



# 18-MONTH **INTERFAITH CALENDAR**

# 2021 - 2022

# 18-MONTH INTERFAITH CALENDAR

To foster and support inclusive communities, Diversity Awareness Partnership is pleased to present the 2021-2022 18-Month Interfaith Calendar. This publication can be a useful guide to observances celebrated and practiced across many religious traditions. When planning your organization's schedule, refer to our Interfaith Calendar to honor the special practices and important days of the traditions that your colleagues and friends may observe.

## Considerations

In order to be more accommodating for people with varying religious practices, consider the following:

### FOOD

Food and drink are central to many traditions rituals and practices. Consider vegetarian, vegan, non-alcoholic, and decaf options. Additionally, think about the abstinence from food and drink, which is common for those who observe fasting in different ways.

### HOURS

Some holidays or special days may require individuals to worship, pray, or break fast during different or odd hours than they may the rest of the year. Consider a flexible schedule that takes into account the work and objectives of your employee, student, or colleague, rather than enforcing standard work hours.

### TIME OFF

Many organizations have standard holidays for all that center a specific religion, like Christianity. Consider allowing practitioners of other religions to float these holidays or make shifts in their schedules.

### DEADLINES/WORK FLOW

During holidays or special days that require prayer at late/early hours or that require fasting, some individuals may experience decreased stamina. Try to show empathy, and possibly examine schedules or work deadlines to see if they can be adjusted.

### 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 inclusive and broad enough, and provides flexibility should someone need it.

# Online Resource

Interfaith Calendar of primary sacred times for world religions: [www.interfaith-calendar.org](http://www.interfaith-calendar.org)

## Notes

This calendar strives to be as inclusive as possible. We are always open to adding more holidays, sacred days, and 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 Bahá'í, 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

- Bahá'í Faith
- Buddhism
- Catholic Christianity/Catholicism
- Christianity
- Confucianism
- Coptic Christianity
- Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity
- Hinduism
- Hispanic Christianity
- Interfaith
- Islam
- Jainism
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Judaism
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Orthodox Christianity
- Pan-Africanism
- Protestant Christianity
- Rastafari
- Shinto Faith
- Sikhism
- Swedenborgian Christianity
- Taoism
- Unitarian Universalist
- Wicca/Paganism
- Zoroastrianism

# JANUARY 2021

## 1 Friday

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christianity**  
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

## 3 Sunday

**Epiphany/Three Kings Day | Christianity**  
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus

## 5 Tuesday

**Twelfth Night | Christianity**  
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking of the coming of the Epiphany

## 7 Thursday

**Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christianity**  
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

**Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafari**

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

**Coptic Christmas | Coptic Christianity**

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

## 10 Sunday

**Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christianity**  
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

## 11 Monday

**Seijin no Hi | Shinto Faith**  
Honors those who have or will reach the age of twenty within the current year

## 13 Wednesday

**Maghi | Sikhism**  
Commemoration of a battle in which 40 Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh

## 14 Thursday

**Makar Sankranti | Hinduism**  
Celebration marking the turning of the Sun toward the north in reverence to deity Surya, god of the Sun

## 17 Sunday

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

**World Religion Day | Bahá'í Faith**

Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

## 18 Monday

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christianity (until 1/25/21)**  
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

## 19 Tuesday

**Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity**  
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist

## 20 Wednesday

**The Birth of the Tenth Sikh Master | Sikhism**  
Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

## 25 Monday

**Conversion of St. Paul | Christianity**  
Honoring the conversion of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus

## 27 Wednesday

**Tu B'Shvat | Judaism (until 1/28/21)**  
Celebration of the coming of spring

## 28 Thursday

**Mahayana New Year | Buddhism**  
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

# FEBRUARY 2021

## 2 Tuesday

Imbolc | Wicca/Paganism

Celebration of the passage from winter to spring

Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christianity

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 Faith

Celebration of the traditional beginning of spring and the end of winter

## 12 Friday

Triodion begins | Orthodox Christianity

Time period leading up to Lent

Lunar New Year | Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism (until 2/26/21)

Celebration marking the start of the lunar new year and a time to give thanks for family and remember ancestors

## 14 Sunday

Race Relations Day | Christianity

Day recognizing the importance of interracial relations and learning

St. Valentine's Day | Christianity

Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

## 15 Monday

Nirvana Day (Parinivarna Day) | Buddhism

A day to remember the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana and marks the end of the cycle of birth and rebirth

## 16 Tuesday

Vasant Panchami | Hinduism

Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christianity

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

## 17 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday | Christianity

Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshippers' foreheads as a sign of repentance

## 24 Wednesday

Intercalary Days | Bahá'í Faith (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 | Judaism

Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim

Purim | Judaism (until 2/26/21)

Commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill them

## 26 Friday

Spring Lantern Festival | Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism

Marks the final day of the Lunar New Year celebrations

## 27 Saturday

Magha Puja Day | Buddhism

Celebration of the teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men

# MARCH 2021

## 1 Monday

Nineteen Day Fast | Bahá'í Faith (until 3/19/21)

Fast to be observed by adults of the Bahá'í faith in good health from sunrise to sunset

## 11 Thursday

Maha Shivaratri | Hinduism  
Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

Laylat al Miraj | Islam

Commemorates the Prophet Muhammed's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, where he then ascended to heaven

## 15 Monday

Clean Monday | Orthodox Christianity

Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods

## 17 Wednesday

St. Patrick's Day | Christianity

Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

## 20 Saturday

Ostara | Wicca/Paganism

Celebration of the Spring Equinox, the season's change from dark winter to brightening spring

Nowruz (Persian New Year) | Bahá'í Faith, Zoroastrianism, Interfaith

Marks the start of the New Year which occurs on the date of Spring Equinox

## 21 Sunday

Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christianity

First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated

## 25 Thursday

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christianity

Feast day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, the son of God

## 26 Friday

Khordad Sal | Zoroastrianism

Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

## 27 Saturday

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witnesses

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

Passover/Pesach | Judaism (until 4/4/21)

Eight-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

## 28 Sunday

Laylat al Bara'ah (Night of Forgiveness) | Islam

A significant day where Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins and believe that on this night, one's destiny for the coming year is written by God

Palm Sunday | Christianity

Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem which marks the start of Holy Week

Holi | Hinduism (until 3/29/21)

Spring festival known as the "Festival of Colors" that signifies the victory of good over evil

## 29 Monday

Hola Mohalla | Sikhism (until 3/31/21)

Created by Guru Gobind Singh as an occasion for Sikhs to show their martial arts skills and host mock battles

# APRIL 2021

## 1 Thursday

**Maundy Thursday | Christianity**  
A day of remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples

## 2 Friday

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

## 4 Sunday

**Easter | Christianity**  
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

**Qingming Festival | Taoism, Confucianism**  
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 | Judaism (ends 4/9/21)**  
Holocaust Day, established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazi regime

## 12 Monday

**Ramadan Begins | Islam (until 5/12/21)**  
A holy month in which the Islamic scripture, the Quran, was revealed and Muslims observe fasting, prayer, and spiritual reflection

## 13 Tuesday

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

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

## 14 Wednesday

**Khmer New Year (Cambodian New Year) | Buddhism (until 4/17/21)**  
The new year that is celebrated just after the harvest has been gathered and safely stored, when farmers enjoy the fruits of their labor before the rainy season begins

## 19 Monday

**First Day of Ridvan | Bahá'í Faith (ends 4/30/21)**  
Commemorates the beginning of the Bahá'í faith in 1863 when Baha'u'llah first declared his mission

## 21 Wednesday

**Rama Navami | Hinduism**  
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

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

## 24 Saturday

**Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christianity**  
Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

## 25 Sunday

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

## 27 Tuesday

**Theravadin New Year | Buddhism (until 4/29/21)**  
The Buddhist New Year, when buddhists devote themselves to meditation, self-reflection, and learning from past mistakes

**Ninth Day of Ridvan | Bahá'í Faith**

Day of recognition for the historic and symbolic event of Baha'u'llah's exile from Baghdad

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

## 29 Thursday

**Lag Ba'Omer | Judaism (until 4/30/21)**  
A day of celebration interrupting the sadness and semi-mourning of the Omer period for 24 hours

## 30 Friday

**Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Bahá'í Faith**  
Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Bahá'í faith

# MAY 2021

## 1 Saturday

Beltane | Wicca/Paganism

Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

## 2 Sunday

Eastern Orthodox Easter | Orthodox Christianity

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Chongmyo Taeje | Confucianism

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 Qadr (Night of Power) | Islam (until 5/8/21)

A special night of prayer in the month of Ramadan where it is believed that the blessings and mercy of God are multiplied by the thousands

## 13 Thursday

Eid al Fitr | Islam (until 5/15/21)

Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day | Buddhism

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

Ascension of Jesus | Christianity

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

## 16 Sunday

Shavuot | Judaism (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 Faith

Celebration of the Bab, a beloved messenger of God, on the day he announced that he was the "gate" to the coming of the promised one of all religions

Pentecost | Christianity, Orthodox Christianity

Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

## 25 Tuesday

African Liberation Day | Pan-Africanism

Commemoration of the formation of the Organization of African Unity/African Union

## 26 Wednesday

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhism

Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Guatama Buddha in the Theravada tradition

## 28 Friday

Ascension of Baha'u'llah | Bahá'í Faith (until 5/29/21)

Remembrance of the death of Baha'u'llah, founder of Bahá'í

Trinity Sunday | Christianity

Celebrates doctrine of the Trinity, remembering and honoring God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit



# JUNE 2021

## 3 Thursday

Corpus Christi | Catholic Christianity

Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist

## 10 Thursday

Ascension Day | Orthodox Christianity

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

## 11 Friday

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christianity

Occasion to pay homage to Christ's all-encompassing love for humanity

## 13 Sunday

Race Unity Day | Bahá'í Faith

Faith Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

## 14 Monday

Dragon Boat Festival | Taoism

Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety and recognizing the life and death of Chinese Scholar, Qu Yuan

## 16 Wednesday

Guru Arjan Martyrdom | Sikhism

Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith's tradition

## 19 Saturday

Juneteenth | Interfaith

Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") is a holiday commemorating the day the news of the abolition of slavery came to Galveston, Texas

New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christianity

Annual commemoration of the vision document "The True Christian Religion," in 1770

## 20 Sunday

Litha | Wicca/Paganism

Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the services of life (Summer Solstice)

### 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 Bahá'í faith hosts World Religion Day, dedicated to illuminating the universal principles among the world's religions.

# JULY 2021

## 9 Friday

### Martyrdom of the Bab | Bahá'í

Observance of the day Ali Muhammad was executed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers

## 18 Sunday

### Tish'a B'av | Judaism (until 7/19/21)

Day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 BCE and 70 CE

### Day of Arafat | Islam (until 7/19/21)

Observance during Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy

## 19 Monday

### Eid al Adha | Islam (until 7/23/21)

Also known as the Sacrifice Feast, a celebration commemorating the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God (holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day)

## 23 Friday

### Birth of the Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafari

Birthday of the revered messianic figure among Rastafarians

## 24 Saturday

### Pioneer Day | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Observation of the arrival of the first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA

### Asalha Puja Day | Buddhist

Also known as Dharma Day, the day that marks the beginning of Buddhism

## 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](http://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.

# AUGUST 2021

## 1 Sunday

Lammas | Wicca/Paganism

Celebration of the early harvest in the Northern Hemisphere

Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus | Orthodox Christianity

A two week fast sometimes called the Dormition Fast that bars the consumption of red meat, poultry, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine

## 6 Friday

Transfiguration of the Lord | Orthodox Christianity

Observance of the transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor in the presence of his disciples

## 9 Monday

Hijri-New Year | Islam (until 8/10/21)

Marks the beginning of the new Islamic lunar calendar

## 15 Sunday

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Catholic Christianity

Commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven

Dormition of the Virgin Mary | Orthodox Christianity

Observance of the death, burial, and transfer to heaven of the Virgin Mary

## 17 Tuesday

Marcus Garvey's Birthday | Rastafari

Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

## 18 Wednesday

Ashura | Islam (until 8/19/21)

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)

## 22 Sunday

Obon/Ulambana (Ancestor Day/Ghost Festival) | Buddhism, Shinto Faith, Taoism

On this day the gates of hell are opened on the first day and ghosts are free to visit the world throughout this time, during which offerings are made to relieve their suffering

Raksha Bandhan | Hinduism

Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in family

## 30 Monday

Krishna Janmashtami | Hinduism

Commemoration of the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu (date varies, but this was the most agreed upon date)

# SEPTEMBER 2021

## 1 Wednesday

Liturgical Calendar New Year | Orthodox Christianity  
Start of the religious calendar year

## 4 Saturday

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

## 6 Monday

Rosh Hashanah | Judaism (until 9/8/2021)  
Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance

## 8 Wednesday

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christianity  
Celebration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus

## Guru Granth Sahib Installation | Sikhism

Remembrance of the eternal installation of the holy books by Granth Sahib at the Golden Temple

## 9 Thursday

Tzom Gedaliah | Judaism  
A day of fast from dawn until dusk to lament the assassination of Gedaliah, who administered the Jews in Judah after the destruction of the Temple and exile in 586 B.C.E.

## 10 Friday

Ganesh Chaturthi | Hinduism  
Festival honoring the deity Ganesha, the god of prosperity, wisdom, and success

## 11 Saturday

Ethiopian New Year's Day | Rastafari  
First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

## 15 Wednesday

Yom Kippur | Judaism (until 9/16/21)  
Also known as the Day of Atonement with central themes of atonement and repentance

## 20 Monday

Sukkot | Judaism (until 9/27/2021)  
A day commonly known as the Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrates thanking God for the completed harvest and commemorates the huts in which the Israelites dwelt after escaping enslavement in Egypt.

## 21 Tuesday

Mabon | Wicca/Paganism (until 9/29/21)  
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

## 26 Sunday

Hoshanah Rabbah | Judaism (until 9/27/21)  
This day is the seventh day of Sukkot when the entire Jewish community is judged by God to be worthy or not of seasonal rains; many Jews can be found praying and reading the Torah

## 27 Monday

Meskel | Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity  
Commemoration of the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helen

## Shemini Atzeret | Judaism (until 9/29/21)

A holy day devoted to the spiritual aspects of the festival of Sukkot

## 28 Tuesday

Confucius' Birthday | Confucianism  
Observance of the birth of Confucius

## Simchat Torah | Jewish (until 9/29/21)

Day to celebrate the completion of the yearly cycle of Torah reading and new cycle begins

# OCTOBER 2021

## 4 Monday

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi |  
Catholic Christianity

A day to commemorate the patron saint of animals and ecology which is often celebrated with special blessing of animals and pets

## 5 Tuesday

Pchum Ben | Buddhism

A 15-day Cambodian religious festival culminating in celebrations at the end of the Buddhist lent, primarily to offer foods to the monks in the spiritual hope that those foods would be then offered to ancestors

## 7 Thursday

Navratri | Hinduism (until 10/15/21)

A nine day festival dedicated to Goddess Durga who defeated the demon Mahishasura, signifying the victory of good over evil

## 9 Saturday

Birthday of Guru Ram Das |  
Sikhism

Commemoration of the birth of one of the foremost gurus of Sikhism

## 11 Monday

Indigenous Peoples' 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

## 15 Friday

Dussehra/Durga Puja |  
Hinduism

Commemoration of the end of Navratri

## 18 Monday

Mawlid an Nabi | Islam  
Celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday

## 21 Thursday

Jain New Year | Jainism

Beginning of the Jain year

## 31 Sunday

All Hallow's Eve | Christianity  
Praying and fasting prior to the feast day of All Saint's Day

Reformation Day | Protestant  
Christianity

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/Paganism  
(until 11/1/21)

A Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter

# NOVEMBER 2021

## 1 Monday

All Saints Day | Christianity  
Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

## 2 Tuesday

All Souls Day | Catholic Christianity  
Commemoration of the souls of Christians who have died

Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafari

Celebration of the coronation of the messianic figure of the Rastafari movement

## 4 Thursday

Diwali | Sikhism, Jainism, Hinduism

The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year

## 5 Friday

Vikram New Year | Hinduism  
Beginning of the Hindu year

## 6 Saturday

Birth of the Bab/Baha'u'llah | Bahá'í Faith (until 11/7/2021)

Honoring of the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner to Baha'u'llah and the Bahá'í faith

## 16 Tuesday

International Day for Tolerance | Interfaith

United Nations observance day to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance

## 18 Thursday

Bon Om Touk | Buddhism (until 11/20/21)

Bon Om Touk, also known as "The Water Festival," is an annual 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

## 19 Friday

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's birthday | Sikhism

Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

## 21 Sunday

Christ the King Sunday | Christianity

Feast celebrating the all-embracing authority of Christ, over and above governmental authority

## 24 Wednesday

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikhism

Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Day of the Covenant | Bahá'í Faith (until 11/7/2021)

Celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha'u'llah

## 27 Saturday

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha | Bahá'í Faith

Celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu'l-Baha to heavenly dwelling

## 28 Sunday

Nativity Fast Begins | Orthodox Christianity (until 1/6/22)

Period of abstinence and penance in preparation for the birth of Jesus

Advent | Christianity (until 12/24/21)

Season observed as a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ

Hanukkah | Judaism (until 12/6/21)

Festival of lights commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple

# DECEMBER 2021

## 6 Monday

**St. Nicholas Day | Christianity**  
Celebration of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children and role model for gift-giving

**Chalica | Unitarian (until 12/12/21)**

A week-long celebration of Unitarian Universalist principles

## 8 Wednesday

**Bodhi Day | Buddhism**  
Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha

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

## 12 Sunday

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe | Christianity**  
Honoring of a legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 CE

## 14 Tuesday

**Asara B'Tevet | Judaism**  
A fast commemorating the Tenth of Tevet, the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylonia

## 16 Thursday

**Posadas Navidenas | Hispanic Christianity (until 12/24/21)**  
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 Tuesday

**Yule | Wicca/Paganism (until 1/1/2022)**  
Celebration of the Winter Solstice

## 24 Friday

**Christmas Eve | Christianity**  
Day before Christmas, often celebrated with a midnight Mass/Liturgy of Jesus' birth

## 25 Saturday

**Christmas | Christianity**  
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

**Feast of the Nativity | Orthodox Christianity**  
Commemorates the Nativity in the flesh of Jesus Christ

## 26 Sunday

**Zarathosht Diso | Zoroastrianism**  
Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra

**Kwanzaa | Pan-Africanism (until 1/1/22)**  
Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture among people of African descent

**Holy Family's Day | Catholic Christianity**  
Celebration honoring Jesus, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph as a family

## 28 Tuesday

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

## 31 Friday

**Watch Night | Christianity**  
Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year and to prepare for the next year

# JANUARY 2022

## 1 Saturday

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christianity**  
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

## 5 Wednesday

**Twelfth Night | Christianity**  
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking of the coming of the Epiphany

## 6 Thursday

**Epiphany/Three Kings Day | Christianity**  
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus

## 7 Friday

**Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christianity**  
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

**Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafari**

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

**Coptic Christmas | Coptic Christianity**

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

## 9 Sunday

**Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christianity**  
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

## 10 Monday

**Seijin no Hi | Shinto Faith**  
Honors those who have or will reach the age of twenty within the current year

## 14 Friday

**Makar Sankranti | Hinduism**  
Celebration marking the turning of the Sun toward the north in reverence to deity Surya, god of the Sun

## 16 Sunday

**World Religion Day | Bahá'í Faith**  
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

**Tu B'Shvat | Judaism (until 1/17/22)**

Celebration of the coming of spring

## 17 Monday

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

## 18 Tuesday

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christianity (until 1/25/22)**  
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

**Mahayana New Year | Buddhism**

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

## 19 Wednesday

**Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity**  
Commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist

## 25 Tuesday

**Conversion of St. Paul | Christianity**  
Honoring the conversion of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus



# FEBRUARY 2022

## 1 Tuesday

Imbolc | Wicca/Paganism  
Celebration of the passage from winter to spring

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

## 2 Wednesday

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

## 3 Thursday

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

## 5 Saturday

Vasant Panchami | Hinduism  
Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

## 13 Sunday

Triodion begins | Orthodox Christianity  
Time period leading up to Lent

Lunar New Year | Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism  
Celebration marking the start of the lunar new year and a time to give thanks for family and remember ancestors

## 14 Monday

Race Relations Day | Christianity  
Day recognizing the importance of interracial relations and learning

St. Valentine's Day | Christianity  
Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

## 15 Tuesday

Nirvana Day (Parinivarna Day) | Buddhism  
A day to remember the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana, ending the cycle of birth and rebirth

Spring Lantern Festival | Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism  
Marks the final day of the Lunar New Year celebrations

## 16 Wednesday

Maghi | Sikhism  
Commemoration of a battle in which 40 Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh

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

## 25 Friday

Intercalary Days | Bahá'í Faith (until 3/1/22)  
Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered "days outside of time"

# MARCH 2022

## 1 Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christianity

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

Laylatul Miraj | Islam

Commemorates the Prophet Muhammed's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, where he then ascended to heaven

Maha Shivaratri | Hinduism

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

## 2 Wednesday

Nineteen Day Fast | Bahá'í Faith (until 3/20/22)

A nineteen-day period of the year, during which adults of the Bahá'í Faith adhere to a sunrise-to-sunset fast

Ash Wednesday | Christianity

Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshippers' foreheads as a sign of repentance

## 7 Monday

Clean Monday | Orthodox Christianity

Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods

## 13 Sunday

Sunday of Orthodoxy | Orthodox Christianity

First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated

## 16 Wednesday

Ta'anit Esther | Judaism

Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim

Purim | Judaism (until 3/17/22)

Commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill them

## 17 Thursday

St. Patrick's Day | Christianity

Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

## 18 Friday

Hola Mohalla | Sikhism (until 3/20/22)

Created by Guru Gobind Singh as an occasion for Sikhs to show their martial arts skills and host mock battles

Holi | Hinduism (until 3/19/22)

Spring festival known as the "Festival of Colors" that signifies the victory of good over evil

## 19 Saturday

Laylat al Bara'ah (Night of Forgiveness) | Islam

A significant day where Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins and believe that on this night, one's destiny for the coming year is written by God

## 20 Sunday

Ostara | Wicca/Paganism

Celebrates the Spring Equinox, the season's change from dark winter to brightening spring

## 21 Monday

Nowruz (Persian New Year) | Bahá'í Faith, Zoroastrianism, Interfaith

Marks the start of the New Year which occurs on the date of Spring Equinox

## 25 Friday

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christianity

Feast day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, the son of God

# APRIL 2022

## 1 Friday

Ramadan Begins | Islam (29 or 30 days long)

A holy month in which the Islamic scripture, the Quran, was revealed and Muslims observe fasting, prayer, and spiritual reflection

Ramayana Week | Hinduism (until 4/10/22)

A nine day festival that marks the auspicious celebration of the appearance of Hindu Lord, Sri Ram

## 5 Tuesday

Qingming Festival | Taoism, Confucianism

Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, commemorates onset of spring and is an occasion to remember ancestors

## 6 Wednesday

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

## 10 Sunday

Rama Navami | Hinduism

Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

Palm Sunday | Christianity

Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem which marks the start of Holy Week

## 13 Wednesday

Khmer New Year (Cambodian New Year) | Buddhism (until 4/16/22)

The new year that is celebrated just after the harvest has been gathered and safely stored, when farmers enjoy the fruits of their labor before the rainy season begins

## 14 Thursday

Maundy Thursday | Christianity

A day of remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples

Mahavir Jayanti | Jainism

Celebration of the birth of Mahavira, founder of Jainism as a religion

Baisakhi/Vaisakhi | Sikhism

In Sikhism, the day commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood

## 15 Friday

Good Friday/Holy Friday | Christianity, Orthodox Christianity

Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witnesses

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

Passover/Pesach | Judaism (until 4/22/22)

Eight-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

## 16 Saturday

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christianity

Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

Hanuman Jayanti | Hinduism

Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama; devotion and selfless works are encouraged

Theravadin New Year | Buddhism

The Buddhist New Year, when buddhists devote themselves to meditation, self-reflection, and learning from past mistakes

## 17 Sunday

Easter | Christianity

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

## 20 Wednesday

First Day of Ridvan | Bahá'í Faith (ends 5/2/22)

Commemorates the beginning of the Bahá'í faith in 1863 when Baha'u'llah first declared his mission

## 21 Thursday

Grounation Day | Rastafari

Holy day celebrated in honor of Haile Selassie's 1966 visit to Jamaica

## 24 Sunday

Eastern Orthodox Easter | Orthodox Christianity

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

## 27 Wednesday

Yom HaShoah | Judaism (ends 4/28/22)

Holocaust Day, established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazi regime

## 29 Friday

Ninth Day of Ridvan | Bahá'í Faith

Day of recognition for the historic and symbolic event of Baha'u'llah's exile from Baghdad

Laylat al Qadr (Night of Power) | Islam

A special night of prayer in the month of Ramadan where it is believed that the blessings and mercy of God are multiplied by the thousands

# MAY 2022

## 1 Sunday

Beltane | Wicca/Paganism

Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

Chongmyo Taeje | Confucianism

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

## 2 Monday

Eid al Fitr | Islam (until 5/15/22)

Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Bahá'í Faith

Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Bahá'í faith

## 5 Thursday

National Day of Prayer | Interfaith

U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

## 13 Friday

World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day | Buddhism

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

## 15 Sunday

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhism

Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Guatama Buddha in the Theravada tradition

## 18 Wednesday

Lag BaOmer | Judaism (until 5/19/22)

A day of celebration interrupting the sadness and semi-mourning of the Omer period for 24 hours

## 21 Saturday

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 Monday

Declaration of the Bab | Bahá'í Faith

Celebration of the Bab, a beloved messenger of God, on the day he announced that he was the "gate" to the coming of the promised one of all religions

## 25 Wednesday

African Liberation Day | Pan-Africanism

Commemoration of the formation of the Organization of African Unity/African Union

## 26 Thursday

Ascension of Jesus | Christianity, Orthodox Christianity

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

## 28 Saturday

Ascension of Baha'u'llah | Bahá'í Faith (until 5/29/22)

Remembrance of the death of Baha'u'llah, founder of Bahá'í

# JUNE 2022

## 3 Friday

**Dragon Boat Festival | Taoism**  
Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety and recognizing the life and death of Chinese Scholar, Qu Yuan

## 4 Saturday

**Shavuot | Judaism (until 6/6/22)**

Celebration of the descent of Moses from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

## 5 Sunday

**Pentecost | Christianity, Orthodox Christianity**

Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

## 12 Sunday

**Trinity Sunday | Christianity**

Celebrates doctrine of the Trinity, remembering and honoring God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**Race Unity Day | Bahá'í Faith**

Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

## 16 Thursday

**Corpus Christi | Catholic Christianity**

Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist

**Guru Arjan Martyrdom | Sikhism**

Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith's tradition

## 19 Sunday

**Juneteenth | Interfaith**

Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") is a holiday commemorating the day the news of the abolition of slavery came to Galveston, Texas

**New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christianity**

Annual commemoration of the vision document "The True Christian Religion," in 1770

## 21 Tuesday

**Litha | Wicca/Paganism**

Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the services of life (Summer Solstice)

## 24 Friday

**Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christianity**

Occasion to pay homage to Christ's all-encompassing love for humanity

# 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](http://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.

Diversity Awareness Partnership  
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