

# THE WICCAN GUIDE TO SAMHAIN





## **SAMHAIN (AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>)**

Halloween is to non-pagans what Samhain is to Pagans. The Samhain is a Wiccan Sabbat celebrated to honor our ancestors. This is considered a dark time of the year. The sunset that comes after this day marks the start of a New Year.

Samhain marks the end of the harvest season. It's the time when the earth around us begins to die. Where we once saw lush green plants and blossoming flowers, has now died off. There is nothing left but dry and wilting greenery. Whatever it is that you have not picked before Samhain, you will for sure not have the chance to eat it.

It is high time for a *séance*. And why is that? Because it is the time when when the veil between this world and the next world is very thin. Samhain means to be out with the old and in with the new.

Think about your experiences the past year. Is there anything you left unresolved? If so, then now is the time to deal with them, iron out the kinks, and wrap things up. You will see that once you've gotten all the clutter cleared, only then can you can begin looking forward to the next year.

# DECORATING YOUR SAMHAIN ALTAR



Your altar for the Samhain Sabbat should include God and Goddess symbols like candles, plus harvest food like wine, apple cider, dark bread.

The symbols for this time of the year is pumpkins, nuts, acorns, squash, skulls, skeletons, and bones.

Many choose to use spiders as well. Spiders around

## Colors:

purples  
burgundy  
black  
gold  
orange

## Foods:

small pumpkins  
Indian corn, and  
gourds  
almond  
hazelnut  
garlic

## Herbs and Flowers:

rosemary  
mullein seeds  
mugwort  
rue  
calendula  
sunflower petals  
and seeds  
pumpkin seeds  
turnip seeds  
apple leaf  
sage  
mushrooms  
wild ginseng  
wormwood  
tarragon  
bay leaf  
passionflower  
pine needles  
nettle  
hemlock cones  
mandrake root

## Incense:

myrrh  
patchouli  
gum mastic  
copa  
heather  
clove

## Gemstones:

black obsidian  
smoky quartz  
jet  
amber  
pyrite  
garnet  
granite  
clear quartz  
marble  
sandstone  
gold  
diamond  
iron  
steel  
ruby  
hematite  
brass

## Symbols:

mulled wine  
dried leaves, acorns  
and nuts  
dark breads  
ears of corn  
a straw man  
tools of divination or  
spirit communication  
offerings to the  
ancestors  
statuary of deities  
symbolizing death



# SOLITARY SAMHAIN RITUAL

*This is a ritual for the solitary practitioner. This is to honor your ancestors. If you don't have an altar for this ritual, you can make do with a placemat placed in the eastern side of your circle.*

## What you need:

God and Goddess  
candles of any color  
A white candle for the altar  
Sandalwood or  
patchouli incense  
Sea Salt  
A bowl of water  
Rye bread

Wine or Apple Cider  
Paper  
Pencil  
A cauldron for burning  
Matches  
The "Witch's rune"  
A space to perform the ritual

## Preparations:

Before doing this ritual, take a cleansing bath. Meditate about the meaning of this Sabbat. Samhain is the end of the natural year and the perfect time to get a new beginning. Is there anything you would like to change?

## What you should do:

1. Have a ritual cleansing bath.
2. Set up the items on an altar in the eastern of the circle.
3. Place anything that symbolizes this time of year on your altar or placemat.
4. Enter the ritual area and say:

***"Hail Samhain, start of the Celtic year, day of the dead. Time of honouring our ancestors who brought us into this world. At this turn of the wheel the veil between us and the spirit realm is thinnest, easing communications between the world of the living and the world of the dead."***

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5. Then light the white altar candle and the Goddess candle and say:

***“Mother Goddess, be here with me.”***

6. Light the God candle and say:

***“Father God, be here with me.”***

7. Mix some salt and water in a bowl while saying:

***“I purify this area with the power of earth and water”***

8. Walk clockwise around the ritual area, and sprinkle the salt and water mix on the floor. Then sprinkle some inside of the area ritual area.

9. Light the incense with the white altar candle and walk clockwise outside the ritual area while holding it and say:

***“I purify this ritual area with the element of air”.***

10. Then return the incense to the altar.

11. Light another candle using the white altar candle and walk clockwise outside the ritual area while saying:

***“I purify this ritual area with the element of fire”.***

12. Stand facing the East in the Eastern side of the circle and say:

***Hail, Guardian of the Watchtower of the East, Powers of Air!  
I invoke you and call you, to witness this rite and to guard this circle.”***

13. Stand in the Southern part of the circle, facing the South and say:

***“Hail, Guardian of the Watchtower of the South, Powers of fire!  
I invoke you and call you, to witness this rite and to guard this circle.”***

14. Stand in the Western side of the circle, facing the West and say:

***“Hail, Guardian of the Watchtower of the West, Powers of Water!  
I invoke you and call you, to witness this rite and to guard this circle.”***

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15. Stand in the North of the circle, facing the West and say:

***"Hail, Guardians of the Watchtower of the North, Power of Earth!  
I invoke you and call you, to witness this rite and to guard this circle. "***

16. Recite the "Witch's Rune" out loud.

17. Give thanks to your ancestors for your life here on Earth. Show them gratitude for what they endured. Pray that you inherit their best qualities and learn from their achievements and their mistakes. Commit yourself to honoring them by living your life in the best way you can. Wish them well in their afterlife.

18. Now is the time to write any message that you wish to send them. Write it down on a piece of paper and fold it. Light it up and throw it in the burning dish and watch it engulf in flames, while saying:

***"May my ancestors receive my respects. May they rest in piece."***

19. Begin closing the circle and say:

***"Fair-well God and Fair-well Goddess, I thank you for attending my ritual, Hail and Fair well".***

20. Put out the flame on the God and Goddess candles while saying:

***"To all spirits raised in this ritual, we bid farewell to thee. Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again. All unused raised energies are released. This ritual has come to an end, the circle is open, but unbroken. Blessed Be."***

21. Drink some wine and eat some bread. Giving some to the earth as you say:

***"Blessed be"***

22. Now that the ritual is over. It is time to scry, sing, and read stories.

23. Dispose of saltwater on the earth where it won't hurt any plants or grass.

# GROUP SAMHAIN RITUAL

*This ritual is good for the whole family or a few friends. If you don't have an altar for this ritual, just set up a table and leave it as is for three days leading to Samhain.*

## What you need:

Skeletons and skulls

Pumpkins

Squash

Nuts

Acorns

Berries

Rye Bread

Dried leaves

Apple Cider

## Preparations:

You should prepare a meal for your friends and family. Set the nice dinner table with candles and place all the harvest food on the table.

## What you should do:

1. Everyone gather everyone around the table and say:

***"Tonight is the first of three nights, on which we celebrate Samhain. It is the end of the harvest, the last days of summer, and the cold nights wait on the other side for us. The bounty of our labor, the abundance of the harvest, the success of the hunt, all lies before us. We thank the earth for all it has given us this season, and yet we look forward to winter, a time of sacred darkness."***

2. Take the cup of cider and go to your garden. Each person in the family or group should take turns holding the cup and sprinkle cider onto the grounds while saying:

***"Summer is gone, winter is coming. We have planted and we have watched the garden grow, we have weeded, and we have gathered the harvest. Now it is at its end."***

3. Pick up yard trimmings and use them to make a straw figure of your deity. When you're done making it, bring your straw deity inside your home. Give the deity a place on your table. Give the deity a plate of his or her own. Start with breaking the rye bread. Serve the deity first before anyone else.
4. Keep your straw deity in a sacred place all season. You can try placing him or her in your garden to watch over the seedlings. This straw deity of yours is what you will eventually burn at your Beltane celebration.
5. Once you're all done eating, place leftovers in your garden as a form of offering for the dead. You can even sprinkle the crumbs of bread outside for the birds to eat.



**Note:**

*Your Samhain ritual should be something that you are comfortable with and something that is in accordance with your desires. You should not be pressured to perform a ritual with a group if you are a solitary practitioner, and you shouldn't have to do it all by yourself if you are part of a coven. Your ritual can be focused on honoring animals, honoring the ancestors, honoring the dead, honoring the God and Goddess, or simply marking the end of the harvest season.*

*The three days surrounding Samhain are the best times of the year for divination and scrying. Since the veil between worlds is thinnest, it's easier to see into the realms of spirit and faerie.*