

2019 - 2020

18-Month

# Interfaith Calendar



# 18-MONTH INTERFAITH CALENDAR

To foster and support inclusive communities, Diversity Awareness Partnership is pleased to present the 2019-2020 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](http://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
- Mormon
- Muslim
- Orthodox Christian
- Pan-African
- Protestant Christian
- Rastafarian
- Scientologist
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Swedenborgian Christian
- Taoist
- Wiccan/Pagan
- Zoroastrian

# 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 of 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

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

## 13 Sunday

### Maghi | Sikh

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

## 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

### 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 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

Commemoration of 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's 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

## 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 2019

## 1 Friday

### Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan

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

## 2 Saturday

### Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian

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

## 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

### 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

### St. Valentine's Day | Christian

Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

## 15 Friday

### Nirvana Day | Buddhist

Also known as Parinirvana Day, remembering the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana; festival day that marks the end of the cycle of birth and rebirth

## 19 Tuesday

### Spring Lantern Festival | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist

Marks the final day of the Lunar New Year celebrations

### 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'

### The World Interfaith Harmony Week, Annual UN Observance Week: Feb. 1-7

"The World Interfaith Harmony Week will fall on the first week of February of every year and aims to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith. The World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan. Just under a month later, on October 20, 2010, it was unanimously adopted by the UN and henceforth the first week of February will be observed as a World Interfaith Harmony Week." (from <https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/>)

This event is recognized around the world by individuals and groups who plan and host events honoring interfaith principles. Planning is decentralized and done at a grassroots level, with the UN's website offering suggestions on meaningful opportunities, including harmony breakfasts, movie-inspired dialogue, joint mission/justice work, and more.

# 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

**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)**

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

**Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan**

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

## 21 Thursday

**Naw Ruz (Norooz) | Baha'i, Zoroastrian**

Marks the start of the new year which occurs on the date of the Vernal Equinox (also known as Persian 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 the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus

## 28 Thursday

**Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian**

Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

# APRIL 2019

## 2 Tuesday

**Lailat al Miraj | Muslim (until 4/3/19)**

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

## 5 Friday

**Qingming Festival | Taoist, Confucian**

Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, commemorates the 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, who subsequently founded 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 to 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

**Theravada 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)**

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

# MAY 2019

## 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 1950 publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health 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-sanctioned international holiday that celebrates the richness of the world's cultures while promoting intercultural dialogue

## 22 Wednesday

### Lag Ba'Omer | Jewish

Observation of the counting of the day, the link, between Pesach and Shavout

## 24 Friday

### 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

## 6 Thursday

**Ascension Day | Orthodox Christian**

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

## 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 Creator, 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

**Sunday of All Saints | 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

# JULY 2019

## 9 Tuesday

### Martyrdom of the Bab | Baha'i

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

## 13 Saturday

### Obon/Ulambana | Buddhist, Shinto (until 7/15/19)

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

## 16 Tuesday

### Asalha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

## 23 Tuesday

### Birth of the Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian

Birthday of the revered messianic figure among Rastafarians

## 24 Wednesday

### Pioneer Day | Mormon

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

## 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 2019

## 1 Thursday

Lammas | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the early harvest in the Northern Hemisphere

## 6 Tuesday

Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus | Orthodox Christian

Beginning of the period of preparation, leading up to the Dormition of Mary

## 10 Saturday

Transfiguration of the Lord | Orthodox Christian

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

Tish'a B'av | Jewish (until 8/11/19)

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

Day of Arafat | Muslim

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

Eid al Adha | Muslim (until 8/11/19)

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

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

Raksha Bandhan | Hindu

Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in family

## 17 Saturday

Chinese Ghost Festival | Taoist, Buddhist

Celebration in which the deceased are believed to visit the living

## 23 Friday

Marcus Garvey's Birthday | Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

## 29 Thursday

Krishna Janmashtami | Hindu

Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

Beheading of St. John the Baptist | Christian

Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist

## Festival of Nations, August 24-25

In St. Louis, August is a prime opportunity to learn about people from around the world. Over the last weekend in August, the International Institute of St. Louis holds their annual Festival of Nations. "Our region's largest multicultural celebration features more than 40 booths, non-stop dance and music, arts and crafts, and an international bazaar with unique gifts from around the world.

This August, more than 125,000 visitors will gather for two days to celebrate the many cultures of our region's newcomers and long-timers. Annually, the International Institute produces the festival in collaboration with more than 100 local ethnic and international organizations." ([festivalofnationsstl.org](http://festivalofnationsstl.org))

As part of this event, Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis coordinates an area of the festival showcasing Religions of the World. Under a single large tent, representatives from many of St. Louis' religions are available to educate the public about their beliefs, practices, communities, etc. Since 2012, this presence at the Festival has grown each year and is an excellent opportunity for members of the public to see the amazing diversity of religious traditions practiced right here in St. Louis.

# SEPTEMBER 2019

## 1 Sunday

Religious year begins | Orthodox  
Christian

Start of the religious calendar year

## 2 Monday

Hijri-New Year | Muslim

Marks the beginning of the new  
Islamic calendar year

## 3 Tuesday

Ganesh Chaturthi | Hindu

Festival honoring the god of  
prosperity, prudence, and success

## 8 Sunday

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

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Mary, the  
mother of Jesus

## 9 Monday

Auditor's Day | Scientology

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

## 12 Thursday

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)

## 23 Monday

Ethiopian New Year's Day |  
Rastafarian

First day of the new year for the  
Ethiopian calendar

## 27 Friday

Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan

Observance of the Autumnal  
Equinox

## 28 Saturday

Meskel | Ethiopian Orthodox  
Christian

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

## 30 Monday

Confucius' Birthday | Confucian

Observance of the birth of Confucius

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish

Jewish New Year, marked by a call to  
repentance

### September Interfaith Concert

Since 2011, Arts & Faith St. Louis has held a concert in September that creates shared arts experiences to inspire thoughtful discussion among diverse audiences, to bring people together, and to bridge divides through shared experiences. What began as an interfaith commemoration of September 11th has evolved into an annual concert that celebrates religious diversity. The show features professional headlining musicians like Christine Brewer alongside faith groups from around the metropolitan area. It is presented free and open to the public as a gift to the people of St. Louis. The Sheldon Concert Hall hosts this annual event, always on a Sunday afternoon in early September. Date and details for the 2019 event will be available at [www.artsfaithstl.org](http://www.artsfaithstl.org).

# OCTOBER 2019

## 4 Friday

Navratri | Hindu

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

## 7 Monday

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

## 8 Tuesday

Yom Kippur | Jewish (until 10/9/19)

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

Dussehra/Durga Puja | Hindu

Commemoration of the last of the days of judgement

## 9 Wednesday

Birthday of Guru Ram Das | Sikh

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

Sukkot | Jewish

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

## 14 Monday

Founding of the International Association of Scientologists | Scientology

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

Thanksgiving- Canada | Interfaith (until 10/20/19)

Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year

## 19 Saturday

Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish (until 10/20/19)

Commemoration of the last of the annual readings of the Torah

## 20 Sunday

Shemini Atzeret | Jewish (until 10/22/19)

Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

## 21 Monday

Simchat Torah | Jewish (until 10/22/19)

Day to celebrate the reading of the Law

## 22 Tuesday

Guru Granth Sahib Installation | Sikh

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

## 27 Sunday

Diwali | Sikh, Jain, Hindu

The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year

## 28 Monday

Birth of the Bab | Baha'i (until 10/29/19)

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

Vikram New Year | Hindu

Beginning of the Hindu year

Jain New Year | Jain

Beginning of the Jain year

## 31 Thursday

All Hallow's Eve | Christian

Praying and fasting prior to the feast 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 11/1/19)

Celebration of endings and beginnings

# NOVEMBER 2019

## 1 Friday

### All Saints Day | Christian

Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

## 2 Saturday

### 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

## 10 Sunday

### Mawlid an Nabi | Muslim

Celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday

## 12 Tuesday

### Birth of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i

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

### Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's birthday | Sikh

Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

## 16 Saturday

### Nativity Fast Begins | Orthodox Christian (until 12/24/19)

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

### International Day for Tolerance | Interfaith

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

## 24 Sunday

### Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikh

Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

### Christ the King Sunday | Christian

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

## 26 Tuesday

### Day of the Covenant | Baha'i

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

## 28 Thursday

### Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha | Baha'i

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

### Thanksgiving | Interfaith

Celebration of the harvest and community

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Blessing

Annually on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Interfaith Partnership offers an Interfaith Thanksgiving event featuring music, prayer and an opportunity to give thanks among an audience of people from diverse religious backgrounds. The event is hosted by a different faith community each year and therefore provides participants the opportunity to visit new houses of worship year after year. Previous Thanksgiving hosts have included Christian Science, Islam, Judaism, Unity Church, Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. Details posted at [www.interfaithstl.org](http://www.interfaithstl.org).

# DECEMBER 2019

## 1 Sunday

Advent | Christian (until 12/24/19)

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

## 6 Friday

St. Nicholas Day | Christian

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

## 8 Sunday

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

## 12 Thursday

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe | Catholic Christian

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

## 16 Monday

Posadas Navidenas | Hispanic Christian (until 12/25/19)

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 to Bethlehem

## 21 Saturday

Yule | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the Winter Solstice

## 22 Sunday

Hanukkah | Jewish (until 12/30/19)

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

## 24 Tuesday

Christmas Eve | Christian

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

## 25 Wednesday

Christmas | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Feast of the Nativity | Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the Nativity in the flesh of Jesus Christ

## 26 Thursday

Zarathosht Disco | Zoroastrian

Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra

Kwanzaa | Pan-African (until 1/2/20)

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

## 28 Saturday

Holy Innocents | Christian

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

## 29 Sunday

Holy Family's Day | Catholic Christian

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

## 31 Tuesday

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

# 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 | Baha'i**

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



# FEBRUARY 2020

## 1 Saturday

### Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan

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

## 2 Sunday

### Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian

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

### Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith

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

## 3 Monday

### Setsubun-sai | Shinto

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

## 9 Sunday

### Tu B'Shvat | Jewish (until 2/10/20)

Celebration of the coming of spring

### Magha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

## 10 Monday

### Spring Lantern Festival | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist

Marks the final day of the Lunar New Year celebrations

## 12 Wednesday

### Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian

Time period leading up to Lent

## 14 Friday

### 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 Saturday

### 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

## 18 Tuesday

### 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

## 19 Wednesday

### Magha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

## 22 Saturday

### Maha Shivaratri | Hindu

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

## 25 Tuesday

### Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

## 26 Wednesday

### Ash Wednesday | Christian

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

### Intercalary Days | Baha'i (until 3/1/20)

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

## 29 Saturday

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

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

# MARCH 2020

## 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.

## 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

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

## 20 Friday

Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan

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

Naw Ruz (Norooz) | Baha'i, Zoroastrian

Marks the start of the New Year which occurs on the date of the Vernal Equinox (also known as Persian New Year)

## 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

Ramayana Week | Hindu (until 4/2/20)

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

## 28 Saturday

Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian

Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

# APRIL 2020

## 2 Thursday

Rama Navami | Hindu

Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

## 3 Friday

Laylat al Miraj | Muslim

Commemorates the Prophet Muhammed'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 | 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

## 7 Tuesday

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness

Memorial commemoration of Christ's death

## 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

## 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 | Baha'i (ends 5/1/20)

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

## 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 | Baha'i

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

# MAY 2020

## 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

### Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

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

### 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

## 23 Saturday

### 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 | Baha'i (until 5/28/20)

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

## 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 | Baha'i

Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

### Sunday of All Saints | Orthodox Christian

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

## 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

## 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.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  
40 N. Rock Hill Road  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
[www.dapinclusive.org](http://www.dapinclusive.org)

# CALENDAR SPONSORS

