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**December 6:** St. Nicholas' Day, the saint's day for the inspiration for modern-day Santa Claus celebrated in western Christian countries.

**December 10:** International Human Rights Day, started by the UN in 1948 upon the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**December 16-24:** Las Posadas, a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and other parts of Latin America that commemorates the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem before Jesus's birth.

**December 18-26:** Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights that celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over King Antiochus.

**December 21:** Yule Winter Solstice, a pagan celebration of the first day of winter.

**December 24:** Christmas Eve, celebrating Mary and Joseph's arrival in Bethlehem for Jesus's birth.

**December 25:** Christmas, a western Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus.

**December 26:** Kwanzaa, a seven-day celebration of African-American culture and life originally founded in 1966.

**December 31:** New Year's Eve, the last day of the year in the Gregorian calendar and celebrated as the passing of one year and the beginning of another.