Interfaith Calendar
18-Month
2020 - 2021
Diversity Awareness Partnership
18-MONTH INTERFAITH CALENDAR

To foster and support inclusive communities, Diversity Awareness Partnership is pleased to present the 2020-2021 18-Month Interfaith Calendar. This publication is a handy guide to observances celebrated across 25 religious traditions in the St. Louis region. When planning your organization’s schedule, refer to our Interfaith Calendar to honor the holidays your friends, neighbors, and colleagues celebrate.

CONSIDERATIONS

In order to be more accommodating for people who practice different religions, consider the following:

FOOD
Food and drink are central to many traditions’ rituals and practices. Consider vegetarian, vegan, non-alcoholic, and decaf options, which can accommodate a wide variety of religious and ethical choices.

HOURS
Some holidays may require individuals to worship or pray during different hours than they may the rest of the year. Consider flexibility that takes into account the work and objectives of your student or employee, rather than the typical time frame when this is normally accomplished.

TIME OFF
Many organizations have standard holidays for all employees or students that are built around the worldview of a particular religion - Christianity, for example. Consider allowing practitioners of other religions to float these holidays or make shifts in their schedules. Again, the priority should be the quality of the work, not where or when it takes place.

DEADLINES/WORK FLOW
During holidays that require prayer at late/early hours or that require fasting, some individuals may experience decreased stamina. Examine project schedules or work deadlines to see if they can be adjusted, if need be.

PRAYER
Some religions require daily or periodic prayer that requires solitude and quiet. Consider designating a space for individuals to pray that is clean, well-furnished, and accessible.

ATTIRE
For some religions, dress is part of an outward and ongoing commitment to that faith tradition. Make sure that your organization’s attire policy is communicated clearly to employees.
ONLINE RESOURCE

Interfaith Calendar of primary sacred times for world religions: www.interfaith-calendar.org

NOTES

This calendar strives to be as inclusive as possible. However, we are always open to adding more holidays and more religions. Please contact us directly if there’s something you’d like us to consider adding for next year’s calendar.

All content in this calendar represents information that was available at the time of production. To the greatest extent possible, holidays based on lunar phases or other variables that change every Gregorian calendar year have been factored into observance dates. The spelling of certain observances may vary as well, based on different ways of representing words from other languages.

All Baha’i, Jewish, and Muslim holidays begin at sunset unless otherwise noted.

We encourage all places of worship to be accessible to persons with disabilities by making necessary accommodations. Contact DAP for additional information on how your organization can become more inclusive in this way.

COLOR KEY

- Baha’i
- Buddhist
- Catholic Christian
- Christian
- Confucian
- Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
- Hindu
- Hispanic Christian
- Interfaith
- Jain
- Jehovah’s Witnesses
- Jewish
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Muslim
- Orthodox Christian
- Pan-African
- Protestant Christian
- Rastafarian
- Scientist
- Seventh Day Adventist
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Swedenborgian Christian
- Taoist
- Unitarian Universalist
- Wiccan/Pagan
- Zoroastrian
JANUARY 2020

1 Wednesday
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ
Shogatsu/Gantan-sai | Shinto
New Year’s Day celebration

5 Sunday
Twelfth Night | Christian
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking of the coming of the Epiphany
The Birth of the Tenth Sikh Master | Sikh
Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

6 Monday
Epiphany/Three Kings Day | Christian
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus

7 Tuesday
Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ
Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

8 Wednesday
Mahayana New Year | Buddhist
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

12 Sunday
Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

13 Monday
Maghi | Sikh
Commemoration of a battle in which 40 Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh
Seijin no Hi | Shinto
Holiday honoring those who have or will reach the age of twenty within the current year

15 Wednesday
Makar Sankranti | Hindu
Celebration marking the turning of the Sun toward the north; festival in reverence to deity Surya, god of the Sun

17 Friday
Feast of St. Anthony the Abbot/Blessing of the Animals | Hispanic Catholic
Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people

18 Saturday
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian (until 1/25/20)
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 Sunday
World Religion Day | Bahá’í
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

20 Monday
Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist

25 Saturday
Conversion of St. Paul | Christian
Honoring the conversion of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus
Lunar New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist
New Year’s celebration marking the start of the lunar new year; Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

29 Wednesday
Vasant Panchami | Hindu
Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

A Primer on Important Terms

Ecumenical: Including or representing multiple denominations within Christianity. Relevant this month because of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, traditionally observed in St. Louis with a prayer service coordinated by Catholic and multiple Protestant groups.

Interfaith: Including or representing multiple faiths or religions.

Religious diversity: A characteristic of a group of people wherein a large number of religious identities are included compared to the group size.

Religious inclusivity: Intentional efforts to include those who would otherwise be excluded based on their religion (or lack thereof).

World religions: One of the most common ways that we describe the many systems of religious belief that are practiced around the world. There are an estimated 4,200 religions in the world. This month, the Baha’i faith hosts World Religion Day, dedicated to illuminating the universal principles among the world’s religions.
# February 2020

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2 Monday
**Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian**
Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods

8 Sunday
**Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian**
First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated

9 Monday
**Ta’anit Esther | Jewish**
Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim

Purim | Jewish (until 3/10/20)
Commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill them

Holi | Hindu (until 3/10/20)
Spring festival known as the “festival of colours” or the “festival of love.” The festival signifies the victory of good over evil.

Magha Puja Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men

10 Tuesday
**Hola Mohalla | Sikh**
Created by Guru Gobind Singh as an occasion for Sikhs to show their martial arts skills and host mock battles

13 Friday
**L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday | Scientology**
Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

17 Tuesday
**St. Patrick’s Day | Christian**
Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

19 Thursday
**Naw Ruz (Norooz) | Bahá'í, Zoroastrian**
Marks the start of the New Year which occurs on the date of the Vernal Equinox (also known as Persian New Year)

20 Friday
**Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan**
Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)

25 Wednesday
**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian**
Feast day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, the son of God

28 Saturday
**Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian**
Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra
### 2 Thursday
**Rama Navami | Hindu**
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

### 3 Friday
**Laylat al Miraj | Muslim**
Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad’s nighttime journey from Mecca to ‘the farthest mosque’ in Jerusalem

### 4 Saturday
**Qingming Festival | Taoist, Confucian**
Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, commemorates onset of spring and is an occasion to remember ancestors

### 5 Sunday
**Palm Sunday | Christian**
Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem which marks the start of Holy Week

### 6 Monday
**Founding of the Church | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**
Commemoration of the appearance of the angel Moroni in 1830 to Joseph Smith, who subsequently founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

### 7 Tuesday
**Lord’s Evening Meal | Jehovah’s Witnesses**
Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

### 8 Wednesday
**Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu**
Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama; devotion and selfless works are encouraged

### 9 Thursday
**Maundy Thursday | Christian**
Remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples

**Mahavir Jayanti | Jain**
Celebration of the birth of Mahavira, founder of Jainism as a religion

**Theravadin New Year | Buddhist (until 4/11/20)**
Buddhist New Year

**Passover/Pesach | Jewish (until 4/15/20)**
Eight-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

### 10 Friday
**Good Friday/Holy Friday | Christian, Orthodox Christian**
Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

### 11 Saturday
**Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian**
Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

### 12 Sunday
**Easter | Christian**
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

### 13 Monday
**Khmer New Year | Buddhist (until 4/16/20)**
Khmer New Year arrives just after the harvest has been gathered and safely stored. The celebrations begin on New Year’s Day, but they last for three consecutive days.

### 14 Tuesday
**Baisakhi/Vaisakhi | Sikh, Hindu**
In Sikhism the day commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood.

### 19 Sunday
**Easter/Pasca | Christian, Orthodox Christian**
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

**First Day of Ridvan | Bahá’í (ends 4/20/20)**
Commemorates the beginning of the Bahá’í faith in 1863 when Baha’u’llah first declared his mission, marks first of a twelve-day period

### 20 Monday
**Yom HaShoah | Jewish (ends 4/21/20)**
Holocaust Day, established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s

### 21 Tuesday
**Laylat al Bara’ah | Muslim**
Also known as the Night of Records and the Night of Forgiveness, commemorating when God descends from heaven and forgives the people of their sins

**Grounation Day | Rastafarian**
Holy day celebrated in honor of Haile Selassie’s 1966 visit to Jamaica

### 23 Friday
**Ramadan Begins | Muslim (until 5/23/20)**
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an

### 28 Tuesday
**Ninth Day of Ridvan | Bahá’í**
Day of recognition for the historic and symbolic event of Baha’u’llah’s exile from Baghdad
1 Friday  
**Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan**  
Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

2 Saturday  
**Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Bahá’í**  
Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Bahá’í faith

3 Sunday  
**Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian**  
Confucian memorial ceremony to honor the kings and queens of the Yi, or Joseon, Dynasty

7 Thursday  
**National Day of Prayer | Interfaith**  
U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist  
Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Guatama Buddha in the Theravada tradition

9 Saturday  
**Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientology**  
Observance of the 1950 publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health, which was the forerunner of Scientology

11 Monday  
**Lag Ba’Omer | Jewish (until 5/12/20)**  
Holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Pesach and Shavout

**13 Wednesday**  
**World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day | Buddhist**  
Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

**World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | Interfaith**  
United Nations-sanctioned international holiday that celebrates the richness of the world’s cultures while promoting intercultural dialogue

19 Tuesday  
**Laylat al Qadr | Muslim (until 5/20/20)**  
The Night of Destiny, the first revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad

22 Friday  
**Ascension of Jesus | Christian**  
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter

23 Saturday  
**Declaration of the Bab | Bahá’í**  
Celebration of the Bab, Ali Muhammad’s announcement in 1844 that he was the “gate” to the coming of the promised one of all religions

Eid al Fitr | Muslim (until 5/24/20)  
Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

25 Monday  
**African Liberation Day | Pan-African**  
Commemoration of the formation of the Organization of African Unity/African Union

27 Wednesday  
**Ascension of Baha’u’llah | Bahá’í (until 5/28/20)**  
Remembrance of the death of Baha’u’llah, founder of Bahá’í

28 Thursday  
**Shavuot | Jewish (until 5/30/20)**  
Celebration of the descent of Moses from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

**Ascension Day | Orthodox Christian**  
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter

31 Sunday  
**Pentecost | Christian, Orthodox Christian**  
Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles
JUNE 2020

7 Sunday
Trinity Sunday | Christian
Celebrates doctrine of the Trinity, remembering and honoring God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

11 Thursday
Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, also known as transubstantiation

14 Sunday
Race Unity Day | Bahá’í
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding
Sunday of All Saints | Orthodox
Celebrating the memory of all saints

16 Tuesday
Guru Arjan Martyrdom | Sikh
Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith’s tradition

19 Friday
New Church Day | Swedenborgian
Christian
Annual commemoration of the vision document “The True Christian Religion,” in 1770

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Catholic Christian
Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity

Juneteenth | Interfaith
Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) is a holiday commemorating this day, which marked the effective end of slavery in the United States. Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, Juneteenth has its own celebratory traditions including community events and prayer services and holds deep significance for many African Americans.

21 Sunday
Litha | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the services of life (Summer Solstice)

25 Thursday
Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist
Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety and recognizing the life and death of Chinese Scholar, Qu Yuan
Travel and Visitation

For Americans, July is prime time for summer vacations, which frequently include opportunities for tourism. Both domestically and abroad, holy sites and congregations are destinations for visitors wishing to learn more about their own or other religions. The hot summer weather can often be at odds with expected dress codes at holy sites, so the following tips are offered for visitors:

- Regardless of where you visit, plan to cover your shoulders and legs. Shorts and tank tops are nearly universal no-nos for houses of worship, including Muslim, Catholic, Orthodox Christian, Jewish, and Hindu sites.
- In Muslim sites, plan to remove your shoes. If you’d be uncomfortable walking barefoot around a mosque, bring socks if you’re wearing sandals over bare feet. Women should consider bringing a light scarf or pashmina to cover their heads. Though visitors are often not asked to cover their heads, honoring internal expectations of hijab can create a sense of mutual respect between visitor and host. Be mindful that men and women may have separate entrances to buildings as well as separate worship spaces.
- In Catholic and Orthodox Christian cathedrals and churches, the basic rules apply regarding knees and shoulders. Some Orthodox churches require women to cover their heads and to wear skirts (no miniskirts), and some separate men and women in the sanctuary seating. Distracting or too-tight clothing, as well as clothing with logos, are not appropriate here.
- “Except in Reform temples, all men and boys are expected to cover their heads. This is often optional at Reform services. Out of respect, even non-Jewish guests should follow the custom of the synagogue and wear a kippah. Men who have been Bar-Mitzvahed also typically put on a tallis. This is not expected of non-Jews, who may politely decline if offered one. Today, in more liberal synagogues, women sometimes also wear a kippah and tallis, but this is not obligatory.” (www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/synagogue-customs-and-etiquette)
- If you are visiting someone else’s house of worship, the best way to honor your hosts is to inquire about appropriate dress. This shows your good intentions and desire to show respect. Many sites will have backup head coverings and scarves to cover the shoulders for visitors.
1 Saturday
Lammas | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the early harvest in the Northern Hemisphere

Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus | Orthodox Christian
Beginning of the period of preparation, leading up to the Dormition of Mary

3 Monday
Raksha Bandhan | Hindu
Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in family

6 Thursday
Transfiguration of the Lord | Orthodox Christian
Observance of the transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor in the presence of his disciples

11 Tuesday
Krishna Janmashtami | Hindu
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

Beheading of St. John the Baptist | Christian
Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist

13 Thursday
Obon/Ulambana | Buddhist, Shinto
(until 8/15/20)
Also known as Ancestor Day, a time to relieve the suffering of ghosts by making offerings to deceased ancestors

15 Saturday
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Catholic Christian
Commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven

Dormition of the Virgin Mary | Orthodox Christian
Observance of the death, burial, and transfer to heaven of the Virgin Mary

Paryushana Parva | Jain
Festival signifying human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement, and a celebration of the natural qualities of the soul

17 Monday
Marcus Garvey’s Birthday | Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

19 Wednesday
Hijri-New Year | Islam (until 8/20/20)
Marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year

22 Saturday
Ganesh Chaturthi | Hindu
Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence, and success

28 Friday
Ashura | Muslim
Optional one-day fast marking the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali (Shi’a Islam) and marking the day that Moses fasted in gratitude for liberation of the Israelites (Sunni Islam)
1 Tuesday
Religious year begins | Orthodox, Christian
Start of the religious calendar year

2 Wednesday
Chinese Ghost Festival | Taoist, Buddhist
Celebration in which the deceased are believed to visit the living

8 Tuesday
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian
Celebration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus

11 Friday
Ethiopian New Year’s Day | Rastafarian
First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

13 Sunday
Auditor’s Day | Scientology
Scientology Auditors are acknowledged for their dedication in helping their fellow men and women

16 Wednesday
Pchum Ben | Buddhist
A 15-day Cambodian religious festival, culminating in celebrations on the 15th day of the tenth month in the Khmer calendar, at the end of the Buddhist lent, Vassa, primarily to offer foods to the monks in the spiritual hope that those foods would be then offered to ancestors (7 generations back). The final 3 days may be observed as official festival holidays.

18 Friday
Rosh Hashanah | Jewish
Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance

21 Monday
Tzom Gedaliah | Jewish
Fast of the Seventh Month

27 Sunday
Yom Kippur | Jewish (until 9/28/20)
Also known as the Day of Atonement with central themes of atonement and repentance

28 Monday
Meskel | Ethiopian Orthodox, Christian
Commemoration of the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helen

Confucius’ Birthday | Confucian
Observance of the birth of Confucius

Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan (until 9/22/20)
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox
2 Friday
Sukkot | Jewish (until 10/9/20)
Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents

4 Sunday
St. Francis Day/Blessing of the Animals | Catholic Christian
Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, often celebrated with special blessing of animals

7 Wednesday
Founding of the International Association of Scientologists | Scientology
Scientologists rededicate themselves to the aims of Scientology: a world without criminals, suffering, and war

8 Thursday
Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish (until 10/9/20)
Commemoration of the last of the annual readings of the Torah

9 Friday
Birthday of Guru Ram Das | Sikh
Commemoration of the birth of one of the foremost gurus of Sikhism

Shemini Atzeret | Jewish (until 10/10/20)
Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

12 Monday
Indigenous People’s Day | Interfaith
The City of St. Louis has celebrated Indigenous People’s Day since 2018 as a time to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region. This day is celebrated internationally by many tribes, states, counties, cities, universities, countries and schools.

Thanksgiving - Canada | Interfaith (until 10/18/20)
Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year

17 Saturday
Navratri | Hindu (until 10/26/20)
Festival of the divine mother (lasting 9 nights) honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessing

Birth of the Bab | Bahá’í (until 10/18/20)
Honoring of the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner to Baha’u’llah and the Bahá’í faith

18 Sunday
Birth of Baha’u’llah | Bahá’í (until 10/19/20)
Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Bahá’í faith

20 Tuesday
Guru Granth Sahib Installation | Sikh
Remembrance of the eternal installation of the holy books by Granth Sahib

22 Thursday
Dussehra/Durga Puja | Hindu (until 10/26/20)
Commemoration of the last of the days of judgement

29 Thursday
Mawlid an Nabi | Muslim
Celebration of Prophet Muhammad’s birthday

30 Friday
Bon Om Touk | Buddhist (until 11/2/20)
Bon Om Touk, also known as “the Water Festival,” is an annual Cambodian celebration that takes place primarily in the Cambodian capital city of Phnom Penh but also in the city of Angkor. It is a celebration of the end of the rainy season on the full moon of the Buddhist month of Kadeuk. The full moon is considered to bring good luck that can lead to an abundant harvest.

31 Saturday
All Hallow’s Eve | Christian
Praying and fasting prior to the feast day of All Saint’s Day

Reformation Day | Protestant Christian
Anniversary of the tradition of Protestantism, marked by Martin Luther’s nailing of his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany

Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan (until 11/1/20)
Celebration of endings and beginnings
1 Sunday
All Saints Day | Christian
Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

2 Monday
All Souls Day | Catholic Christian
Commemoration of the souls of Christians who have died

Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian
Celebration of the coronation of the messianic figure of the Rastafari movement

13 Friday
Jain New Year | Jain
Beginning of the Jain year

14 Saturday
Diwali | Sikh, Jain, Hindu
The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year

15 Sunday
Vikram New Year | Hindu
Beginning of the Hindu year

Nativity Fast Begins | Orthodox Christian (until 12/24/20)
Period of abstinence and penance in preparation for the birth of Jesus

16 Monday
International Day for Tolerance | Interfaith
United Nations observance day to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance

22 Sunday
Christ the King Sunday | Christian
Feast celebrating the all-embracing authority of Christ, over and above governmental authority

24 Tuesday
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikh
Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

26 Thursday
Day of the Covenant | Bahá’í
Celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha’u’llah

28 Saturday
Ascension of Abdu’l-Baha | Bahá’í
Celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu’l-Baha to heavenly dwelling

29 Sunday
Advent | Christian (until 12/24/20)
Season observed as a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ

30 Monday
Guru Nanak Dev Sahib’s birthday | Sikh
Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism
DECEMBER 2020

6 Sunday
St. Nicholas Day | Christian
Celebration of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children and role model for gift-giving

7 Monday
Chalica | Unitarian (until 12/13/20)
A week-long celebration of Unitarian Universalist principles

8 Tuesday
Bodhi Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha

Immaculate Conception of Mary | Catholic Christian
Celebrates the belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10 Thursday
Hanukkah | Jewish (until 12/18/20)
Festival of lights commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple

12 Saturday
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe | Catholic Christian
Honoring of a legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 CE

16 Wednesday
Posadas Navidenas | Hispanic Christian (until 12/25/20)
Nine-day religious observance during which families participate in nightly processions that re-create the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus to Bethlehem

21 Monday
Yule | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the Winter Solstice

24 Thursday
Christmas Eve | Christian
Day before Christmas, often celebrated with a midnight Mass/Liturgy of Jesus’ birth

25 Friday
Christmas | Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Feast of the Nativity | Orthodox Christian
Commemorates the Nativity in the flesh of Jesus Christ

Asara B’Tevet | Jewish
The Tenth of Tevet

26 Saturday
Zarathosht Diso | Zoroastrian
Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra

Kwanzaa | Pan-African (until 1/1/21)
Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture among people of African descent

27 Sunday
Holy Family’s Day | Catholic Christian
Celebration honoring Jesus, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph as a family

28 Monday
Holy Innocents | Christian
Day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the same attempt to destroy Jesus

31 Thursday
Watch Night | Christian
Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year, and to prepare for the next year

Freedom Day | Scientology
Day celebrating the official recognition of the Church of Scientology in the United States in 1974
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 Friday | Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Catholic Christian  
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ |
| 3 Sunday | Epiphany/Three Kings Day  
Christian  
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus |
| 5 Tuesday | Twelfth Night  
Christian  
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking of the coming of the Epiphany |
| 7 Thursday | Orthodox Christmas  
Orthodox Christian  
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ  
Ethiopian Christmas  
Rastafarian  
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ |
| 10 Sunday | Baptism of the Lord Jesus  
Christian  
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist |
| 11 Monday | Seijin no Hi  
Shinto  
Holiday honoring those who have or will reach the age of twenty within the current year |
| 13 Wednesday | Maghi  
Sikh  
Commemoration of a battle in which 40 Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh |
| 14 Thursday | Makar Sankranti  
Hindu  
Celebration marking the turning of the Sun toward the north; festival in reverence to deity Surya, god of the Sun |
| 17 Sunday | Feast of St. Anthony the Abbot/Blessing of the Animals  
Hispanic Catholic  
Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people  
World Religion Day  
Bahá’í  
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions |
| 18 Monday | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
Christian (until 1/25/21)  
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity |
| 19 Tuesday | Timkat  
Ethiopian Orthodox Christian  
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist |
| 20 Wednesday | The Birth of the Tenth Sikh Master  
Sikh  
Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh |
| 25 Monday | Conversion of St. Paul  
Christian  
Honoring the conversion of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus |
| 27 Wednesday | Tu B’S’vat  
Jewish (until 1/28/21)  
Celebration of the coming of spring |
| 28 Thursday | Mahayana New Year  
Buddhist  
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries |
2 Tuesday
Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan
Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, celebrates the passage from winter to spring

Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian
Remembrance of the infant Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem

3 Wednesday
Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith
Commemoration of U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during WWII

Setsubun-sai | Shinto
Celebration of the traditional beginning of spring and the end of winter

12 Friday
Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian
Time period leading up to Lent

Lunar New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist
New Year’s celebration marking the start of the lunar new year; Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

14 Sunday
Race Relations Day | Christian
Day recognizing the importance of interracial relations and learning

St. Valentine’s Day | Christian
Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

15 Monday
Nirvana Day | Buddhist
Also known as Parinirvana Day, remembering the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana. Nirvana day is believed to be the festival that marks the end of the cycle of birth and rebirth

16 Tuesday
Vasant Panchami | Hindu
Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian
Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

17 Wednesday
Ash Wednesday | Christian
Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshippers’ foreheads as a sign of repentance

18 Thursday
National Founding Day | United States | Scientology
Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954

24 Wednesday
Intercalary Days | Bahá’í (until 3/1/21)
Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered ‘days outside of time’

25 Thursday
Ta’anit Esther | Jewish
Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim

Purim | Jewish (until 2/26/21)
Commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill them

26 Friday
Spring Lantern Festival | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist
Marks the final day of the Lunar New Year celebrations

27 Saturday
Magha Puja Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men
## MARCH 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Faith/Tradition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Monday</td>
<td>Nineteen Day Fast</td>
<td>Bahá’í (until 3/19/21)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fast to be observed by adults of the Bahá’í faith in good health from sunrise to sunset</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Wednesday</td>
<td>Laylat al Miraj</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commemorates the Prophet Muhammed’s nighttime journey from Mecca to ‘the farthest mosque’ in Jerusalem</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Thursday</td>
<td>Maha Shivaratri</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Saturday</td>
<td>L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday</td>
<td>Scientology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Monday</td>
<td>Clean Monday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Wednesday</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Friday</td>
<td>Naw Ruz (Norooz)</td>
<td>Bahá’í, Zoroastrian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marks the start of the New Year which occurs on the date of the Vernal Equinox (also known as Persian New Year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Saturday</td>
<td>Ostara</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Sunday</td>
<td>Orthodox Sunday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Thursday</td>
<td>Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin</td>
<td>Mary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feast day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, the son of God</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Friday</td>
<td>Khordad Sal</td>
<td>Zoroastrian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Saturday</td>
<td>Lord’s Evening Meal</td>
<td>Jehovah’s Witnesses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Sunday</td>
<td>Laylat al Bara’ah</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Also known as the Night of Records and the Night of Forgiveness, commemorating when God descends from heaven and forgives the people of their sins</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Monday</td>
<td>Hola Mohalla</td>
<td>Sikh (until 3/31/21)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Created by Guru Gobind Singh as an occasion for Sikhs to show their martial arts skills and host mock battles</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Palm Sunday* | Christian |
Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem which marks the start of Holy Week

*Holi* | Hindu (until 3/29/21) |
Spring festival known as the “festival of colours” or the “festival of love.” The festival signifies the victory of good over evil.

*Lazarus Saturday* | Orthodox Christian |
Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus
**APRIL 2021**

1 **Thursday**  
Maundy Thursday | Christian  
Remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples

2 **Friday**  
Good Friday/Holy Friday | Christian, Orthodox Christian  
Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

4 **Sunday**  
Easter | Christian  
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Qingming Festival | Taoist, Confucian  
Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, commemorates onset of spring and is an occasion to remember ancestors

6 **Tuesday**  
Founding of the Church | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Commemoration of the appearance of the angel Moroni in 1830 to Joseph Smith, who subsequently founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

8 **Thursday**  
Yom HaShoah | Jewish (ends 4/9/21)  
Holocaust Day, established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s

12 **Monday**  
Ramadan Begins | Muslim (until 5/12/21)  
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an

13 **Tuesday**  
Ramayana Week | Hindu (until 4/21/21)  
Nine day festival that marks the auspicious celebration of the appearance of Hindu Lord, Sri Ram

Baisakhi/Vaisakhi | Sikh, Hindu  
In Sikhism the day commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood.

14 **Wednesday**  
Khmer New Year | Buddhist (until 4/17/21)  
Khmer New Year arrives just after the harvest has been gathered and safely stored. The celebrations begin on New Year’s Day, but they last for three consecutive days.

19 **Monday**  
First Day of Ridvan | Bahá’í (ends 4/30/21)  
Commemorates the beginning of the Bahá’í faith in 1863 when Baha’u’llah first declared his mission, marks first of a twelve-day period

21 **Wednesday**  
Rama Navami | Hindu  
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

Grounation Day | Rastafarian  
Holy day celebrated in honor of Haile Selassie’s 1966 visit to Jamaica

25 **Sunday**  
Mahavir Jayanti | Jain  
Celebration of the birth of Mahavira, founder of Jainism as a religion

26 **Monday**  
Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu  
Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama; devotion and selfless works are encouraged

27 **Tuesday**  
Theravadin New Year | Buddhist (until 4/29/21)  
Buddhist New Year

Ninth Day of Ridvan | Bahá’í  
Day of recognition for the historic and symbolic event of Baha’u’llah’s exile from Baghdad

29 **Thursday**  
Lag Ba’Omer | Jewish (until 4/30/21)  
Holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Pesach and Shavout

30 **Friday**  
Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Bahá’í  
Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Bahá’í faith
1 Saturday
Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

2 Sunday
Easter/Pasca | Christian, Orthodox Christian
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian
Confucian memorial ceremony to honor the kings and queens of the Yi, or Joseon, Dynasty

6 Thursday
National Day of Prayer | Interfaith
U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

7 Friday
Laylat al Miraj | Muslim (until 5/8/21)
The Night of Destiny, the first revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad

9 Sunday
Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientology
Observance of the 1950 publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health, which was the forerunner of Scientology

13 Thursday
Eid al Fitr | Muslim (until 5/15/21)
Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

Ascension of Jesus | Christian
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter

16 Sunday
Shavuot | Jewish (until 5/18/21)
Celebration of the descent of Moses from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

21 Friday
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | Interfaith
United Nations-sanctioned international holiday that celebrates the richness of the world’s cultures while promoting intercultural dialogue

23 Sunday
Declaration of the Bab | Bahá’í
Celebration of the Bab, Ali Muhammad’s announcement in 1844 that he was the “gate” to the coming of the promised one of all religions

25 Tuesday
African Liberation Day | Pan-African
Commemoration of the formation of the Organization of African Unity/African Union

26 Wednesday
Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist
Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Guatama Buddha in the Theravada tradition

28 Friday
Ascension of Baha’u’llah | Bahá’í (until 5/29/21)
Remembrance of the death of Baha’u’llah, founder of Bahá’í

30 Sunday
Pentecost | Christian, Orthodox Christian
Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

Trinity Sunday | Christian
Celebrates doctrine of the Trinity, remembering and honoring God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Thursday</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>Catholic Christian (Catholic Christian) Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, also known as transubstantiation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Thursday</td>
<td>Ascension Day</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian (Orthodox Christian) Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Friday</td>
<td>Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus</td>
<td>Catholic Christian (Catholic Christian) Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Sunday</td>
<td>Race Unity Day</td>
<td>Bahá’í (Bahá’í) Day to promote racial harmony and understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Monday</td>
<td>Dragon Boat Festival</td>
<td>Taoist (Taoist) Chinese festival commemorating filial piety and recognizing the life and death of Chinese Scholar, Qu Yuanc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Wednesday</td>
<td>Guru Arjan Martyrdom</td>
<td>Sikh (Sikh) Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith’s tradition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Saturday</td>
<td>Juneteenth</td>
<td>Interfaith (Interfaith) Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) is a holiday commemorating this day, which marked the effective end of slavery in the United States. Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, Juneteenth has its own celebratory traditions including community events and prayer services and holds deep significance for many African Americans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Sunday</td>
<td>Litha</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan (Wiccan/Pagan) Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the services of life (Summer Solstice).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Sunday</td>
<td>Sunday of All Saints</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian (Orthodox Christian) Celebrating the memory of all saints.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABOUT DAP
Diversity Awareness Partnership is a catalyst to increase awareness, facilitate engagement and provide education about diversity and inclusion. DAP achieves this through these engagement opportunities:

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Diversity & Inclusion education and training is delivered through presentations, workshops, seminars, community forums and roundtables. D&I trainings raise awareness around the importance of diversity and inclusion among employees by exposing challenges, facilitating dialogue, and providing tangible resources needed to create a more inclusive workplace.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
We offer youth diversity programs for students in K-12:
- Give Respect, Get Respect Program
- EXPLORE Career Immersion Program
- Diverse-City Art Competition

AWARENESS INITIATIVES
Diversity Awareness Partnership provides educational publications addressing a variety of diversity topics. Through the use of digital media and print publications, the message of appreciating and understanding differences is promoted in organizations, schools, corporations and throughout the community.

DAP CONNECT
DAP Connect brings together people interested in diversifying and expanding their professional and social networks.

Call (314) 257-0800 or visit www.dapinclusive.org for more information.
MISSION
Diversity Awareness Partnership is a catalyst to increase awareness, facilitate engagement and provide education about diversity and inclusion.

VISION
Diversity Awareness Partnership’s vision is inclusive communities where diversity is respected and embraced, and equity is the norm.