2018 - 2019
18-MONTH
INTERFAITH CALENDAR
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To foster and support inclusive communities, Diversity Awareness Partnership is pleased to present the 2018-2019 18-Month Interfaith Calendar. This publication is a handy guide to observances celebrated across 25 religious traditions in the St. Louis region. When planning your organization’s schedule, refer to our Interfaith Calendar to honor the holidays your friends, neighbors, and colleagues celebrate.

CONSIDERATIONS

In order to be more accommodating for people who practice different religions, consider the following:

FOOD

Food and drink are central to many traditions’ rituals and practices. Consider vegetarian, vegan, non-alcoholic, and decaf options, which can accommodate a wide variety of religious and ethical choices.

HOURS

Some holidays may require individuals to worship or pray during different hours than they may the rest of the year. Consider flexibility that takes into account the work and objectives of your student or employee, rather than the typical time frame when this is normally accomplished.

TIME OFF

Many organizations have standard holidays for all employees or students that are built around the worldview of a particular religion - Christianity, for example. Consider allowing practitioners of other religions to float these holidays or make shifts in their schedules. Again, the priority should be the quality of the work, not where or when it takes place.

DEADLINES/WORK FLOW

During holidays that require prayer at late/early hours or that require fasting, some individuals may experience decreased stamina. Examine project schedules or work deadlines to see if they can be adjusted, if need be.

PRAYER

Some religions require daily or periodic prayer that requires solitude and quiet. Consider designating a space for individuals to pray that is clean, well-furnished, and accessible.

ATTIRE

For some religions, dress is part of an outward and ongoing commitment to that faith tradition. Make sure that your organization’s attire policy is communicated clearly to employees.
This calendar strives to be as inclusive as possible. However, we are always open to adding more holidays and more religions. Please contact us directly if there’s something you’d like for us to consider adding for next year’s calendar.

All content in this calendar represents information that was available at the time of production. To the greatest extent possible, holidays based on lunar phases or other variables that change every Gregorian calendar year have been factored into observance dates. The spelling of certain observances may vary as well, based on different ways of representing words from other languages.

All Baha’i, Jewish, and Muslim holidays begin at sunset unless otherwise noted.

We encourage all places of worship to be accessible to persons with disabilities by making necessary accommodations. Contact DAP for additional information on how your organization can become more inclusive in this way.
JANUARY 2018

1 MONDAY
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

Shogatsu/Gantan-sai | Shinto
New Year’s Day celebration

2 TUESDAY
Mahayana New Year | Buddhist
(_until 1/4/2018)_
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mayahana countries

5 FRIDAY
Twelfth Night | Christian
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking the coming of the Epiphany

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

6 SATURDAY
Epiphany / Three Kings’ Day | Christian
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to baby Jesus

7 SUNDAY
Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian
Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

8 MONDAY
Seijin no Hi | Shinto
Holiday honoring those who have reached, or will reach, the age of twenty within the current year

13 SATURDAY
Maghi | Sikh
Commemoration of a battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh

14 SUNDAY
Makar Sankranti | Hindu
Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; festival in reverence to deity Surya, god of the sun

17 WEDNESDAY
Blessing of the Animals | Christian/Hispanic Christian
Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people

18 THURSDAY
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian (until 1/25/2018)
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 FRIDAY
Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

21 SUNDAY
World Religion Day | Baha’i
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world’s religions

Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian (until 4/8/18)
Time period leading up to Lent

22 MONDAY
Vasant Panchami | Hindu
Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

25 THURSDAY
Conversion of St. Paul | Christian
Event in the life of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus

30 TUESDAY
Tu Bishvat | Jewish (until 1/31/18)
Celebration of the coming of spring

THE BIRTH OF THE TENTH SIKH MASTER

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

-Jaipal Singh
FEBRUARY 2018

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

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

3 SATURDAY
Setsubun-Sai | Shinto
Celebration of the traditional beginning of spring and the end of winter

4 SUNDAY
Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith
Commemoration of U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during World War II

8 THURSDAY
Nirvana Day | Buddhist
Also known as Parinirvana Day, remembering the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana; Nirvana day is believed to be the festival that marks the end of the cycle of birth and rebirth.

11 SUNDAY
Transfiguration Sunday | Christian
Feast day celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus

12 MONDAY
Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian
Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods

13 TUESDAY
Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian
Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

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

14 WEDNESDAY
St. Valentine’s Day | Christian
Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

Ash Wednesday | Christian
Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshipers’ foreheads as a sign of repentance

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

16 FRIDAY
Lunar New Year | Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist
New Year’s celebration marking the start of the lunar new year; begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

18 SUNDAY
National Founding Day United States | Scientology
Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954

25 SUNDAY
Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian
First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated

26 MONDAY
Intercalary Days | Baha’i (until 3/1/18)
Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered ‘days outside of time’

28 WEDNESDAY
Ta’anit Esther | Jewish
Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim

Purim | Jewish (until 3/1/18)
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide
2 FRIDAY

Nineteen Day Fast | Baha’i (until 3/20/18)
Fast to be observed by adults of the Baha’i faith in good health from sunrise to sunset

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

Spring Lantern Festival | Taoist
Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations

Holi | Hindu
Spring festival known as the “festival of colors” or the “festival of love.” The festival signifies the victory of good over evil

13 TUESDAY

L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday | Scientology
Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

17 SATURDAY

St. Patrick’s Day | Christian
Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

Ramayana Week | Hindu (until 3/26/18)
Nine-day festival that marks the auspicious celebration of the appearance of Hindu Lord, Sri Ram

20 TUESDAY

Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan
Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)

Naw-Ruz | Baha’i, Zoroastrian
Also known as the Persian New Year, marks the start of the New Year

25 SUNDAY

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian
Feast day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus

Palm Sunday | Christian
Celebration of the entry of Jesus to Jerusalem, which marks the start of Holy Week

26 MONDAY

Rama Navami | Hindu
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

28 WEDNESDAY

Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian
Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

29 THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday | Christian
Remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples

30 FRIDAY

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

Pesach / Passover | Jewish (until 4/7/18)
8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

31 SATURDAY

Lord’s Evening Meal | Jehovah’s Witnesses
Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

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

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

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus
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
Celebration of the birth of Mahavira, founder of Jainism as a religion

5 THURSDAY
Qingming Festival | Taoist, Confucian
Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, commemorates the onset of spring and is an occasion to remember ancestors

6 FRIDAY
Founding of the Church | Mormon
Commemoration of the appearance of the angel Moroni in 1830 to Joseph Smith, who subsequently founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

8 SUNDAY
Easter / Pascha | Orthodox
Christian
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

12 THURSDAY
Yom HaShoah | Jewish
Holocaust Day, established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s

13 FRIDAY
Lailat al Miraj | Muslim
Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad’s nighttime journey from Mecca to ‘the farthest mosque’ in Jerusalem

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

21 SATURDAY
First Day of Ridvan | Baha’i (until 4/21/18)
Commemorates the beginning of the Baha’i faith in 1863 when Baha’u’llah first declared his mission, marks first of a twelve-day period

29 SUNDAY
Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha’i
Day of recognition for the historic and symbolic event of Baha’u’llah’s exile from Baghdad

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist
Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Guatama Buddha in the Theravada tradition

30 MONDAY
Theravada New Year | Buddhist (until 5/2/18)
Buddhist New Year

STAR OF DAVID
Symbol of Judaism or Jewish symbol

Image credit: Wikimedia
1 TUESDAY
Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

Lailat al Bara’ah | Muslim
Also known as the Night of Records and the Night of Forgiveness, commemorating when God descends from heaven and forgives the people of their sins

2 WEDNESDAY
Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha’i
Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Baha’i faith

Lag B’Omer | Jewish
Holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavout

3 THURSDAY
National Day of Prayer | Interfaith
U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

6 SUNDAY
Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian
Confucian memorial ceremony to honor the kings and queens of the Yi, or Joseon, Dynasty

9 WEDNESDAY
Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientology
Observance of the publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health in 1950 which was the forerunner of Scientology

10 THURSDAY
Ascension of Jesus | Christian
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter

13 SUNDAY
World Falun Dafa / Falun Gong Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

16 WEDNESDAY
Ramadan begins | Muslim (until 6/15/18)
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an

17 THURSDAY
Ascension of Jesus | Orthodox Christian
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection, celebrated 40 days after Easter

19 SATURDAY
Shavuot | Jewish (until 5/21/18)
Celebration of the descent of Moses from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

20 SUNDAY
Pentecost | Christian
Celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

21 MONDAY
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | Interfaith
United Nations-saunched international holiday that celebrates the richness of the world’s cultures while promoting intercultural dialogue

23 WEDNESDAY
Declaration of the Bab | Baha’i
Celebration of the Bab, Ali Muhammad’s, announcement in 1844 that he was the “gate” to the coming of the promised one of all religions

25 FRIDAY
African Liberation Day | Pan-African
Commemoration of the formation of the Organization of African Unity / African Union

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

29 TUESDAY
Ascension of Baha’u’llah | Baha’i
Remembrance of the death of Baha’u’llah, founder of the Baha’i faith

31 THURSDAY
Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist- also known as transubstantiation
### JUNE 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>8 FRIDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>18 MONDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>20 WEDNESDAY</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dragon Boat Festival</strong></td>
<td><strong>Waqf al Arafa- Hajj Day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catholic Christian</strong></td>
<td><strong>Taoist</strong></td>
<td><strong>Muslim</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity</td>
<td>Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety and recognizing the life and death of Chinese Scholar, Qu Yuan</td>
<td>Observance during Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>10 SUNDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>19 TUESDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>21 THURSDAY</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race Unity Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>New Church Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Litha</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baha’i</strong></td>
<td><strong>Swedenborgian Christian</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wiccan/Pagan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day to promote racial harmony and understanding</td>
<td>Annual commemoration of the vision document “The True Christian Religion,” in 1770</td>
<td>Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the services of life (Summer Solstice)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>15 FRIDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>16 SATURDAY</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eid al Fitr</strong></td>
<td><strong>Guru Arjan Dev’s Martydom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muslim (until 6/17/18)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sikh</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan</td>
<td>Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith’s tradition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RAMADAN

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

-Ghazala Hayat
9 MONDAY
Martydom of the Bab | Baha’i
Observance of the day Ali Muhammad was executed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers

13 FRIDAY
Obon/Ulambana | Buddhist, Shinto (until 7/15/18)
Also known as Ancestor Day, a time to relieve the suffering of ghosts by making offerings to deceased ancestors

21 SATURDAY
Tish’a B’Av | Jewish (until 7/22/18)
Day of fasting in the remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 BCE and 70 CE

23 MONDAY
Birth of the Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian
Birthday of the revered Messianic figure among Rastafarians

24 TUESDAY
Pioneer Day | Mormon
Observation of the arrival of the first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA

27 FRIDAY
Asalha Puja Day | Buddhist
Also known as Dhamma Day, the day that marks the beginning of Buddhism

ROMAN CATHOLICISM
“...I love being rooted in my Roman Catholic faith tradition! Knowing that I am not on my journey as an individual but rather in a community that expands around the globe and across 20 centuries is truly powerful. The long tradition - both in theory and practical action - of Catholic Social Teaching, has been incredibly formative for me in wrestling with the question of how I am to move through the world. The rhythms of the liturgical calendar, the embodied experience of the sacraments, the beauty of liturgy have shaped and continue to shape me. The mystical and intellectual writings of our saints connect me to those who have gone before me in faith.”
-Rhonda Miska
AUGUST 2018

1 WEDNESDAY
Lammas I Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the early harvest

Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus I Orthodox Christian
Beginning of the 14-day period of preparation, leading up to the Dormition of Mary

6 MONDAY
Transfiguration of the Lord I Orthodox Christian
Observance of the transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor in the presence of his disciples

15 WEDNESDAY
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary I Catholic Christian
Commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven

Dormition of the Virgin Mary I Orthodox Christian
Observance of the death, burial, and transfer to heaven of the Virgin Mary

17 FRIDAY
Marcus Garvey’s Birthday I Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

19 SUNDAY
Waqf al Arafah/Hajj Day I Muslim (until 8/21/18)
Observance during Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy

22 WEDNESDAY
Eid al Adha I Muslim (until 8/25/18)
Also known as the Sacrifice Feast, commemorating the Prophet Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son as an obedience to God

25 SATURDAY
Chinese Ghost Festival I Taoist, Buddhist
Celebration in which the deceased are believed to visit the living

29 WEDNESDAY
Beheading of St. John the Baptist I Christian
Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist

Raksha Bandhan I Hindu
Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in family

OM
Sacred sound and spiritual symbol of Hinduism

Image credit: Wikimedia
1 SATURDAY
Religious year begins | Orthodox Christian
Start of the religious calendar year

2 SUNDAY
Krishna Janmashtami | Hindu
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

8 SATURDAY
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian
Celebration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus

9 SUNDAY
Auditor’s Day | Scientology
Scientology Auditors are acknowledged on this day for their dedication in helping their fellow men and women

10 MONDAY
Rosh Hashanah | Jewish (until 9/11/18)
Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance

11 TUESDAY
Ethiopian New Year’s Day | Rastafarian
First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

12 WEDNESDAY
Hijri-New Year | Muslim
Marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year

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

14 FRIDAY
Paryushana Parva | Jain
Festival signifying human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement, and a celebration of the natural qualities of the soul

18 TUESDAY
Yom Kippur | Jewish (until 9/19/18)
Also known as the Day of Atonement with central themes of atonement and repentance

21 FRIDAY
Ashura | Muslim
Optional one-day fast marking the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali (Shi’a Islam) and marking the day that Moses fasted in gratitude for liberation of the Israelites (Sunni Islam)

22 SATURDAY
Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

24 MONDAY
Sukkot | Jewish (until 9/30/18)
Feast Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents

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

28 FRIDAY
Confucius’ Birthday | Confucian
Observance of the birth of Confucius

29 SATURDAY
Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish (until 10/30/18)
Commemoration of the last of the reading of the Torah

30 SUNDAY
Shemini Atzeret | Jewish (until 10/2/18)
Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Monday</td>
<td><strong>Simchat Torah</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Thursday</td>
<td><strong>St. Francis Day/Blessing of the Animals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Founding of the International Association of Scientologists</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Monday</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving- Canada</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>Navratri</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Friday</td>
<td><strong>Dussehra/Durga Puja</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Birth of the Bab</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Guru Granth Sahib Installation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Wednesday</td>
<td><strong>Milvian Bridge Day</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>All Hallow’s Eve</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Reformation Day</strong></td>
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</table>

**DAYS OF AWE**

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

-Jean Cavender
1 THURSDAY
All Saints Day | Christian
Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of endings and beginnings

2 FRIDAY
All Souls Day | Catholic Christian
Commemoration of the souls of Christians who have died

Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian
Celebration of the coronation of the messianic figure of the Rastafari movement

7 WEDNESDAY
Diwali | Sikh, Jain, Hindu (until 11/10/18)
The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year

8 THURSDAY
Jain New Year | Jain
Beginning of the Jain year

Vikram New Year | Hindu
Beginning of the Hindu year

12 MONDAY
Birth of Baha’u’llah | Baha’i
Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Baha’i faith

15 THURSDAY
Nativity Fast Begins | Orthodox Christian (until 12/24/18)
Period of abstinence and penance in preparation for the birth of Jesus

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

20 TUESDAY
Mawlid an Nabi | Muslim
Celebration of Prophet Muhammad’s birthday

22 THURSDAY
Thanksgiving | Interfaith
Celebration of the harvest and community

23 FRIDAY
Guru Nanak Dev Sahib’s birthday | Sikh
Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

24 SATURDAY
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikh
Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

25 SUNDAY
Christ the King Sunday | Christian
Feast celebrating the all-embracing authority of Christ, over and above governmental authority

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

28 WEDNESDAY
Ascension of Abdu’l-Baha | Baha’i
Celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu’l-Baha to heavenly dwelling
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Advent</strong> I Christian (until 12/24/18)</td>
<td>Season observed as a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Monday</td>
<td><strong>Hanukkah</strong> I Jewish (until 12/10/18)</td>
<td>Festival of Lights commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Thursday</td>
<td><strong>St. Nicholas Day</strong> I Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children and role model for gift-giving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Bodhi Day</strong> I Buddhist</td>
<td>Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Immaculate Conception of Mary</strong> I Catholic Christian</td>
<td>Celebrates the belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Wednesday</td>
<td><strong>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</strong> I Catholic Christian</td>
<td>Honoring of legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Posadas Navidenas</strong> I Hispanic Christian (until 12/25/18)</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Friday</td>
<td><strong>Yule</strong> I Wiccan/Pagan</td>
<td>Celebration of the Winter Solstice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Monday</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve</strong> I Christian</td>
<td>Day before Christmas, often celebrated with a midnight Mass/Liturgy of Jesus' birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>Christmas/Feast of Nativity</strong> I Christian, Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Wednesday</td>
<td><strong>Zarathosht Disco</strong> I Zoroastrian</td>
<td>Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Kwanzaa</strong> I Pan-African (until 1/1/19)</td>
<td>Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture among people of African descent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Friday</td>
<td><strong>Holy Innocents</strong> I Christian</td>
<td>Day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the same attempt to destroy Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Holy Family’s Day</strong> I Catholic Christian</td>
<td>Celebration honoring Jesus, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph as a family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Monday</td>
<td><strong>Freedom Day</strong> I Scientology</td>
<td>Day celebrating the official recognition of the Church of Scientology in the United States in 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Watch Night</strong> I Christian</td>
<td>Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year, and to prepare for the next year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Zoroastrianism**

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

-Soonu Dhunjisha
JANUARY 2019

1 TUESDAY
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

Shogatsu/Gantan-sai | Shinto
New Year’s Day celebration

5 SATURDAY
Twelfth Night | Christian
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking the coming of the Epiphany

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

6 SUNDAY
Epiphany/Three Kings Day | Christian
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus

7 MONDAY
Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian
Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

13 SUNDAY
Maghi | Sikh
Commemoration of a battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh Ji

14 MONDAY
Makar Sankranti | Hindu
Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; festival in reverence to deity Surya, god of the sun

Seijin no Hi | Shinto
Holiday honoring those who have or will reach the age of twenty within the current year

17 THURSDAY
Blessing of the Animals | Hispanic Christian
Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people

18 FRIDAY
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian (until 1/25/19)
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 SATURDAY
Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

20 SUNDAY
World Religion Day | Baha’i
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

Tu B’Shvat | Jewish (until 1/21/19)
Celebration of the coming of spring

21 MONDAY
Mahayana New Year | Buddhist (until 1/23/19)
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mayahana countries

25 FRIDAY
Conversion of St. Paul | Christian
Event in the life of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus

Image credit: Freepik
2 SATURDAY
Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian
Remembrance of the infant Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem

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

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

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

5 TUESDAY
Lunar New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist
New Year’s celebration marking the start of the lunar new year, begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

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

12 TUESDAY
Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian
Time period leading up to Lent

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

St. Valentine’s Day | Christian
Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

National Founding Day | United States
Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954

15 FRIDAY
Nirvana Day | Buddhist
Also known as Parinirvana Day, remembering the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana; Nirvana day is believed to be the festival that marks the end of the cycle of birth and rebirth.

19 TUESDAY
Spring Lantern Festival | Taoist
Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations

26 TUESDAY
Intercalary Days | Baha’i (until 3/1/19)
Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered ‘days outside of time’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Saturday</strong></td>
<td>Nineteen Day Fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 Monday</strong></td>
<td>Maha Shivaratri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10 Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Orthodox Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11 Monday</strong></td>
<td>Clean Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13 Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17 Sunday</strong></td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20 Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Ostara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21 Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Naw Ruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25 Monday</strong></td>
<td>Hola Mohalla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28 Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Khordad Sal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>Laylat al Miraj</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Friday</td>
<td><strong>Qingming Festival</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Founding of the Church</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>Mahavir Jayanti</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Baisakhi/Vaisakhi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Thursday</td>
<td><strong>Maundy Thursday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Friday</td>
<td><strong>Theravadin New Year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Friday</td>
<td><strong>Good Friday/Holy Friday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Easter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>First Day of Ridvan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Lailat al Bara’ah</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Grounation Day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Easter/Pasca</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Monday</td>
<td><strong>Ninth Day of Ridvan</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 WEDNESDAY
Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

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

2 THURSDAY
Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha’i
Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Baha’i faith

National Day of Prayer | Interfaith
U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

5 SUNDAY
Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian
Confucian memorial ceremony to honor the kings and queens of the Yi, or Joseon, Dynasty

6 MONDAY
Ramadan begins | Muslim (until 6/4/19)
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an

9 THURSDAY
Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientology
Observance of the publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health in 1950 which was the forerunner of Scientology

13 MONDAY
World Falun Dafa / Falun Gong Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

18 SATURDAY
Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist
Celebration of 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
Holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavout

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 I Muslim (until 6/7/19)
Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

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

9 SUNDAY
Pentecost I Christian, Orthodox
Christian
Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

Race Unity Day I Baha’i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

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

16 SUNDAY
Guru Arjan Martyrdom I Sikh
Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith’s tradition

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

19 WEDNESDAY
New Church Day I
Swedenborgian Christian
Annual commemoration of the vision document “The True Christian Religion,” in 1770

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

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

23 SUNDAY
All Saints Day I Christian, Orthodox
Christian
Celebrating the memory of all saints

28 FRIDAY
Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus I Catholic
Christian
Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity

Image credit: Wikimedia
ABOUT DAP

Diversity Awareness Partnership is a catalyst to increase awareness, facilitate engagement and provide education about diversity and inclusion. DAP achieves this through these engagement opportunities:

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Diversity & Inclusion education and training is delivered through presentations, workshops, seminars, community forums and roundtables. D&I trainings raise awareness around the importance of diversity and inclusion among employees by exposing challenges, facilitating dialogue, and providing tangible resources needed to create a more inclusive workplace.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
We offer youth diversity programs for students in K-12:
• Give Respect, Get Respect Program
• EXPLORE Career Immersion Program
• Diverse-City Art Competition

AWARENESS INITIATIVES
Diversity Awareness Partnership provides educational publications addressing a variety of diversity topics. Through the use of digital media and print publications, the message of appreciating and understanding differences is promoted in organizations, schools, corporations and throughout the community.

DAP CONNECT
DAP Connect brings together people interested in diversifying and expanding their professional and social networks.

Call (314) 246-3146 or visit www.dapstl.org for more information.
Diversity Awareness Partnership is a catalyst to increase awareness, facilitate engagement and provide education about diversity and inclusion.

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