



# Department of Surgery DEI WEEKLY DIGEST

Friday December 9th, 2022

## DECEMBER HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

As the holiday season is approaching we wanted to acknowledge all the holidays that are celebrated this month around the world.

### ST. NICHOLAS DAY- 05TH DECEMBER 2022

St. Nicholas sold all he owned and gave money to the people around him. He devoted his entire life to serving and caring for the sick and suffering people. Numerous countries in Europe celebrate St. Nicholas Day starting on the eve of the 5th of December by distributing candies, chocolate letters, small gifts, and riddles. Kids put out their shoes with carrots and hay, hoping that St. Nicholas will exchange them for small gifts and treat. This day is celebrated in many towns and villages of Russia and Greece.



### HANUKKAH- 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

This festival is an eight-day celebration that starts on the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> December and ends on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Hanukkah is also known by different names such as Chanukah, Chanukkah, Feast of Dedication, Festival of Lights, Feast of the Maccabees, or Jewish festival. The common tradition of Hanukkah is the ignition of a celebratory menorah. Families of the Jewish faith have menorahs in their houses. Menorahs are ignited with a candle first, and that candle is used to light an additional candle for each night with the singing of Judaic blessings before and during the lighting process.

**Why It's Marked:** Commemorating the re-dedication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem

**Where It's Marked:** Israel and various Jewish communities around the world

## Joke of the Week

**What falls in the winter but never gets hurt?**

Snow.



## ST. LUCIA DAY- 13TH DECEMBER 2022

St. Lucia has also named the festival of lights which is majorly celebrated in Sweden, Norway, and the Swedish-speaking areas of Finland. This day falls on 13th December in honor of St. Lucia (St. Lucy), an earliest Christian Martyr. She was murdered after she was accused of providing food to Christians living and hiding in the mazes of underground tunnels below the city of Rome. This festival is celebrated as girls walk around dressed customarily with wreaths on their heads and candles. This winter holiday signifies light in the middle of long, dark Nordic winters.

**Why It's Marked:** To pay tribute to Lucia of Syracuse.

**Where It's Marked:** Scandinavia and in Italy



## WINTER SOLSTICE- 20TH TO 23RD DECEMBER 2022

The December solstice celebrates the shortest day north of the equator and the longest day in the south. The December Solstice can occur on 20th, 21st, 22nd, or 23rd December, but 20th & 23rd December solstices are rare. Individuals light up bonfires and candles to lure back the sun on this day. Some people can't wait for the colder weather, snow, skiing and ice skating, curling up by a fire, and the holiday spirit. You will notice a peaceful silence when you walk through the woods—a muffled quiet.



## Christmas- 25th December 2022

Christmas is a Christian festival commemorated on the birth of Jesus Christ, i.e., 25th December 2022. Christians think that Jesus was the son of God. People worldwide celebrate this global holiday by throwing a grand party and exchanging gifts. Christmas is when children wait for a long time to get gifts from their family, friends, Santa Claus, or Father Christmas. Christmas is an exclusive family affair, and others invite friends or relatives to a Christmas buffet or pot luck meal. Everyone has their way of celebrating Christmas, but all it ends up with excitement and fun. Christmas Day is a public holiday in Australia, Canada, the UK, and the United States.

**Why It's Marked:** To commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ

**Where It's Marked:** Worldwide

## KWANZAA- 26TH DECEMBER 2022

Kwanzaa is a seven-day festival of African-American culture and heritage, beginning on 26th December 2022 and ending on 01 January. Millions of individuals in America and worldwide celebrate this festival by wearing traditional African clothing for the duration of the celebration. Groups observe St. Lucia's Day in their homes by having their oldest daughter dressed in white and providing coffee and baked goods, such as saffron bread and ginger biscuits, to the family members or the visitors. Kwanzaa is a spiritual holiday celebrated from 26th December to 1st January. On these holidays, African Americans dress up in unique clothes, decorate their houses with fruits and vegetables, and light a kinara

**Why It's Marked:** To preserve certain African values

**Where It's Marked:** Worldwide, particularly in the United States





## **BOXING DAY – 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

Boxing Day takes place on December 26. Only celebrated in a few countries, the holiday originated in the [United Kingdom](#) during the Middle Ages. It was the day when the alms box, collection boxes for the poor often kept in churches, were opened and their content distributed, a tradition that still happens in some areas. It was also the day servants were traditionally given the day off to celebrate Christmas with their families.

Boxing Day has now become a public holiday in the United Kingdom, [Canada](#), Australia, and [New Zealand](#), among other countries. In England, soccer matches and horse races often take place on Boxing Day. The Irish refer to the holiday as St. Stephen's Day, and they have their own tradition called hunting the wren, in which boys fasten a fake wren to a pole and parade it through town. The Bahamas celebrate Boxing Day with a street parade and festival called Junkanoo

**Why It's Marked:** Symbolism varies

**Where It's Marked:** Worldwide

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE- 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

The December Global Holidays of the year-end with the New Year's Eve falling on 31st December 2022. Common traditions of celebrating New Year include having parties at the office, eating special New Year's foods, and creating resolutions for the new year. In London, individuals commemorate the last day of the year on a high with dinner and music at a restaurant with fascinating views of the London New Year's Eve fireworks. New Year's Eve is one of the largest December Global Holidays as it marks the very last day of the year in the Gregorian calendar before the New Year comes. Individuals worldwide celebrate New Year's Eve to bid goodbye to the year that ends and welcome the following year.

**Why It's Marked:** To mark the end of the year

**Where It's Marked:** Worldwide



## **OSAKA- 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

Osaka Festival is celebrated on 31st December 2022 in Japanese culture and is also named Japanese New Year. It is celebrated by people cleansing their homes and eliminating last year's clutter by cleaning from top to bottom. People plan a feast with their friends and family with some traditional Japanese foods.

**Why It's Marked:** To mark the end of the year

**Where It's Marked:** Japan

LET US KNOW WHAT HOLIDAYS YOU CELEBRATE THIS MONTH OR IF WE ARE MISSING ANY. ☺

## **SOCIETY UNIVERSITY SURGEONS UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

In collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Society of University Surgeons will offer \$5,000 Summer research internships to 4 under-represented minority undergraduate students for the summer of 2023. Student interns will be paired with SUS member mentors to participate in medical research. Priority will be given to SUS mentors and institutions who are able to provide affordable, safe housing for students, as well as provide opportunities for students to integrate socially. ■

This partnership between the AAAS and the SUS represents the logical merging of two resources: the conduit to reach out to URM students (AAAS) and established surgeon scientists interested in mentoring URM students with an interest in medicine and surgery (SUS). [Click here for more information](#)

[Apply for a 2023 Undergraduate Summer Internship here by Monday, December 19, 2022](#)

### **SOCIETY UNIVERSITY SURGEONS (SUS) MEMBER MENTORS:**

The SUS is seeking letters of interest from SUS members who are interested in participating as mentors for this program. Mentors must be Active SUS members in good standing and be able to provide an enriching research experience for the duration of the internship, including resources for research activities and the opportunity to interact with other researchers / trainees at the host institution. Priority will be given to SUS mentors and institutions who are able to provide affordable, safe housing for students.

[Apply to be a 2023 SUS Member Mentor here by Monday, December 19, 2022](#)

**The American Board of Surgery (ABS)** is seeking representatives to participate in its item review process to investigate any potential bias in exam content. Applicants should be currently certified by the American Board of Surgery. ABS is seeking individuals who will be comfortable discussing potentially sensitive topics, such as racial bias. Individuals should also have the ability to identify potentially biased content. If interested, please submit your curriculum vita to Andrew Jones, Ph.D (ajones@absurgery.org) and a brief paragraph that describes your interest in the position and any relevant experiences you have had related to bias, sensitivity, diversity, and/or inclusion. Please submit your materials by 12/19.