

2018 - 2019
18-MONTH
INTERFAITH CALENDAR



18-MONTH INTERFAITH CALENDAR

To foster and support inclusive communities, Diversity Awareness Partnership is pleased to present the 2018-2019 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 RESOURCES

oca.org/fs/paschal-cycle

interfaith-calendar.org/2018.htm

drexel.edu/provost/policies/religious_observances_calendar/

scouting.org/Home/Media/Relationships/ReligiousCalendar.aspx

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 for 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		Muslim
	Buddhist		Orthodox Christian
	Catholic Christian		Pan-African
	Christian		Protestant Christian
	Confucian		Rastafarian
	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian		Scientologist
	Hindu		Shinto
	Hispanic Christian		Sikh
	Interfaith		Swedenborgian Christian
	Jain		Taoist
	Jehovah's Witnesses		Wiccan/Pagan
	Jewish		Zoroastrian
	Mormon		

JANUARY 2018

1 MONDAY

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

2 TUESDAY

Mahayana New Year | Buddhist

(until 1/4/2018)

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

5 FRIDAY

Twelfth Night | Christian

Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking the coming of the Epiphany

The Birth of the Tenth Sikh Master | Sikh

Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

6 SATURDAY

Epiphany / Three Kings' Day |

Christian

Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to baby Jesus

7 SUNDAY

Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Baptism of the Lord Jesus |

Christian

Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

8 MONDAY

Seijin no Hi | Shinto

Holiday honoring those who have reached, or will reach, the age of twenty within the current year

13 SATURDAY

Maghi | Sikh

Commemoration of a battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobindh Singh

14 SUNDAY

Makar Sankranti | Hindu

Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; festival in reverence to deity Surya, god of the sun

17 WEDNESDAY

Blessing of the Animals |

Christian / Hispanic Christian

Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people

18 THURSDAY

Week of Prayer for Christian

Unity | Christian (until 1/25/2018)

Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 FRIDAY

Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

21 SUNDAY

World Religion Day | Baha'i

Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world's religions

Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian (until 4/8/18)

Time period leading up to Lent

22 MONDAY

Vasant Panchami | Hindu

Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

25 THURSDAY

Conversion of St. Paul | Christian

Event in the life of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus

30 TUESDAY

Tu Bishvat | Jewish (until 1/31/18)

Celebration of the coming of spring

THE BIRTH OF THE TENTH SIKH MASTER

"During the second part of the 17th Century, Guru Gobind Singh inspired the realization of the Khalsa: pure-hearted saint-soldiers focused on a life of truth and spiritual freedom. Imbued with selfless service towards all of Creation, humanity is to be celebrated through the guru's word, embodying values of oneness and guiding one to embrace an unyielding Divine Love. Gobind's clarity of thought and conviction of deep-seated faith demonstrates a timeless, universal approach towards spirituality. Donning the turban and flowing beard like his forefathers, Guru Gobind's legacy lives on through the identity of every Sikh today."

-Jaipal Singh

FEBRUARY 2018

2 FRIDAY

Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian

Remembrance of the infant Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem

Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan

Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, celebrates the passage from winter to spring

3 SATURDAY

Setsubun-Sai | Shinto

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

4 SUNDAY

Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith

Commemoration of U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during World War II

8 THURSDAY

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.

11 SUNDAY

Transfiguration Sunday | Christian

Feast day celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus

12 MONDAY

Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian

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

13 TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

Maha Shivaratri | Hindu

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

14 WEDNESDAY

St. Valentine's Day | Christian

Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

Ash Wednesday | Christian

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

Race Relations Day | Christian

Day recognizing the importance of interracial relations and learning

16 FRIDAY

Lunar New Year | Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist

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

18 SUNDAY

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

25 SUNDAY

Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian

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

26 MONDAY

Intercalary Days | Baha'i (until 3/1/18)

Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered 'days outside of time'

28 WEDNESDAY

Ta'anit Esther | Jewish

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

Purim | Jewish (until 3/1/18)

Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide

MARCH 2018

2 FRIDAY

Nineteen Day Fast | Baha'i (until 3/20/18)

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

Hola Mohalla | Sikh

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

Spring Lantern Festival | Taoist

Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations

Holi | Hindu

Spring festival known as the "festival of colors" or the "festival of love." The festival signifies the victory of good over evil

13 TUESDAY

L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday |

Scientology

Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

17 SATURDAY

St. Patrick's Day | Christian

Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

Ramayana Week | Hindu (until 3/26/18)

Nine-day festival that marks the auspicious celebration of the appearance of Hindu Lord, Sri Ram

20 TUESDAY

Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan

Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)

Naw-Ruz | Baha'i, Zoroastrian

Also known as the Persian New Year, marks the start of the New Year

25 SUNDAY

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

Palm Sunday | Christian

Celebration of the entry of Jesus to Jerusalem, which marks the start of Holy Week

26 MONDAY

Rama Navami | Hindu

Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

28 WEDNESDAY

Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian

Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

29 THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday | Christian

Remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples

30 FRIDAY

Good Friday / Holy Friday |

Christian, Orthodox Christian

Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

Pesach / Passover | Jewish (until 4/7/18)

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

31 SATURDAY

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witnesses

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

Magha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu

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

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

APRIL 2018

1 SUNDAY

Easter I Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Palm Sunday I Orthodox

Christian

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

3 TUESDAY

Mahavir Jayanti I Jain

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

5 THURSDAY

Qingming Festival I Taoist,

Confucian

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

6 FRIDAY

Founding of the Church I

Mormon

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 SUNDAY

Easter /Pascha I Orthodox

Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

12 THURSDAY

Yom HaShoah I Jewish

Holocaust Day, established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s

13 FRIDAY

Lailat al Miraj I Muslim

Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to 'the farthest mosque' in Jerusalem

14 SATURDAY

Baisakhi /Vaisakhi I Sikh, Hindu

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

21 SATURDAY

First Day of Ridvan I Baha'i (until 4/21/18)

Commemorates the beginning of the Baha'i faith in 1863 when Baha'u'llah first declared his mission, marks first of a twelve-day period

Grounation Day I Rastafarian

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

29 SUNDAY

Ninth Day of Ridvan I Baha'i

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

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) I

Buddhist

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

30 MONDAY

Theravada New Year I Buddhist

(until 5/2/18)

Buddhist New Year

STAR OF DAVID

Symbol of Judaism or Jewish symbol



Image credit: Wikimedia

1 TUESDAY

Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan

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

Lailat 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

2 WEDNESDAY

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Baha'i faith

Lag B'Omer | Jewish

Holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavout

3 THURSDAY

National Day of Prayer |

Interfaith

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

6 SUNDAY

Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian

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

9 WEDNESDAY

Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientology

Observance of the publication of *Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health* in 1950 which was the forerunner of Scientology

10 THURSDAY

Ascension of Jesus | Christian

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

13 SUNDAY

World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day | Buddhist

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

16 WEDNESDAY

Ramadan begins | Muslim (until 6/15/18)

Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an

17 THURSDAY

Ascension of Jesus | Orthodox Christian

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

19 SATURDAY

Shavuot | Jewish (until 5/21/18)

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

20 SUNDAY

Pentecost | Christian

Commemorates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

21 MONDAY

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | Interfaith

United Nations-sactioned international holiday that celebrates the richness of the world's cultures while promoting intercultural dialogue

23 WEDNESDAY

Declaration of the Bab | Baha'i

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 FRIDAY

African Liberation Day | Pan-African

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

27 SUNDAY

Trinity Sunday | Christian

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

Pentecost | Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

29 TUESDAY

Ascension of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i

Remembrance of the death of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith

31 THURSDAY

Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian

Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist- also known as transubstantiation

JUNE 2018

8 FRIDAY

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christian

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

10 SUNDAY

Race Unity Day | Baha'i

Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

Laylat al Qadr | Muslim (until 6/11/18)

Also known as the 'Night of Power' or 'Night of Destiny', commemorates the night the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad

15 FRIDAY

Eid al Fitr | Muslim (until 6/17/18)

Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

16 SATURDAY

Guru Arjan Dev's Martyrdom |

Sikh

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

18 MONDAY

Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist

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

19 TUESDAY

New Church Day |

Swedenborgian Christian

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

20 WEDNESDAY

Waqf al Arafa- Hajj Day | Muslim

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

21 THURSDAY

Litha | Wiccan/Pagan

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

RAMADAN

"Every year, fasting in the month of Ramadan is spiritually uplifting. The daily routines are drastically changed: waking up in the wee hours, cooking special dishes every night for breaking fast, and praying late in the nights. Eid al Fitr, celebrating with family and friends, always reminds me of my cherished childhood memories of this holiday. Festive meals are the hallmarks of Eid al Adha, the day after Hajj. On these holidays, congregational prayers are the hallmark of the day. Being with thousands of people just simply multiplies the celebratory mood. I also see many Muslims wearing exquisite dresses from different countries. I can never get used to the grin on the faces of children when I give them monetary gifts."

-Ghazala Hayat

9 MONDAY

Martyrdom of the Bab | Baha'i

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

13 FRIDAY

Obon/Ulambana | Buddhist,

Shinto (until 7/15/18)

Also known as Ancestor Day, a time to relieve the suffering of ghosts by making offerings to deceased ancestors

21 SATURDAY

Tish'a B'av | Jewish (until

7/22/18)

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

23 MONDAY

Birth of the Emperor Haile

Selassie | Rastafarian

Birthday of the revered Messianic figure among Rastafarians

24 TUESDAY

Pioneer Day | Mormon

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

27 FRIDAY

Asalha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

"I love being rooted in my Roman Catholic faith tradition! Knowing that I am not on my journey as an individual but rather in a community that expands around the globe and across 20 centuries is truly powerful. The long tradition - both in theory and practical action - of Catholic Social Teaching, has been incredibly formative for me in wrestling with the question of how I am to move through the world. The rhythms of the liturgical calendar, the embodied experience of the sacraments, the beauty of liturgy have shaped and continue to shape me. The mystical and intellectual writings of our saints connect me to those who have gone before me in faith."

-Rhonda Miska

AUGUST 2018

1 WEDNESDAY

Lammas | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the early harvest

Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus | Orthodox Christian

Beginning of the 14-day period of preparation, leading up to the Dormition of Mary

6 MONDAY

Transfiguration of the Lord |

Orthodox Christian

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

15 WEDNESDAY

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

17 FRIDAY

Marcus Garvey's Birthday |

Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

19 SUNDAY

Waqf al Arafa/Hajj Day | Muslim
(until 8/21/18)

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

22 WEDNESDAY

Eid al Adha | Muslim (until
8/25/18)

Also known as the Sacrifice Feast, commemorating the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son as an obedience to God

25 SATURDAY

Chinese Ghost Festival | Taoist,
Buddhist

Celebration in which the deceased are believed to visit the living

29 WEDNESDAY

Beheading of St. John the Baptist | Christian

Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist

Raksha Bandhan | Hindu

Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in family

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Sacred sound and spiritual symbol of Hinduism



Image credit: Wikimedia

SEPTEMBER 2018

1 SATURDAY

Religious year begins | Orthodox Christian

Start of the religious calendar year

2 SUNDAY

Krishna Janmashtami | Hindu

Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

8 SATURDAY

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

Mary | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus

9 SUNDAY

Auditor's Day | Scientology

Scientology Auditors are acknowledged on this day for their dedication in helping their fellow men and women

10 MONDAY

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish (until 9/11/18)

Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance

11 TUESDAY

Ethiopian New Year's Day |

Rastafarian

First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

12 WEDNESDAY

Hijri-New Year | Muslim

Marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year

13 THURSDAY

Ganesh Chaturthi | Hindu

Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence, and success

14 FRIDAY

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

18 TUESDAY

Yom Kippur | Jewish (until 9/19/18)

Also known as the Day of Atonement with central themes of atonement and repentance

21 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)

22 SATURDAY

Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan

Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

24 MONDAY

Sukkot | Jewish (until 9/30/18)

Feast Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents

27 THURSDAY

Meskel | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

Commemoration of the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helen

28 FRIDAY

Confucius' Birthday | Confucian

Observance of the birth of Confucius

29 SATURDAY

Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish (until 10/30/18)

Commemoration of the last of the reading of the Torah

30 SUNDAY

Shemini Atzeret | Jewish (until 10/2/18)

Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

OCTOBER 2018

1 MONDAY

Simchat Torah | Jewish (until 10/2/18)

Day to celebrate the reading of the Law

4 THURSDAY

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 SUNDAY

Founding of the International Association of Scientologists |

Scientology

Scientologists rededicate themselves to the aims of Scientology: a world without criminals, suffering, and war

8 MONDAY

Thanksgiving- Canada | Interfaith

Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year

9 TUESDAY

Navratri | Hindu (until 10/17/18)

Festival of the divine mother (lasting 9 nights) honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessing

Birthday of Guru Ram Das | Sikh

Commemoration of the birth of one of the foremost 10 gurus of Sikhism

19 FRIDAY

Dussehra/Durga Puja | Hindu

Commemoration of the last of the Days of Judgment

20 SATURDAY

Birth of the Bab | Baha'i

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

Guru Granth Sahib Installation |

Sikh

Remembrance of the eternal installation of the holy books by Granth Sahib

28 SUNDAY

Milvian Bridge Day | Christian

Day of solemn reflection on the relationship of the spiritual community and the powers of the civil government

31 WEDNESDAY

All Hallow's Eve | Christian

Praying and fasting prior to the feast day of All Saints 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

DAYS OF AWE

"The Jewish holidays that are most meaningful for me are the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, also known as the Days of Awe. This is a time when I take responsibility for any words or action I may have taken during the year that may have hurt or offended anyone. On Yom Kippur, I hope that my transgressions will be forgiven by God and that I will be granted a happy healthy new year. But first, I must ask forgiveness of any individual I may have offended or mistreated before I can approach God for forgiveness. These 10 days become a time of introspection with the goal of recognizing how I can improve my behavior and treat everyone with dignity and respect."

-Jean Cavender

NOVEMBER 2018

1 THURSDAY

All Saints Day | Christian

Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of endings and beginnings

2 FRIDAY

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

7 WEDNESDAY

Diwali | Sikh, Jain, Hindu (until 11/10/18)

The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year

8 THURSDAY

Jain New Year | Jain

Beginning of the Jain year

Vikram New Year | Hindu

Beginning of the Hindu year

12 MONDAY

Birth of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i

Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Baha'i faith

15 THURSDAY

Nativity Fast Begins | Orthodox Christian (until 12/24/18)

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

16 FRIDAY

International Day for Tolerance | Interfaith

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

20 TUESDAY

Mawlid an Nabi | Muslim

Celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday

22 THURSDAY

Thanksgiving | Interfaith

Celebration of the harvest and community

23 FRIDAY

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's birthday

| Sikh

Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

24 SATURDAY

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikh

Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

25 SUNDAY

Christ the King Sunday | Christian

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

26 MONDAY

Day of the Covenant | Baha'i

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

28 WEDNESDAY

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha | Baha'i

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



Image credit: Freepik

DECEMBER 2018

2 SUNDAY

Advent I Christian (until 12/24/18)

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

3 MONDAY

Hanukkah I Jewish (until 12/10/18)

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

6 THURSDAY

St. Nicholas Day I Christian

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

8 SATURDAY

Bodhi Day I Buddhist

Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha

Immaculate Conception of Mary I

Catholic Christian

Celebrates the belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12 WEDNESDAY

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe I Catholic Christian

Honoring of legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531

16 SUNDAY

Posadas Navidenas I Hispanic Christian (until 12/25/18)

Nine-day religious observance during which families participate in nightly Christmas processions that re-create the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus on their way to Bethlehem

21 FRIDAY

Yule I Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the Winter Solstice

24 MONDAY

Christmas Eve I Christian

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

25 TUESDAY

Christmas /Feast of Nativity I

Christian, Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

26 WEDNESDAY

Zarathosht Disco I Zoroastrian

Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra

Kwanzaa I Pan-African (until 1/1/19)

Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture among people of African descent

28 FRIDAY

Holy Innocents I Christian

Day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the same attempt to destroy Jesus

30 SUNDAY

Holy Family's Day I Catholic Christian

Celebration honoring Jesus, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph as a family

Freedom Day I Scientology

Day celebrating the official recognition of the Church of Scientology in the United States in 1974

31 MONDAY

Watch Night I Christian

Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year, and to prepare for the next year

ZOROASTRIANISM

"Zoroastrianism, the worship of Ahura Mazda, is considered the first monotheistic religion. An element of the doctrine that really resonates with me is the concept that every person has free will to support either Spenta Mainyu (good) or Angra Mainyu (bad). Thus, we are all part of the cosmic struggle between right (justice) and wrong. It is a choice every individual must make. The moral code developed by Zarathustra resonates in many of the other religions that followed, including Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Another central tenet of the religion is peace with nature and protecting the earth, water, air, plants, and animals. This tenet holds greater symbolism to me as environmental issues have become paramount in our time."

-Soonu Dhunjisha

JANUARY 2019

1 TUESDAY

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 SATURDAY

Twelfth Night | Christian

Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking the coming of the Epiphany

The Birth of the Tenth Sikh

Master | Sikh

Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

6 SUNDAY

Epiphany/Three Kings Day |

Christian

Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus

7 MONDAY

Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Baptism of the Lord Jesus |

Christian

Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

13 SUNDAY

Maghi | Sikh

Commemoration of a battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh Ji

14 MONDAY

Makar Sankranti | Hindu

Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; festival in reverence to deity Surya, god of the sun

Seijin no Hi | Shinto

Holiday honoring those who have or will reach the age of twenty within the current year

17 THURSDAY

Blessing of the Animals |

Hispanic Christian

Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people

18 FRIDAY

Week of Prayer for Christian

Unity | Christian (until 1/25/19)

Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 SATURDAY

Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

20 SUNDAY

World Religion Day | Baha'i

Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

Tu B'Shvat | Jewish (until 1/21/19)

Celebration of the coming of spring

21 MONDAY

Mahayana New Year | Buddhist

(until 1/23/19)

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

25 FRIDAY

Conversion of St. Paul | Christian

Event in the life of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus



Image credit: Freepik

FEBRUARY 2019

2 SATURDAY

Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian

Remembrance of the infant Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem

Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan

Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, celebrates the passage from winter to spring

3 SUNDAY

Setsubun-sai | Shinto

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

Four Chaplains Sunday |

Interfaith

Commemoration of U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during WWII

5 TUESDAY

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

Vasant Panchami | Hindu

Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

12 TUESDAY

Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian

Time period leading up to Lent

14 THURSDAY

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

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

15 FRIDAY

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.

19 TUESDAY

Spring Lantern Festival | Taoist

Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations

26 TUESDAY

Intercalary Days | Baha'i (until 3/1/19)

Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered 'days outside of time'



Image credit: Freepik

MARCH 2019

2 SATURDAY

Nineteen Day Fast | Baha'i (until 3/20/19)

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

4 MONDAY

Maha Shivaratri | Hindu

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

5 TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

6 WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday | Christian

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

10 SUNDAY

Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian

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

11 MONDAY

Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian

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

13 WEDNESDAY

L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday | Scientology

Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

17 SUNDAY

St. Patrick's Day | Christian

Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

20 WEDNESDAY

Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan

Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)

Ta'anit Esther | Jewish

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

Purim | Jewish (until 3/21/19)

Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide

21 THURSDAY

Naw Ruz | Baha'i, Zoroastrian

Also known as the Persian New Year. Marks the start of the New Year

Holi | Hindu

Spring festival known as the "festival of colors" or the "festival of love". The festival signifies the victory of good over evil.

Hola Mohalla | Sikh

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

Magha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

25 MONDAY

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 THURSDAY

Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian

Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

APRIL 2019

2 TUESDAY

Laylat al Miraj | Muslim (until 4/3/19)

Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to 'the farthest mosque' in Jerusalem

5 FRIDAY

Qingming Festival | Taoist, Confucian

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

6 SATURDAY

Founding of the Church |

Mormon

Commemoration of the appearance of the angel, Moroni, in 1830 to Joseph Smith, subsequently founding the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Ramayana Week | Hindu (until 4/14/19)

Nine-day festival that marks the auspicious celebration of the appearance of Hindu Lord, Sri Ram

9 TUESDAY

Mahavir Jayanti | Jain

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

14 SUNDAY

Baisakhi /Vaisakhi | Sikh, Hindu

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

Palm Sunday | Christian

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

Rama Navami | Hindu

Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

18 THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday | Christian

Remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples

19 FRIDAY

Theravadin New Year | Buddhist

(until 4/21/19)

Buddhist New Year

Good Friday /Holy Friday |

Christian, Orthodox Christian

Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

Passover /Pesach | Jewish (until 4/27/19)

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

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu

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

20 SATURDAY

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

21 SUNDAY

Easter | Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

First Day of Ridvan | Baha'i (until 5/2/19)

Commemorates the beginning of the Baha'i faith in 1863 when Baha'u'llah first declared his mission, marks first of a twelve-day period

Lailat 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

28 SUNDAY

Easter /Pasca | Orthodox Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

29 MONDAY

Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

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

1 WEDNESDAY

Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan

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

Yom HaShoah | Jewish

Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s

2 THURSDAY

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Baha'i faith

National Day of Prayer |

Interfaith

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

5 SUNDAY

Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian

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

6 MONDAY

Ramadan begins | Muslim (until 6/4/19)

Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an

9 THURSDAY

Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientology

Observance of the publication of *Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health* in 1950 which was the forerunner of Scientology

13 MONDAY

World Falun Dafa /Falun Gong Day | Buddhist

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

18 SATURDAY

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist

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

21 TUESDAY

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development |

Interfaith

United Nations-sactioned international holiday that celebrates the richness of the world's cultures while promoting intercultural dialogue

22 WEDNESDAY

Lag Ba'Omer | Jewish

Holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavout

Declaration of the Bab | Baha'i

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 SATURDAY

African Liberation Day | Pan-African

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

29 WEDNESDAY

Ascension of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i

Remembrance of the death of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith

30 THURSDAY

Ascension of Jesus | Christian

Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection. Celebrated 40 days after Easter

31 FRIDAY

Laylat al Qadr | Muslim (until 6/1/19)

The Night of Destiny, the first revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad

JUNE 2019

5 WEDNESDAY

Eid al Fitr | Muslim (until 6/7/19)
Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

7 FRIDAY

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

9 SUNDAY

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

Race Unity Day

| Baha'i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

Shavuot

| Jewish (until 6/10/19)
Celebration of the descent of Moses from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

16 SUNDAY

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

Trinity Sunday

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

19 WEDNESDAY

New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christian
Annual commemoration of the vision document "The True Christian Religion," in 1770

20 THURSDAY

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

21 FRIDAY

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

23 SUNDAY

All Saints Day | Christian, Orthodox Christian
Celebrating the memory of all saints

28 FRIDAY

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

STAR AND CRESCENT
Islamic symbol

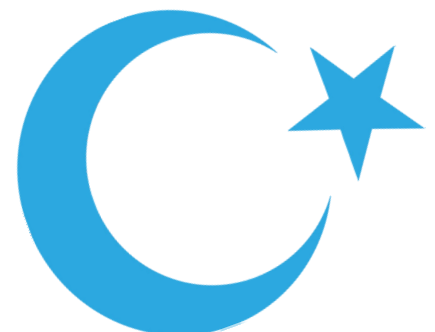


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ABOUT DAP

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) 246-3146 or visit www.dapstl.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.

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