

The logo for the Diversity Awareness Partnership (dap) is located in the top right corner. It consists of the lowercase letters 'dap' in white on a green rectangular background. To the right of this, the words 'DIVERSITY AWARENESS PARTNERSHIP' are stacked vertically in white capital letters on a black rectangular background.

dap

DIVERSITY  
AWARENESS  
PARTNERSHIP

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, abstract design of numerous overlapping, concentric circles in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The text is centered within this design.

2017  
&  
2018

18-MONTH  
INTERFAITH  
CALENDAR

# DID YOU KNOW?

## THE ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS.

Diversity Awareness Partnership's Interfaith Calendar is distributed annually and features observances celebrated across 26 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.

#### **NOTES:**

This calendar aims to be as inclusive as possible. Please contact us if you would like the 2018 Interfaith Calendar to include a holiday that is 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 affiliations 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 religions/holidays:

<http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/multifaith-calendar/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

### USE THE FOLLOWING COLORS AS A GUIDE TO FIND CELEBRATIONS BY SPECIFIC RELIGIONS/DENOMINATIONS:

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

**Interested in ordering calendars for your home, office, school or place of worship? Request more at [dapstl.org](http://dapstl.org) today.**

**1 SUNDAY****Mary, Mother of God**

| Catholic Christian

Celebration of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

**Feast of St. Basil**

| Orthodox Christian

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

**Shogatsu / Gantan-sai**

| Shinto

New Year's Day celebration

**5 THURSDAY****Twelfth Night** | Christian

Conclusion of the 12 Days of Christmas

**Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday** | Sikh

Honoring the birth of the founder of Khalsa

**6 FRIDAY****Epiphany / Three Kings Day** | Christian

Feast to celebrate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child

**Feast of Theophany**

| Orthodox Christian

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

**7 SATURDAY****Orthodox Christmas**

| Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

**Ethiopian Christmas** |

Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

**Fast of Tevet 10** | Jewish*(until 1/8)*

Day of fasting, mourning, and repentance

**8 SUNDAY****Baptism of the Lord Jesus** | Christian

Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus

**9 MONDAY****Seijin no Hi** | Shinto

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

**12 THURSDAY****Mahayana New Year**| Buddhist *(until 1/15)*

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

**13 FRIDAY****Maghi** | Sikh

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

**14 SATURDAY****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 SUNDAY****World Religion Day**

| Baha'i

Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**| Christian *(until 1/22)*

Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

**17 TUESDAY****Blessing of the Animals**

| Christian

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

**19 THURSDAY****Timkat** | Ethiopian

Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River

**Triodion Begins** |

Orthodox Christian

*(ends 4/16)*

Time period leading up to Lent

**25 WEDNESDAY****Conversion of St. Paul**

| Christian

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

**28 SATURDAY****Chinese New Year** |

Buddhist, Confucian,

Taoist

Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

# FEBRUARY

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## 1 WEDNESDAY

### **Vasant Panchami** | Hindu

Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

## 2 THURSDAY

### **Imbolc** | Wiccan/Pagan

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

### **Presentation of Christ in the Temple** | Christian

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

## 3 FRIDAY

### **Setsubun-sai** | Shinto

Celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of, "Devils out, Good Fortune in!"

## 5 SUNDAY

### **Four Chaplains Sunday** | Interfaith

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

## 10 FRIDAY

### **Tu B'Shvat** | Jewish (until 2/11)

Celebration of the coming of Spring

## 11 SATURDAY

### **Spring Lantern Festival** | Taoist

Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations, Chinese equivalent to Valentine's Day

## 14 TUESDAY

### **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 WEDNESDAY

### **Nirvana Day** | Buddhist

Observance of the physical death and spiritual enlightenment of the Buddha

## 18 SATURDAY

### **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

## 19 SUNDAY

### **Meatfare Sunday** | Orthodox Christian

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

## 25 SATURDAY

### **Maha Shivaratri** | Hindu

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

## 26 SUNDAY

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

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

### **Cheesefare Sunday** | Orthodox Christian

The Sunday of forgiveness, last Sunday before Lent

### **Transfiguration Sunday** | Christian

Feast day celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus

## 27 MONDAY

### **Clean Monday - Great Lent Begins** | Orthodox Christian

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

## 28 TUESDAY

### **Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday)** | Christian

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

**1 WEDNESDAY**

**Ash Wednesday**  
**(Beginning of Lent)**  
| Christian

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

**2 THURSDAY**

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

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

**5 SUNDAY**

**Orthodox Sunday I**  
| Orthodox Christian

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

**10 FRIDAY**

**Ta'anit Esther** | Jewish  
(until 3/11)

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

**12 SUNDAY**

**Magha Puja Day**  
| Buddhist

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

**Purim** | Jewish (until 3/13)

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

**13 MONDAY**

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

**Holi** | Hindu

Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure

**Hola Mohalla** | Sikh

Week-long event including mock fights, kirtan, music poetry, and community meals

**17 FRIDAY**

**St. Patrick's Day**  
| Christian

Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

**20 MONDAY**

**Ostara** | Wiccan/Pagan

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

**21 TUESDAY**

**Naw-Ruz** | Baha'i

Observance of the Vernal Equinox

**Norooz** | Zoroastrian

New Year

**25 SATURDAY**

**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 TUESDAY**

**Khordad Sal** | Zoroastrian

Remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathustra

**Week of the Ramayana**

| Hindu (until 4/5)

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

## **4 TUESDAY** **Qingming Festival** |

Taoist, **Confucian**  
Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, important day showing respect for ancestors

## **5 WEDNESDAY** **Rama Navami** | Hindu Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

## **6 THURSDAY** **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

## **8 SATURDAY** **Lazarus Saturday** | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

## **9 SUNDAY** **Palm Sunday** | Christian, Orthodox Christian

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

## **10 MONDAY** **Mahavir Jayanti** | Jain Festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder's birthday

## **Pesach /Passover** | Jewish (until 4/18) Eight day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

## **11 TUESDAY** **Lord's Evening Meal** | Jehovah's Witnesses Memorial commemoration of Christ's death

## **Hanuman Jayanti** | Hindu Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless works are encouraged.

## **Theravadin New Year** | Buddhist (until 4/14) Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Theravadin countries

## **13 THURSDAY** **Maundy Thursday** | Christian Remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples

## **14 FRIDAY** **Baisaki /Vaisaki** | Sikh, Hindu Festival commemorating the establishment of the Khalsa, or the nation of Sikhs. Hindu beginning of the New Year

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

## **16 SUNDAY** **Easter /Pascha** | Christian, Orthodox Christian Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

## **21 FRIDAY** **First Day of Ridvan** | Baha'i (until 5/2) Commemoration of the twelve-day period in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared that he was God's messenger for this age.

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

## **22 SATURDAY** **Yom HaShoah** | Jewish (until 4/23) Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis

## **29 SATURDAY** **Ninth Day of Ridvan** | Baha'i Work is prohibited on this day, and the community gathers for prayer and celebration

**1 MONDAY****Beltane** | Wiccan/Pagan

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

**2 TUESDAY****Twelfth day of Ridvan** | Baha'i

Work is prohibited on this day, and the community gathers for prayer and celebration

**4 THURSDAY****National Day of Prayer** | Interfaith

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

**7 SUNDAY****Chongmyo Taeje** | Confucian

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

**9 TUESDAY****Observance of the Publication of Dianetics** | Scientologist

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

**10 WEDNESDAY****Visakha Puja (Buddha Day)** | Buddhist

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

**13 SATURDAY****World Falun Dafa Day / Falun Gong** | Buddhist

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

**Lag B'Omer** | Jewish (until 5/14)

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

**21 SUNDAY****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 TUESDAY****Declaration of the Bab** | Baha'i

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

**25 THURSDAY****Ascension of Jesus** | Christian

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

**African Liberation Day** | Pan-African

Holiday celebrating the formation of the OAU / African Union.

**27 SATURDAY****Ramadan Begins** | Muslim (until 6/25)

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

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

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

**30 TUESDAY****Shavuot** | Jewish (until 5/31)

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

**Dragon Boat Festival** | Taoist

Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety. Three activities conducted during the Festival are eating zongzi, drinking realgar wine, and racing dragon boats.



## 4 SUNDAY

### **Pentecost** | Christian

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

## 11 SUNDAY

### **Trinity Sunday** | Christian

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

### **Race Unity Day** | Baha'i

Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

## 15 THURSDAY

### **Corpus Christi** | Catholic Christian

Celebration in recognition of the Eucharist (body of Christ)

## 16 FRIDAY

### **Guru Arjan Dev's Martyrdom** | Sikh

Time of remembering those who have suffered for this faith

## 19 MONDAY

### **New Church Day** | Swedenborgian Christian

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

## 21 WEDNESDAY

### **Litha** | Wiccan/Pagan

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

### **Laylatul Qadr** | Muslim

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

## 23 TUESDAY

### **Sacred Heart of Jesus** | Catholic Christian

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

## 26 MONDAY

### **Eid al-Fitr** | Muslim (until 6/28)

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

## WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE & DEVELOPMENT

In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity. People around the world celebrate this day by joining the campaign "Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion" which aims to: raise awareness worldwide about the importance of intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion; build a world community of individuals committed to support diversity with real and everyday-life gestures; combat polarization and stereotypes to improve understanding and cooperation among people from different cultures.

**9 SUNDAY****Asalha Puja Day /Dharma Day** | Buddhist

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

**Martyrdom of the Bab**  
**I Baha'i**

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

**13 THURSDAY****Obon /Ulambana**  
**I Shinto /Buddhist**

Celebration of the ritual of saving the deceased from torments after death

**23 SUNDAY****Birth of the Emperor Haile Selassie I**  
**I Rastafarian**

Birthday of the revered Messianic figure among Rastafarians

**24 MONDAY****Pioneer Day** | Mormon

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

**31 MONDAY****Tish'a B'av** | Jewish (until 8/1)

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

**BUDDHISM**

Buddhism is a religion to about 300 million people around the world. The word comes from 'budhi', 'to awaken'. It has its origins about 2,500 years ago when Siddhartha Gotama, known as the Buddha, was himself awakened (enlightened) at the age of 35. There are many different types of Buddhism, because the emphasis changes from country to country due to customs and culture. However the essence of all Buddhist teaching is the Four Noble Truths: 1) Suffering exists 2) Suffering arises from attachment to desires 3) Suffering ceases when attachment to desires cease 4) Freedom from suffering is possible by practicing the eightfold path. The Eightfold Path includes: right view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right contemplation.

## 1 TUESDAY

**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 SUNDAY

**Transfiguration of the Lord** | Orthodox Christian

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

## 7 MONDAY

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

## 15 TUESDAY

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** | Catholic Christian

Observance commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven

**Dormition of the Virgin Mary** | Orthodox Christian

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

**Krishna Janmashtami** | Hindu

Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

## 17 THURSDAY

**Marcus Garvey's Birthday** | Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

## 26 SATURDAY

**Paryushana Parva** | Jain (until 9/4)

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

## 29 TUESDAY

**Beheading of John the Baptist** | Christian

Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist

## 31 THURSDAY

**Waqf al Arafa/Hajj Day** | Muslim

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

## HINDUISM

Hinduism is the world's third largest religion, with over 1 billion followers or 15% of the global population. It has been called the "oldest religion" in the world, and some practitioners and scholars refer to it as Sanatana Dharma, "the eternal law" or the "eternal way" beyond human origins. Scholars regard Hinduism as a fusion or synthesis of various Indian cultures and traditions, with diverse roots and no founder. Prominent themes in Hindu beliefs include (but are not restricted to) Dharma (ethics/duties), Samsara (the continuing cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth), Karma (action, intent and consequences), Moksha (liberation from samsara or liberation in this life), and the various Yogas (paths or practices).

**1 FRIDAY**

**Eid al-Adha** | Muslim  
(until 9/4)

Feast of Sacrifice, concluding the Hajj

**Religious Year Begins** | Orthodox Christian

Start of the religious calendar year

**4 MONDAY**

**Chinese Ghost Festival** | Taoist, Buddhist

Celebration in which the deceased are believed to visit the living.

**8 FRIDAY**

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus

**11 SUNDAY**

**Auditors' Day** | Scientologist

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

**Ethiopian New Year's Day** | Rastafarian

First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

**14 THURSDAY**

**Elevation of the Holy Cross** | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of when St. Helen found the Holy Cross

**21 THURSDAY**

**New Year - Hijri** | Muslim

Marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year

**Rosh Hashanah** | Jewish  
(until 9/22)

Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance.

**Navratri** | Hindu (until 9/29)

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

**22 FRIDAY**

**Mabon** | Wiccan/Pagan

Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

**25 MONDAY**

**Ganesh Chaturthi** | Hindu

Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence, and success

**27 WEDNESDAY**

**Meskel** | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

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

**28 THURSDAY**

**Confucius' Birthday** | Confucian

Observance of the birth of Confucius

**29 FRIDAY**

**Yom Kippur** | Jewish  
(until 9/30)

Day of Atonement

**YOM KIPPUR**

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year for Jews. Its central theme is atonement and reconciliation. Repentance in Judaism is done through a process called Teshuva (return), which in its most basic form consists of regretting having committed the sin, resolving not to commit that sin in the future and to confess that sin before God. Jewish people traditionally observe this holy day with an approximate 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.

## 1 SUNDAY

### 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)

## 4 WEDNESDAY

### St. Francis Day (Blessing of Animals) | Catholic Christian

Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology. Often celebrated with a special blessing of animals

### Sukkot | Jewish (until 10/11)

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

## 7 SATURDAY

### Founding of the International Association of Scientologists

| Scientologist

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

## 9 MONDAY

### Thanksgiving - Canada | Interfaith

Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year

### Birthday of Guru Ram Das | Sikh

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

### Dussehra /Durga Puja | Hindu

Commemoration of the last of the Days of Judgment

## 11 WEDNESDAY

### Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish (until 10/12)

Commemoration of the last of the Days of Judgement

## 12 THURSDAY

### Shemini Atzeret | Jewish (until 10/13)

Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

## 13 FRIDAY

### Simchat Torah | Jewish (until 10/14)

Day to celebrate the reading of the Law

## 19 THURSDAY

### Diwali | Hindu, Jain, Sikh

Celebration marking the end of the Hindu year

## 20 FRIDAY

### 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.

### Jain New Year | Jain

Start of the New Year for Jainists.

## 28 SATURDAY

### Milvian Bridge Day | Christian

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

## 29 SUNDAY

### Reformation Day | Protestant Christian

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

## 31 TUESDAY

### All Hallow's Eve | Christian

Celebration combining prayers and merriment involving children and families

**1 WEDNESDAY****All Saints' Day** | Christian

Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

**Samhain** | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of endings and beginnings

**2 THURSDAY****All Souls' Day** | Catholic  
Christian

Commemoration of the faithful departed

**Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie**

## | Rastafarian

Celebration of the coronation of the messianic figure of Rastafarian

**4 SATURDAY****Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's Birthday** | Sikh

Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

**12 SUNDAY****Birth of Baha'u'llah**  
| Baha'i

Celebration of the birth of the founder of Baha'i

**15 WEDNESDAY****Nativity Fast begins** | Orthodox Christian (until 12/24)

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

**16 THURSDAY****International Day for Tolerance** | Interfaith

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

**23 THURSDAY****Thanksgiving** | Interfaith

Celebration of the harvest and community

**24 FRIDAY****Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur** | Sikh

Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

**26 SUNDAY****Day of the Covenant**  
| Baha'i

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

**28 TUESDAY****Ascension of the Abdu'l-Baha** | Baha'i

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

## ALL SAINTS' AND ALL SOULS' DAY

All Saints' Day is a holy day for Christians to honor and remember all the saints (those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven), known and unknown. Following All Saints' day is All Souls' day, a day for Christians to remember and pray for the dead, particularly one's family members. Celebrations vary around the world, but can include special altars with images of the departed and food/drink they enjoyed, visiting the gravesites of one's relatives, and saying special prayers for all the departed.

## 3 SUNDAY

### **First Sunday of Advent** | Christian (until 12/24)

Beginning of time preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ. Marked with special prayers and lighting an additional candle each week

## 6 WEDNESDAY

### **St. Nicholas Day** | Christian

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

## 8 FRIDAY

### **Bodhi Day** | Buddhist

Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha

### **Immaculate Conception of Mary** | Catholic Christian

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

## 12 TUESDAY

### **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** | Catholic Christian

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

### **Hanukkah** | Jewish (until 12/20)

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

## 16 SATURDAY

### **Posadas Navidenas** | Hispanic Christian (until 12/25)

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 THURSDAY

### **Yule** | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the Winter Solstice

## 24 SATURDAY

### **Christmas Eve** | Christian

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

## 25 SUNDAY

### **Christmas, Feast of Nativity** | Christian, Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

## 26 TUESDAY

### **Zarathosht Diso** | Zoroastrian

Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra

### **Kwanzaa** | Pan-African (until 1/1/18)

Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture.

## 28 THURSDAY

### **Holy Innocents** | Christian

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

## 30 SATURDAY

### **Freedom Day** | Scientologist

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

## 31 SUNDAY

### **Watch Night** | Christian

Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year

### **Holy Family** | Catholic Christian

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

# JANUARY 2018

## 1 MONDAY

### Mary, Mother of God

| Catholic Christian

Celebration of Mary, 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

## 2 TUESDAY

### Mahayana New Year

| Buddhist (until 1/4)

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

## 5 FRIDAY

### Twelfth Night | Christian

Conclusion of the 12 Days of Christmas

### Guru Gobind Singh's

Birthday | Sikh

Honoring the birth of the founder of Khalsa

## 6 SATURDAY

### Epiphany / Three Kings

Day | Christian

Feast to celebrate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child

### Feast of the Theophany

| Orthodox Christian

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

## 7 SUNDAY

### Orthodox Christmas,

Ethiopian Christmas

| Orthodox Christian,

Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

### Baptism of the Lord

| Christian

Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus

## 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 Gobind Singh Ji

## 14 SUNDAY

### 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 WEDNESDAY

### Blessing of the Animals

| Christian

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

## 18 THURSDAY

### Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity

| Christian (until 1/25)

Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity.

## 19 FRIDAY

### Timkat | Ethiopian

Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River

## 21 SUNDAY

### World Religion Day

| Baha'i

Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions

### Triodion Begins

| Orthodox Christian

(until 4/8)

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 which led him to become a follower of Jesus

## 30 TUESDAY

Tu B'Shvat | Jewish (until 1/31)

Celebration of the coming of Spring



## 2 FRIDAY

### **Imbolc** | Wiccan/Pagan

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

### **Presentation of Christ in the Temple** | Christian

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

## 3 SATURDAY

### **Setsubun-sai** | Shinto

Celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of, "Devils out, Good Fortune in!"

## 4 SUNDAY

### **Four Chaplains Sunday** | Interfaith

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

## 8 THURSDAY

### **Nirvana Day** | Buddhist

Observance of the physical death and spiritual enlightenment of the Buddha

## 11 SUNDAY

### **Transfiguration Sunday** | Christian

Feast day celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus

### **Meatfare Sunday**

#### | Orthodox Christian

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

## 13 TUESDAY

### **Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday)** | Christian

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

## 14 WEDNESDAY

### **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

### **Maha Shivarastri** | Hindu

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

### **Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent)**

#### | Christian

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

## 16 FRIDAY

### **Chinese New Year** | Buddhist, Confucian,

#### Taoist,

Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

## 18 SUNDAY

### **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

### **Cheesefare Sunday** | Orthodox Christian

The Sunday of forgiveness, last Sunday before Lent

## 19 MONDAY

### **Clean Monday - Great Lent begins** | Orthodox Christian

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

## 25 SUNDAY

### **Orthodox Sunday I**

#### | 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)

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

## 27 TUESDAY

### **Ta'anit Esther** | Jewish

#### (until 3/1)

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

## 1 THURSDAY

### **Purim** | Jewish (until 3/2)

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

## 2 FRIDAY

### **Nineteen Day Fast**

#### | Baha'i (until 3/20)

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

### **Hola Mohalla** | Sikh

Week-long event including mock fights, kirtan, music poetry, and community meals

### **Spring Lantern Festival** |

#### Taoist

Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations, Chinese equivalent to Valentine's Day.

## 3 SATURDAY

### **Holi** | Hindu

Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure

## 13 TUESDAY

### **L. Ron Hubbard's**

#### **Birthday** | Scientologist

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

## 18 SUNDAY

### **Week of the Ramayana**

#### | Hindu (until 3/26)

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

## 20 TUESDAY

### **Ostara** | Wiccan/Pagan

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

### **Naw-Ruz** | Baha'i

Observance of the Vernal Equinox

### **Norooz** | Zoroastrian

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, the Son of God.

### **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)

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 Christ's death

### **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

## 1 SUNDAY

### Easter | Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

### Palm Sunday | Orthodox Christian

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

## 3 TUESDAY

### Mahavir Jayanti | Jain

Festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder's birthday

## 5 THURSDAY

### Qingming Festival |

Taoist, Confucian

Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, important day showing respect for ancestors

## 6 FRIDAY

### 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

## 8 SUNDAY

### Pascha | Orthodox Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

## 12 THURSDAY

### Yom HaShoah | Jewish (until 4/13)

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

## 14 SATURDAY

### Baisaki/Vaisaki | Sikh/Hindu

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

## 21 SATURDAY

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

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

### Grounation Day | Rastafarian

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

## 29 SUNDAY

### Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

Work is prohibited on this day, and the community gathers for prayer and celebration

### Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist

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

## 30 MONDAY

### Theravadin New Year | Buddhist (until 5/2)

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Theravadin countries

**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

**2 WEDNESDAY****Twelfth day of Ridvan****| Baha'i**

Work is prohibited on this day, and the community gathers for prayer and celebration

**Lag B'Omer | Jewish****(until 5/3)**

Observation of the counting of the day - the link - between Pesach 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 | Scientologist**

Observance of the publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health on 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 Day / Falun Gong | Buddhist**

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

**16 WEDNESDAY****Ramadan | Muslim (until 6/15)**

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

**19 SATURDAY****Shavuot | Jewish (until 5/21)**

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

**20 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

**21 MONDAY****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 WEDNESDAY****Declaration of the Bab | Baha'i**

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

**25 FRIDAY****African Liberation Day | Pan-African**

Holiday celebrating the formation of the OAU / African Union.

**27 SUNDAY****Trinity Sunday | Christian**

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

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

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

**31 THURSDAY****Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian**

Celebration in recognition of the Eucharist (Body of Christ)

## 8 FRIDAY

### 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

## 11 MONDAY

### Laylatul Qadr | Muslim

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

## 15 FRIDAY

### Eid al-Fitr | Muslim (until 6/17)

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

## 16 SATURDAY

### Guru Arjan Dev's Martyrdom | Sikh

Time of remembering those who have suffered for this faith

## 18 MONDAY

### Dragon Boat Festival |

Taoist

Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety. Three activities conducted during the Festival are eating zongzi, drinking realgar wine, and racing dragon boats.

## 19 TUESDAY

### New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christian

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

## 21 THURSDAY

### Litha | Wiccan/Pagan

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

## ISLAM

The Arabic term Islam literally means "surrender," or "submission." Islam's believers (known as "Muslims" from the active participle of "Islam"), accept surrender to the will of Allah (God). The will of God is made known through the Qur'an (the Koran), revealed to his messenger Muhammad. Muhammad, it is claimed was the last of the great prophets which included Adam, Noah, Moses, Jesus and others. The basic belief of Islam is expressed in the shahadah, the Muslim confession of faith, "There is no god but God; Muhammad is the prophet of God."



### **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TRAINING**

Diversity & Inclusion Training is delivered through presentations, workshops, and roundtables. Trainings raise awareness around the importance of diversity and inclusion 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.



### **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. Seminar topics include: Diversity vs. Inclusion, Creating a Diverse Pipeline, Diversity & Employee Engagement, and more.

## MISSION

Diversity Awareness Partnership is a catalyst to increase awareness, facilitate engagement and provide education about diversity and inclusion.

## VISION

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

**Diversity Awareness Partnership**

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