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DIVERSITY
AWARENESS
PARTNERSHIP

ROASTRIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCIENTOLOGIST

TAOIST MUSLIM RASTAFARIAN MORMON HINDU

CONFUCIAN INTERFAITH SHINTO CATHOLIC

BAHA'I JEHOVAH'S WITNESS SIKH JAIN SHINTO

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS SIKH BAHAI

HINDU SIKH BUDDHIST WIGGAN

CHRISTIAN PAGAN SHINTO BUDDHIST PAGAN

MUSLIM TAOST ZOROASTRIAN WIGGAN

INTERFAITH MORMON CHRISTIAN BAHAI

WICCAN SIKH JEWISH ORTHODOX

TAOIST JEHOVAH'S WITNESS JAIN

ZOROASTRIAN MORMON

RASTAFARIAN ORTHODOX

CHRISTIAN PAGAN JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

SHINTO BUDDHIST ZOROASTRIAN HINDU

MUSLIM SIKH CATHOLIC

2015

18-MONTH
INTERFAITH
CALENDAR

one community, many faiths



Did you know that the St. Louis community celebrates hundreds of different religious holidays? Diversity Awareness Partnership's Interfaith Calendar is distributed annually and features observances celebrated across 20 religious traditions. Take one with you to meetings, keep it in your office, bring it to your class, or just have it handy at home. Please use this calendar as a guide to better understand, acknowledge, and respect friends', neighbors', employees', and co-workers' holidays.

To be more accommodating, please consider the following:

FOOD

Halal and Kosher Restrictions may apply. Consider vegetarian, non-alcoholic, and non-caffeinated options. During some holidays, individuals will be fasting.

HOURS

Consider allowing flexibility in work/school hours, as some holidays may require individuals to attend their place of worship during the day.

ABSENCE

Some individuals may request to use vacation or personal days for holidays that are not recognized as company- or school-wide days off.

DEADLINES

Consider allowing flexibility for deadlines around important holidays, as some individuals may be participating in celebrations or fasting, which could cause decreased stamina.

PRAYER

Consider designating a space for employees or students to pray, as some holidays may require increased prayer throughout the day/evening.

This calendar aims to be as inclusive as possible. Please contact us if you would like the 2016 Interfaith Calendar to include a holiday not currently listed.

All content in this calendar is based on information available at the time of production. To the greatest extent possible, holidays based on lunar phases or other variables that change yearly have been factored into observance dates. The spelling of certain observances may vary as well.

The length of some holidays and the extent to which they are observed may vary according to denominational affiliation or regions.

All Baha'i, Jewish, and Muslim holidays begin at sunset the previous day.

We encourage all places of worship to be accessible to persons with disabilities by making necessary accommodations. Contact DAP for additional information.

More About/[Religion/Holiday] Sources:

<http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Buddhism/Dharma-Day-A-Universal-Celebration-of-The-Buddhas-Teachings.aspx#>

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=456

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=968>

<http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday5.htm>

Wilkinson, Philip. *Religions*. New York: Metro Books, 2008.

JANUARY

1 THURSDAY

Fast of Tevet 10 | *Jewish*

Fast commemorating the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II

Mary, Mother of God | *Catholic Christian*

Celebration of the mother of Jesus Christ

Feast of St. Basil |

Orthodox Christian

Commemoration of St. Basil the Great, who wrote a Eucharist Liturgy that bears his name

Shogatsu / Gantan-sai | *Shinto*

New Year's Day celebration

3 SATURDAY

Mawlid an-Nabi | *Muslim*

Commemoration of the birth of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam

5 MONDAY

Twelfth Night | *Christian*

Observance of the close of Christmastide

Guru Gobindh Singh's Birthday | *Sikh*

Honoring of the birth of the founder of the Khalsa

Mahayana New Year | *Buddhist*

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

6 TUESDAY

Epiphany | *Christian*

Commemoration of the manifestations of the divine nature of Jesus Christ

Feast of the Theophany | *Orthodox Christian*

Feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of the Lord

7 WEDNESDAY

Orthodox Christmas |

Orthodox Christian

A time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ

11 SUNDAY

Baptism of the Lord Jesus | *Christian*

Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus

12 MONDAY

Seijin no Hi | *Shinto*

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

13 TUESDAY

Maghi | *Sikh*

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

14 WEDNESDAY

Makar Sankranti | *Hindu*

Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; observed by flying kites, feeding the poor, and offering libations to the dead

17 SATURDAY

Blessing of the Animals | *Christian*

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

18 SUNDAY

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity |

Christian (until 1/25)

Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

World Religion Day | *Baha'i*

Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions

19 MONDAY

Timkat | *Ethiopian Orthodox Christian*

Celebration of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River

24 SATURDAY

Vasant Panchami | *Hindu*

Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

25 SUNDAY

Conversion of St. Paul | *Christian*

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

FEBRUARY

1 SUNDAY

Triodion Begins | *Orthodox Christian*
Time period leading up to Lent

2 MONDAY

Imbolc | *Wiccan/Pagan*
Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox; celebrates the passage from winter to spring

Candlemas | *Christian*
Celebration of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple

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

3 TUESDAY

Setsubun-sai | *Shinto*
Celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of, "Devils Out, Good Fortune In"

4 WEDNESDAY

Tu B'Shvat | *Jewish*
Celebration of the coming of spring

14 SATURDAY

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

St. Valentine's Day | *Christian*
Celebration of the love of God presented in Jesus and in the lives of Christian believers

15 SUNDAY

Nirvana Day | *Buddhist*
Observance of the physical death and spiritual enlightenment of the Buddha

Meatfare Sunday | *Orthodox Christian*
Observance preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ

17 TUESDAY

Maha Shivaratri | *Hindu*
Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess, Parvati

Shrove Tuesday | *Christian*
Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

18 WEDNESDAY

National Founding U.S.A. | *Scientologist*
Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles, in 1954

Ash Wednesday | *Christian*
Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshippers as a sign of penitence

19 THURSDAY

Chinese New Year | *Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist*
Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

23 MONDAY

Clean Monday | *Orthodox Christian*
First day of Lent

26 THURSDAY

Intercalary Days | *Baha'i* (until 3/1)
Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, thought of as days outside of time, and celebrated by acts of love, fellowship, and charity

MARCH

1 SUNDAY

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

2 MONDAY

Nineteen Day Fast | *Baha'i* **(until 3/20)**
Fast to be observed by adult Baha'is in good health from sunrise to sundown

4 WEDNESDAY

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

5 THURSDAY

Purim | *Jewish*
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide

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

6 FRIDAY

Holi | *Hindu*
Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure

Hola Mohalla | *Sikh*
Weeklong event including mock fights, kirtan, music, poetry, and community meals

17 TUESDAY

St. Patrick's Day | *Christian*
Celebration of Saint Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the early days of the faith

18 WEDNESDAY

L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday | *Scientologist*
Observance day marking the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder

20 FRIDAY

Ostara | *Wiccan/Pagan*
Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (vernal equinox)

21 SATURDAY

Naw-Ruz | *Baha'i*
Observance of the vernal equinox

Nowruz | *Zoroastrian*
New year

Week of the Ramayana | *Hindu* **(until 3/28)**
Festival celebrating Lord Rama, in which the Ram Lila is staged and the Ramayana is recited

25 WEDNESDAY

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | *Christian*
Celebration of Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary of the coming birth of Jesus

26 THURSDAY

Khordad Sal | *Zoroastrian*
Remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathustra

28 SATURDAY

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

29 SUNDAY

Palm Sunday | *Christian*
Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which begins Holy Week

APRIL

2 THURSDAY

Mahavir Jayanti | Jain

Festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder's birthday

Maunder Thursday | Christian

Observance of the first Lord's Supper during Holy Week

3 FRIDAY

Good Friday | Christian

Remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus

4 SATURDAY

Lazarus Saturday |

Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus; revealing that Jesus is "the resurrection and life" of all mankind

Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu

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

Theravadin New Year | Buddhist

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Theravadin countries

Pesach /Passover | Jewish (until 4/11)

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

5 SUNDAY

Easter | Christian

Holy day that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from His death by crucifixion

6 MONDAY

Founding of the Church | Mormon

Commemoration of the appearance of the angel, Moroni, in 1830 to Joseph Smith; Subsequently, the founding of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

10 FRIDAY

Holy Friday | Orthodox Christian

Commemoration of the death of Jesus on the cross

12 SUNDAY

Pascha | Orthodox Christian

Holy day that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from His death by crucifixion

14 TUESDAY

Baisakhi /Vaisakhi | Sikh/Hindu

Festival commemorating the establishment of the Khalsa, or the nation of Sikhs. Hindu beginning of the New Year

15 WEDNESDAY

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness Christian

Annual celebration commemorating Christ's death as a ransom

16 THURSDAY

Yom HaShoah | Jewish

Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis

21 TUESDAY

First Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

Commemoration of the twelve-day period in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared that he was God's messenger for this age

29 WEDNESDAY

Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

MAY

1 FRIDAY

Beltane | *Wiccan/Pagan*

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

2 SATURDAY

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | *Baha'i*

7 THURSDAY

National Day of Prayer | *Interfaith*

United States day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

Lag B'Omer | *Jewish*

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

9 SATURDAY

Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | *Scientologist*

Observance of the publication of Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health, on May 9, 1950, which was the forerunner of the Scientology religion

13 WEDNESDAY

World Falun Dafa Day/Falun Gong | *Buddhist*

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

14 THURSDAY

Ascension of Jesus | *Christian*

Recognition of the departure of Jesus from Earth after the resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha

16 SATURDAY

Lailat al Miraj | *Muslim*

Observance of Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven

21 THURSDAY

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | *Interfaith*

United Nations day to deepen understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live more peacefully

23 SATURDAY

Declaration of the Bab | *Baha'i*

Recognition of the declaration by Ali Muhammad that he is the anticipated "Coming One" of all religions

24 SUNDAY

Pentecost | *Christian*

Observation of the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind

Shavuot | *Jewish* **until 5/25**

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

29 FRIDAY

Ascension of Baha'u'llah | *Baha'i*

Recollection of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder

31 SUNDAY

Trinity Sunday | *Christian*

Day to honor the belief in one God with a threefold nature

Learn more about diversity and inclusion in the workforce at **Diversity Awareness Partnership's Diversity Summit.**

Visit dapstl.org for more information.

JUNE

1 MONDAY

Lailat al Bara'a | Muslim
Night of forgiveness

Vesak | Buddhist
Day marking the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha

4 THURSDAY

Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian
Celebration in recognition of the Eucharist

12 FRIDAY

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

14 SUNDAY

Race Unity Day | Baha'i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

16 TUESDAY

Guru Arjan Dev's Martyrdom | Sikh
Time of remembering for those who have suffered for this faith

18 THURSDAY

Ramadan | Muslim
[until 7/17]
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an

19 FRIDAY

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

21 SUNDAY

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

MORE ABOUT / JUDAISM

Abraham is the founding father of Judaism

The covenant are the expectations Jews must adhere to

Jews follow one God who was traditionally too holy to speak of. Therefore use phrases, such as "The Name" or "my Lord" to refer to the one God.

The first five books of the Hebrew Bible explain the Jewish covenant

The second book, the Book of Exodus, explains God's expectations for the Jews

The Torah has 613 rules and covers all parts of life, including food regulation, clothing, rituals, and celebrations

The Torah is a Hebrew word for the "law"

Some Jews observe the Jewish law of Kosher

There are many different branches of Judaism, such as reform Judaism, Orthodox, and Conservative

JULY

2 THURSDAY

Asalha Puja Day /Dharma Day | *Buddhist*

Sacred day that marks the Buddha's first teaching following his enlightenment

9 THURSDAY

Martyrdom of the Bab | *Baha'i*

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

13 MONDAY

Lailat al Qadr | *Muslim*

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

18 SATURDAY

Eid al-Fitr | *Muslim*

(until 7/21)

Breaking of the month-long Ramadan fast and a festival of thanksgiving

23 THURSDAY

Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie I | *Rastafarian*

Birthday of the revered Messianic figure among Rastafarians

24 FRIDAY

Pioneer Day | *Mormon*

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

26 SUNDAY

Tish'a B'av | *Jewish*

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

MORE ABOUT/ DHARMA DAY

Established when the Buddha started his teaching

Celebration of the Buddha

Reflection and gratitude for the beliefs and teachings of the religion

Dharma symbolizes the body of the Buddha's teachings

AUGUST

1 SATURDAY

Lammas | *Wiccan/Pagan*
Celebration of the early harvest

6 THURSDAY

Transfiguration of the Lord | *Orthodox Christian*
Commemoration of the experience on Mt. Tabor when Jesus' physical appearance became brilliant as his connection with traditional Jewish holy figures became evident to the disciples

13 THURSDAY

Obon/Ullambana | *Shinto/Buddhist* (until 8/15)
Celebration of the ritual of saving the deceased from torments after death

15 SATURDAY

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | *Catholic Christian*
Observance commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven

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

29 SATURDAY

Beheading of John the Baptist | *Christian*
Remembrance of the death of John

Raksha Bandhan | *Hindu*
Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in a family

MORE ABOUT / ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

Collective term for Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox

The Churches of Eastern Orthodox were established when the western Catholic Church and the church of the Byzantine Empire split

Eastern Church believes in essential goodness and is centered on dogma

Oriental Church addresses humans' sinful tendencies and focuses on worship

Celebrate seven mysteries

Eastern Orthodox worship commences behind a partition called the iconostasis. When the iconostasis opens, this represents the revelation of Christ to the congregation

SEPTEMBER

5 SATURDAY

Krishna Janmashtami | Hindu
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

8 TUESDAY

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian
Celebration of the birth of the Virgin Mary

13 SUNDAY

Auditors' Day | Scientist
Scientology Auditors are acknowledged for their dedication in helping their fellow men

14 MONDAY

Elevation of the Holy Cross | Christian
Celebration of when St. Helen found the Holy Cross

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish [until 9/15]
New Year, marked by a call to repentance with the shofar

17 THURSDAY

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

18 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

23 WEDNESDAY

Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

Yom Kippur | Jewish
Day of Atonement

24 THURSDAY

Eid al-Adha | Muslim
Feast of Sacrifice, concluding the Hajj

28 MONDAY

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

Sukkot | Jewish [until 10/4]
Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents

MORE ABOUT / SUKKOT

Begins the fifth day after Yom Kippur

One of the most somber of holidays of the year in the Jewish religion

Is the last of three pilgrimage festivals of the Shalosh R'galim

Signifies two concepts: 1) Historical period when the children of Israel did not have a permanent home and lived in temporary shelters 2) Agriculturally is the harvest festival

Lasts for seven days

No work is allowed on the first and second days

Observes the Four Species to signify God is everywhere and a prayer is said aloud

The holiday suggests building a temporary shelter, called a Sukkah

OCTOBER

4 SUNDAY

St. Francis Day | Catholic
Christian

Recognition of service to people and appreciation of the natural world, as practiced by St. Francis and the Franciscan monastic order that he founded

Hoshanah Rabbah |
Jewish

Commemoration of the last of the Days of Judgment

5 MONDAY

Shemini Atzeret | *Jewish*

Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

6 TUESDAY

Simchat Torah | *Jewish*

Day to celebrate the reading of the Law

7 WEDNESDAY

Founding of the International Association of Scientologists |
Scientologist

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

9 FRIDAY

Birthday of Guru Ram Das | *Sikh*

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

13 TUESDAY

Navratri | *Hindu* [until 10/21]

Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessing

14 WEDNESDAY

Waqf al Arafah/Hajj Day |
Muslim

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

Al-Hijra | *Muslim*

Remembrance of the migration of Muhammad and followers to Medina in 622 CE

20 TUESDAY

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, Granth Sahib

22 THURSDAY

Dussehra/Durga Puja |
Hindu [until 10/4]

Festival celebrating the victory of the goddess Durga over demons

23 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)

25 SUNDAY

Reformation Day |
Protestant Christian

Anniversary of the tradition and its emphasis on the place of the Bible and religious freedom

28 WEDNESDAY

Milvian Bridge Day |
Christian

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

31 SATURDAY

All Hallow's Eve |
Christian

Celebration combining prayers and merriment involving children and families

Join Diversity Awareness Partnership at its annual **Diversity Dinner** featuring cultural performances and networking.

Visit dapstl.org for more information.

NOVEMBER

1 SUNDAY

All Saints' Day | *Christian*
Day for honoring saints

Samhain | *Wiccan/Pagan*
Celebration of endings
and beginnings

2 MONDAY

All Souls' Day | *Catholic*
Christian
Commemoration of the
faithful departed

**Coronation of Emperor
Haile Selassie I** |
Rastafarian
Celebration of the
coronation of the Messianic
figure of Rastafarianism

11 WEDNESDAY

Diwali | *Hindu, Jain*
Celebration marking the
end of the Hindu year

12 THURSDAY

Birth of Baha'u'llah |
Baha'i
Celebration of the birth of
the founder

Jain New Year | *Jain*

16 MONDAY

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

25 WEDNESDAY

**Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's
Birthday** | *Sikh*
Honoring of the birth of
the founder

26 THURSDAY

Thanksgiving | *Interfaith*
Celebration of the created
Earth and community

Day of the Covenant |
Baha'i
Celebration of the covenant
given in the last will and
testament of Baha'u'llah

28 SATURDAY

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha
| *Baha'i*
Celebration of the rising of
the spirit of Abdu'l-Baha to
the heavenly dwelling

29 SUNDAY

Advent Sunday | *Christian*
Time of preparation for
observing the birth of
Jesus Christ and for
anticipating His return
to Earth

MORE ABOUT / JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Founded in collaboration
with the International Bible
Students' Association, the
Watchtower Bible and Tract
Society

Belief that Jesus Christ was
God's first creation

Belief that 144,000 believers
will rule in Heaven

High religious expectations,
such as prohibition of blood
transfusions and
participating in nationalism
are prohibited

Produce a magazine called
The Watchtower

DECEMBER

6 SUNDAY

St. Nicholas Day | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Saint Nicholas, patron saint of children and role model for gift giving

7 MONDAY

Hanukkah | Jewish (until 12/14)

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

8 TUESDAY

Bodhi Day | Buddhist

Celebration of the Enlightenment of the Buddha

Immaculate Conception of Mary | Catholic Christian

Day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life

12 SATURDAY

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe | Catholic Christian

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

21 MONDAY

Yule | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the Winter Solstice

22 TUESDAY

Fast of Tivet 10 | Jewish

Fast commemorating the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II

25 FRIDAY

Christmas | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

26 SATURDAY

Zarathosht Diso | Zoroastrian

Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra

Kwanzaa | Pan-African (until 1/1/16)

Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture

28 MONDAY

Holy Innocents | Christian

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

30 WEDNESDAY

Freedom Day | Scientologist

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

31 THURSDAY

Watch Night | Christian

Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year

MORE ABOUT / FEAST OF OUR LADY GUADALUPE

Accounts state during the time missionaries came to Mexico to convert the native people to Catholicism, Lady Guadalupe came to Juan Diego in a dream and asked him to build a Catholic Church in her honor. In order to authenticate her identity, Juan Diego asked for a miracle. She in turn healed his uncle.

In the next year, thousands of Mexicans were converted to Catholicism.

Lady Guadalupe represents understanding and faith

Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe is celebrated globally, but has a strong following in Mexico

The festival begins at sundown with conchero dancers at the Church

The feast is a very happy day and includes food, drinks and dancing

JANUARY 2016

1 FRIDAY

Mary, Mother of God |

Catholic Christian

Celebration of the mother of Jesus Christ

Feast of St. Basil |

Orthodox Christian

Commemoration of St. Basil the Great, who wrote a Eucharist Liturgy that bears his name

Shogatsu / Gantan-sai |

Shinto

New Year's Day celebration

5 TUESDAY

Twelfth Night |

Christian

Observance of the close of Christmastide

Guru Gobindh Singh's

Birthday |

Sikh

Honoring of the birth of the founder of the Khalsa

6 WEDNESDAY

Epiphany |

Christian

Commemoration of the manifestations of the divine nature of Jesus Christ

Feast of the Theophany |

Orthodox Christian

Feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of the Lord

7 THURSDAY

Orthodox Christmas |

Orthodox Christian

A time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ

10 SUNDAY

Baptism of the Lord Jesus

|

Christian

Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus

13 WEDNESDAY

Maghi |

Sikh

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

14 THURSDAY

Makar Sankranti |

Hindu

Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; observed by flying kites, feeding the poor, and offering libations to the dead

15 FRIDAY

Seijin no Hi |

Shinto

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

17 SUNDAY

World Religion Day |

Baha'i

Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions

18 MONDAY

Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity |

Christian (until 1/25)

Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

20 WEDNESDAY

Timkat |

Ethiopian

Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River

24 SUNDAY

Mahayana New Year |

Buddhist

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

25 MONDAY

Conversion of St. Paul |

Christian

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

Tu B'Shvat |

Jewish

Celebration of the coming of spring

FEBRUARY 2016

1 MONDAY

Clean Monday | *Orthodox Christian*
First day of Lent

2 TUESDAY

Imbolc | *Wiccan/Pagan*
Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox; celebrates the passage from winter to spring

Candlemas | *Christian*
Celebration of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Presentation of Christ in the Temple | *Anglican Christian*

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

3 WEDNESDAY

Setsubun-sai | *Shinto*
Celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of, "Devils Out, Good Fortune In"

8 MONDAY

Chinese New Year | *Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist*
Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

9 TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday | *Christian*
Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

10 WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday | *Christian*
Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshippers as a sign of penitence

12 FRIDAY

Vasant Panchami | *Hindu*
Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

Triodion Begins | *Orthodox Christian*
Time period leading up to Lent

14 SUNDAY

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

St. Valentine's Day | *Christian*
Celebration of the love of God presented in Jesus and in the lives of Christian believers

15 MONDAY

Nirvana Day | *Buddhist*
Observance of the physical death and spiritual enlightenment of the Buddha

18 THURSDAY

National Founding U.S.A. | *Scientologist*
Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles, in 1954

26 FRIDAY

Intercalary Days | *Baha'i* (until 3/1)
Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, thought of as days outside of time, and celebrated by acts of love, fellowship, and charity

MARCH 2016

2 WEDNESDAY

Nineteen Day Fast |

Baha'i (until 3/20)

Fast to be observed by adult Baha'is in good health from sunrise to sundown

6 SUNDAY

Meatfare Sunday |

Orthodox Christian

Observance preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ

7 MONDAY

Maha Shivaratri | *Hindu*

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess, Parvati

17 THURSDAY

St. Patrick's Day | *Christian*

Celebration of Saint Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the early days of the faith

18 FRIDAY

L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday | *Scientologist*

Observance day marking the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder

20 SUNDAY

Ostara | *Wiccan/Pagan*

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

Palm Sunday | *Christian*

Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which begins Holy Week

Orthodox Sunday |

Orthodox Christian

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

21 MONDAY

Naw-Ruz | *Baha'i*

Observance of the Vernal Equinox

Nowruz | *Zoroastrian*

New year

23 WEDNESDAY

Holi | *Hindu*

Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure

Ta'anit Esther | *Jewish*

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

Magha Puja Day | *Buddhist*

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

Lord's Evening Meal |

Jehovah's Witness
Christian

Annual celebration commemorating Christ's death as a ransom

24 THURSDAY

Purim | *Jewish*

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

Maundy Thursday | *Christian*

Observance of the first Lord's Supper during Holy Week

Hola Mohalla | *Sikh*

Weeklong event including mock fights, kirtan, music, poetry, and community meals

25 FRIDAY

Good Friday | *Christian*

Remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus

26 SATURDAY

Khordad Sal | *Zoroastrian*

Remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathustra

27 SUNDAY

Easter | *Christian*

Holy day that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from His death by crucifixion

APRIL

2016

4 MONDAY

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian

Celebration of Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary of the coming birth of Jesus

6 WEDNESDAY

Founding of the Church | Mormon

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

8 FRIDAY

Week of the Ramayana | Hindu *(until 4/15)*

Festival celebrating Lord Rama, in which the Ram Lila is staged and the Ramayana is recited

13 WEDNESDAY

Baisakhi/Vaisakhi | Sikh/Hindu

Festival commemorating the establishment of the Khalsa, or the nation of Sikhs. Hindu beginning of the New Year

15 FRIDAY

Rama Navami | Hindu
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

19 TUESDAY

Mahavir Jayanti | Jain

Festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder's birthday

21 THURSDAY

First Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

Commemoration of the twelve-day period in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared that he was God's messenger for this age

22 FRIDAY

Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu

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

Theravadin New Year | Buddhist

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Theravadin countries

23 SATURDAY

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus; revealing that Jesus is "the resurrection and life" of all mankind

Pesach/Passover | Jewish *(until 4/30)*

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

29 FRIDAY

Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

Holy Friday | Orthodox Christian
Commemoration of the death of Jesus on the cross

MAY 2016

1 SUNDAY

Beltane | *Wiccan/Pagan*

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

Pascha | *Orthodox Christian*

Holy day that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from His death by crucifixion

2 MONDAY

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | *Baha'i*

5 THURSDAY

National Day of Prayer | *Interfaith*

United States day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

Yom HaShoah | *Jewish*

Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis

Ascension of Jesus | *Christian*

Recognition of the departure of Jesus from Earth after the resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter /Pascha

Lailat al Miraj | *Muslim*

Observance of Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven

9 MONDAY

Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | *Scientologist*

Observance of the publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health, on May 9, 1950, which was the forerunner of the Scientology religion

13 FRIDAY

World Falun Dafa Day/Falun Gong | *Buddhist*

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

15 SUNDAY

Pentecost | *Christian*

Observation of the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind

20 FRIDAY

Vesak | *Buddhist*

Day marking the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha

21 SATURDAY

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | *Interfaith*

United Nations day to deepen understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live more peacefully

Lailat al Bara'a | *Muslim* Night of forgiveness

22 SUNDAY

Trinity Sunday | *Christian*

Day to honor the belief in one God with a threefold nature

23 MONDAY

Declaration of the Bab | *Baha'i*

Recognition of the declaration by Ali Muhammad that he is the anticipated "Coming One" of all religions

26 THURSDAY

Corpus Christi | *Catholic Christian*

Celebration in recognition of the Eucharist

Lag B'Omer | *Jewish*

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

29 SUNDAY

Ascension of Baha'u'llah | *Baha'i*

Recollection of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder

Learn more about diversity and inclusion in the workforce at **Diversity Awareness Partnership's Diversity Summit.**

Visit dapstl.org for more information.

JUNE 2016

3 FRIDAY

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

6 MONDAY

Ramadan | Muslim **[until 7/5]**
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an

12 SUNDAY

Race Unity Day | Baha'i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

Shavuot | Jewish **[until 6/13]**
Celebration of Moses' descent from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

16 THURSDAY

Guru Arjan Dev's Martyrdom | Sikh
Time of remembering those who have suffered for this faith

19 SUNDAY

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

20 MONDAY

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

MORE ABOUT / HINDUISM

Oldest of all religions and can be traced back to India's Indus Valley civilization

Belief in the triad of gods

The first text of Hinduism are the Aryan scriptures called the Vedas

Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth, love, and beauty

Hinduism observes thousands of gods and has no standard practice

Focused on embracing "the ultimate reality" known as Brahman, samsara, and moksa

Some Hindus center their worship on one god or goddess

Believe in the concept of samsara, the constant rebirth and reincarnation

Believe in karma, cause and effect is connected to the rebirth process; in order to achieve a positive rebirth, it is critical to achieve good karma

Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion around issues of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age, and gender identity. DAP achieves its mission through three pillars of impact: education and training, youth engagement, and awareness initiatives. For more information on becoming a partner, participating in our programs, requesting publications, or supporting our efforts, [call \(314\) 246-3146](tel:3142463146) or [visit DAPSTL.ORG](http://DAPSTL.ORG).

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION TRAINING

Diversity & Inclusion Training is delivered through presentations, workshops, and roundtables. Trainings raise awareness around the importance of diversity and inclusivity among employees by exposing challenges, generating dialogue, and providing tangible resources needed to create a more inclusive workplace.

DAP CONNECT PROGRAM

The DAP Connect Program has one purpose - to help you diversify your social and professional networks. Too often we build personal and working relationships with others "like us". DAP Connect helps you leave your comfort zone to meet individuals who are different from you, whether by race or ethnicity, age, religion, ability, sexual orientation or gender identity. Through DAP Connect, you will build relationships with leaders throughout the St. Louis region and gain a stronger appreciation for diversity.

GIVE RESPECT, GET RESPECT YOUTH PROGRAM

The Give Respect, Get Respect Youth Program is a collaboration between Diversity Awareness Partnership and local corporations who bring together students and teachers from the St. Louis metro area and company associates to explore race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

EXPLORE CAREER IMMERSION PROGRAM

Diversity Awareness Partnership is investing in St. Louis high school students through an externship program. Together, DAP and local businesses have developed this program to expose, empower, and encourage students of color to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and other careers.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

Community Forums are free to the public and are typically held once per year. The forums welcome individuals from all over St. Louis to participate in or observe open dialogue around diversity issues.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Diversity Awareness Partnership provides in-depth professional development seminars for diversity and inclusion practitioners or individuals interested in entering the diversity field. Example seminar topics include: Diversity vs. Inclusion, Creating a Diverse Pipeline, HR, Diversity & Employee Engagement, and more.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS & PUBLICATIONS

Diversity Publications include the Interfaith Calendar, Diversity Sports Poster Series, and We're All Alike, We're All Different Disability Toolkit.



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