symbol of earth, stability, the body, north



# Wheel of the Year



Quarter days & Cross Quarter days

Samhain (Oct. 31) - New Year's Eve, Endings and Beginnings, veil between worlds thinnest

Yule (Dec. 21) - mid-winter, longest night, return of light

Imbolc (Feb. 2) - fertility, return of spring

Ostara (Mar. 21) – balance, fertility, new beginnings, cleaning

Beltane (May 1) - fertility, beginning of summer, bonfires, maypoles, handfasting

Midsummer (June 21) - longest day, emotion, passion, marriage

Lammas (Aug. 2) – (Lughnasadh) harvest, thanksgiving

Mabon (Sept. 21-22) – balance, harvest, reincarnation, contemplation

# Samhain



Wiccan New Year – Oct. 31st-Nov.1st

- the end of the old year, first turning towards winter
- the day that the veil between worlds is thinnest – communication with the dead possible here
- Feast of the Dead, rituals of remembrance
- God as Hunter's influence grows; Goddess as Crone.
- Bonfires, New Year's resolutions, contemplation

# Yule



Mid-Winter (Dec. 21st)

- longest night of the year
- - rebirth of light into the world – new life, new beginnings

-gifts, family, celebration of life

- yule log, holly, mistletoe

- Hunter gives way to

Lover, Goddess as Maiden grows

# Imbolc



Feb. 2 (Candlemas)

- Fertility Festival
- Thanksgiving, return of spring
- gifts, family, celebration of life
- Celebration of new life, new births – animals, babies, etc.
- Feast of Brigit – Maiden celebrated here – memory, knowledge, wisdom, fertility



# Ostara



March 21, spring  
equinox

- Eostar, Easter
- Symbolized by the  
egg
- fertility, fruitfulness
- Seeds, new life
- Cleaning – physical  
and metaphysical – out  
with the clutter, new  
possibilities



# Beltane



- May 1<sup>st</sup> – May Day
- Beginning of summer
- Bonfires, maypoles, flowers
- handfasting
- fertility
- Goddess as Mother, God as Lover

# Summer Solstice



June 21

- Longest day of the year
- Mother's power turns towards winter, Crone
- marriage
- God as Lover turns towards Hunter
- Emotion, passion, life

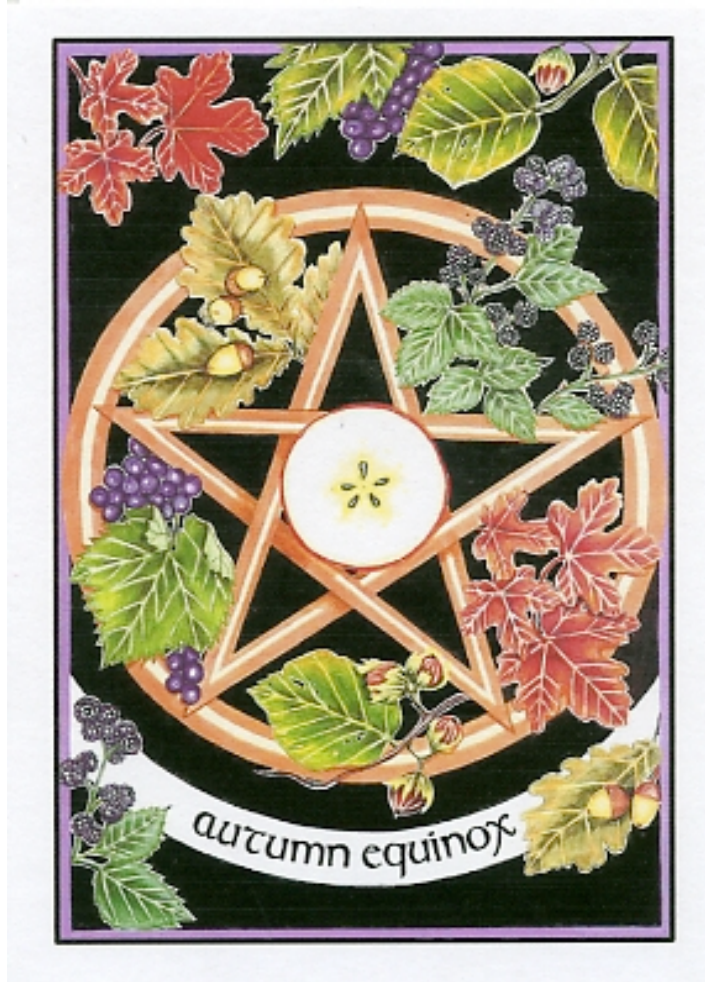
# Lammas



August 2

- Harvest festival
- Gathering grains, fruits, making preserves – getting ready for winter
- community, friendship
- Thanksgiving, winter is coming

# Mabon



Sept. 21st

- Harvest festival
- Autumn equinox – day and night in balance
- Winter comes
- Thanksgiving, winter is coming
- Reincarnation
- contemplation