

2019 - 2020

18-Month

Interfaith Calendar



18-MONTH INTERFAITH CALENDAR

To foster and support inclusive communities, Diversity Awareness Partnership is pleased to present the 2019-2020 18-Month Interfaith Calendar. This publication is a handy guide to observances celebrated across 25 religious traditions in the St. Louis region. When planning your organization's schedule, refer to our Interfaith Calendar to honor the holidays your friends, neighbors, and colleagues celebrate.

CONSIDERATIONS

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

FOOD

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

HOURS

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

TIME OFF

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

DEADLINES/WORK FLOW

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

PRAYER

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

ATTIRE

For some religions, dress is part of an outward and ongoing commitment to that faith tradition. Make sure that your organization's attire policy is communicated clearly to employees.

ONLINE RESOURCE

Interfaith Calendar of primary sacred times for world religions: www.interfaith-calendar.org

NOTES

This calendar strives to be as inclusive as possible. However, we are always open to adding more holidays and more religions. Please contact us directly if there's something you'd like us to consider adding for next year's calendar.

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

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

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

COLOR KEY

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

JANUARY 2019

1 Tuesday

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian

Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

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

5 Saturday

Twelfth Night | Christian

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

The Birth of the Tenth Sikh Master | Sikh

Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

6 Sunday

Epiphany/Three Kings' Day | Christian

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

7 Monday

Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian

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

13 Sunday

Maghi | Sikh

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

14 Monday

Makar Sankranti | Hindu

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

Seijin no Hi | Shinto

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

17 Thursday

Feast of St. Anthony the Abbot/ Blessing of the Animals | Hispanic Catholic

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

18 Friday

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian (until 1/25/19)

Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 Saturday

Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

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

20 Sunday

World Religion Day | Baha'i

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

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

Celebration of the coming of spring

21 Monday

Mahayana New Year | Buddhist (until 1/23/19)

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

25 Friday

Conversion of St. Paul | Christian

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

A Primer on Important Terms

Ecumenical: Including or representing multiple denominations within Christianity. Relevant this month because of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, traditionally observed in St. Louis with a prayer service coordinated by Catholic and multiple Protestant groups.

Interfaith: Including or representing multiple faiths or religions.

Religious diversity: A characteristic of a group of people wherein a large number of religious identities are included compared to the group size.

Religious inclusivity: Intentional efforts to include those who would otherwise be excluded based on their religion (or lack thereof).

World religions: One of the most common ways that we describe the many systems of religious belief that are practiced around the world. There are an estimated 4,200 religions in the world. This month, the Baha'i faith hosts World Religion Day, dedicated to illuminating the universal principles among the world's religions.

FEBRUARY 2019

1 Friday

Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan

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

2 Saturday

Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian

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

3 Sunday

Setsubun-sai | Shinto

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

Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith

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

5 Tuesday

Lunar New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist

New Year's celebration marking the start of the Lunar New Year; begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

Vasant Panchami | Hindu

Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

12 Tuesday

Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian

Time period leading up to Lent

14 Thursday

National Founding Day, United States | Scientology

Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954

St. Valentine's Day | Christian

Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

15 Friday

Nirvana Day | Buddhist

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

19 Tuesday

Spring Lantern Festival | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist

Marks the final day of the Lunar New Year celebrations

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

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

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

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

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

MARCH 2019

2 Saturday

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

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

4 Monday

Maha Shivaratri | Hindu

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

5 Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

6 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday | Christian

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

10 Sunday

Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian

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

11 Monday

Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian

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

13 Wednesday

L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday | Scientology

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

17 Sunday

St. Patrick's Day | Christian

Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

Ta'anit Esther | Jewish

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

Purim | Jewish (until 3/21/19)

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

Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan

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

21 Thursday

Naw Ruz (Norooz) | Baha'i, Zoroastrian

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

Holi | Hindu

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

Hola Mohalla | Sikh

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

Magha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

25 Monday

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian

Feast day commemorating the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus

28 Thursday

Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian

Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

APRIL 2019

2 Tuesday

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

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

5 Friday

Qingming Festival | Taoist, Confucian

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

6 Saturday

Founding of the Church | Mormon

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

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

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

9 Tuesday

Mahavir Jayanti | Jain

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

14 Sunday

Baisakhi/Vaisakhi | Sikh, Hindu

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

Palm Sunday | Christian

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

Rama Navami | Hindu

Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

18 Thursday

Maundy Thursday | Christian

Remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples

19 Friday

Theravada New Year | Buddhist (until 4/21/19)

Buddhist New Year

Good Friday/Holy Friday |

Christian, Orthodox Christian

Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

Passover/Pesach | Jewish (until 4/27)

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

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu

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

20 Saturday

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

21 Sunday

Easter | Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

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

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

Lailat al Bara'ah | Muslim

Also known as the Night of Records and the Night of Forgiveness, commemorating when God descends from heaven and forgives the people of their sins

Grounation Day | Rastafarian

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

28 Sunday

Easter/Pasca | Orthodox Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

29 Monday

Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

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

MAY 2019

1 Wednesday

Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan

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

Yom HaShoah | Jewish

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

2 Thursday

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

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

National Day of Prayer | Interfaith

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

5 Sunday

Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian

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

6 Monday

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

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

9 Thursday

Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientology

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

13 Monday

World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day | Buddhist

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

18 Saturday

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist

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

21 Tuesday

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | Interfaith

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

22 Wednesday

Lag Ba'Omer | Jewish

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

24 Friday

Declaration of the Bab | Baha'i

Celebration of the Bab, Ali Muhammad's announcement in 1844 that he was the "gate" to the coming of the promised one of all religions

25 Saturday

African Liberation Day | Pan-African

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

29 Wednesday

Ascension of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i

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

30 Thursday

Ascension of Jesus | Christian

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

31 Friday

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

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

JUNE 2019

5 Wednesday

Eid al Fitr | Muslim (until 6/7/19)

Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

6 Thursday

Ascension Day | Orthodox Christian

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

7 Friday

Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist

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

9 Sunday

Pentecost | Christian, Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

Race Unity Day | Baha'i

Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

Shavuot | Jewish (until 6/10/19)

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

16 Sunday

Guru Arjan Martyrdom | Sikh

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

Trinity Sunday | Christian

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

19 Wednesday

New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christian

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

20 Thursday

Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian

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

21 Friday

Litha | Wiccan/Pagan

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

23 Sunday

Sunday of All Saints | Orthodox Christian

Celebrating the memory of all saints

28 Friday

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christian

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

JULY 2019

9 Tuesday

Martyrdom of the Bab | Baha'i

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

13 Saturday

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

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

16 Tuesday

Asalha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

23 Tuesday

Birth of the Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian

Birthday of the revered messianic figure among Rastafarians

24 Wednesday

Pioneer Day | Mormon

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

Travel and Visitation

For Americans, July is prime time for summer vacations, which frequently include opportunities for tourism. Both domestically and abroad, holy sites and congregations are destinations for visitors wishing to learn more about their own or other religions. The hot summer weather can often be at odds with expected dress codes at holy sites, so the following tips are offered for visitors:

- Regardless of where you visit, plan to cover your shoulders and legs. Shorts and tank tops are nearly universal no-nos for houses of worship, including Muslim, Catholic, Orthodox Christian, Jewish, and Hindu sites.
- In Muslim sites, plan to remove your shoes. If you'd be uncomfortable walking barefoot around a mosque, bring socks if you're wearing sandals over bare feet. Women should consider bringing a light scarf or pashmina to cover their heads. Though visitors are often not asked to cover their heads, honoring internal expectations of hijab can create a sense of mutual respect between visitor and host. Be mindful that men and women may have separate entrances to buildings as well as separate worship spaces.
- In Catholic and Orthodox Christian cathedrals and churches, the basic rules apply regarding knees and shoulders. Some Orthodox churches require women to cover their heads and to wear skirts (no miniskirts), and some separate men and women in the sanctuary seating. Distracting or too-tight clothing, as well as clothing with logos, are not appropriate here.
- "Except in Reform temples, all men and boys are expected to cover their heads. This is often optional at Reform services. Out of respect, even non-Jewish guests should follow the custom of the synagogue and wear a kippah. Men who have been Bar-Mitzvahed also typically put on a tallis. This is not expected of non-Jews, who may politely decline if offered one. Today, in more liberal synagogues, women sometimes also wear a kippah and tallis, but this is not obligatory." (www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/synagogue-customs-and-etiquette)
- If you are visiting someone else's house of worship, the best way to honor your hosts is to inquire about appropriate dress. This shows your good intentions and desire to show respect. Many sites will have backup head coverings and scarves to cover the shoulders for visitors.

AUGUST 2019

1 Thursday

Lammas | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the early harvest in the Northern Hemisphere

6 Tuesday

Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus | Orthodox Christian

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

10 Saturday

Transfiguration of the Lord | Orthodox Christian

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

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

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

Day of Arafat | Muslim

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

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

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

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Catholic Christian

Commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven

Dormition of the Virgin Mary | Orthodox Christian

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

Raksha Bandhan | Hindu

Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in family

17 Saturday

Chinese Ghost Festival | Taoist, Buddhist

Celebration in which the deceased are believed to visit the living

23 Friday

Marcus Garvey's Birthday | Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

29 Thursday

Krishna Janmashtami | Hindu

Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

Beheading of St. John the Baptist | Christian

Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist

Festival of Nations, August 24-25

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2019

1 Sunday

Religious year begins | Orthodox Christian

Start of the religious calendar year

2 Monday

Hijri-New Year | Muslim

Marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year

3 Tuesday

Ganesh Chaturthi | Hindu

Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence, and success

8 Sunday

Paryushana Parva | Jain

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

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus

9 Monday

Auditor's Day | Scientology

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

12 Thursday

Ashura | Muslim

Optional one-day fast marking the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali (Shi'a Islam) and marking the day that Moses fasted in gratitude for liberation of the Israelites (Sunni Islam)

23 Monday

Ethiopian New Year's Day | Rastafarian

First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

27 Friday

Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan

Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

28 Saturday

Meskel | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

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

30 Monday

Confucius' Birthday | Confucian

Observance of the birth of Confucius

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish

Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance

September Interfaith Concert

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

OCTOBER 2019

4 Friday

Navratri | Hindu

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

7 Monday

St. Francis Day/Blessing of the Animals | Catholic Christian

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

8 Tuesday

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

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

Dussehra/Durga Puja | Hindu

Commemoration of the last of the days of judgement

9 Wednesday

Birthday of Guru Ram Das | Sikh

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

Sukkot | Jewish

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

14 Monday

Founding of the International Association of Scientologists | Scientology

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

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

Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year

19 Saturday

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

Commemoration of the last of the annual readings of the Torah

20 Sunday

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

Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

21 Monday

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

Day to celebrate the reading of the Law

22 Tuesday

Guru Granth Sahib Installation | Sikh

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

27 Sunday

Diwali | Sikh, Jain, Hindu

The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year

28 Monday

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

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

Vikram New Year | Hindu

Beginning of the Hindu year

Jain New Year | Jain

Beginning of the Jain year

31 Thursday

All Hallow's Eve | Christian

Praying and fasting prior to the feast of All Saint's Day

Reformation Day | Protestant Christian

Anniversary of the tradition of Protestantism, marked by Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany

Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan (until 11/1/19)

Celebration of endings and beginnings

NOVEMBER 2019

1 Friday

All Saints Day | Christian

Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

2 Saturday

All Souls Day | Catholic Christian

Commemoration of the souls of Christians who have died

Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian

Celebration of the coronation of the messianic figure of the Rastafari movement

10 Sunday

Mawlid an Nabi | Muslim

Celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday

12 Tuesday

Birth of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i

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

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's birthday | Sikh

Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

16 Saturday

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

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

International Day for Tolerance | Interfaith

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

24 Sunday

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikh

Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Christ the King Sunday | Christian

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

26 Tuesday

Day of the Covenant | Baha'i

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

28 Thursday

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha | Baha'i

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

Thanksgiving | Interfaith

Celebration of the harvest and community

Interfaith Thanksgiving Blessing

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

DECEMBER 2019

1 Sunday

Advent | Christian (until 12/24/19)

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

6 Friday

St. Nicholas Day | Christian

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

8 Sunday

Bodhi Day | Buddhist

Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha

Immaculate Conception of Mary | Catholic Christian

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

12 Thursday

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe | Catholic Christian

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

16 Monday

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

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

21 Saturday

Yule | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the Winter Solstice

22 Sunday

Hanukkah | Jewish (until 12/30/19)

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

24 Tuesday

Christmas Eve | Christian

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

25 Wednesday

Christmas | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Feast of the Nativity | Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the Nativity in the flesh of Jesus Christ

26 Thursday

Zarathosht Disco | Zoroastrian

Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra

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

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

28 Saturday

Holy Innocents | Christian

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

29 Sunday

Holy Family's Day | Catholic Christian

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

31 Tuesday

Watch Night | Christian

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

Freedom Day | Scientology

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

JANUARY 2020

1 Wednesday

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian

Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

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

5 Sunday

Twelfth Night | Christian

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

The Birth of the Tenth Sikh Master | Sikh

Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

6 Monday

Epiphany/Three Kings Day | Christian

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

7 Tuesday

Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

8 Wednesday

Mahayana New Year | Buddhist

Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

12 Sunday

Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian

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

13 Monday

Maghi | Sikh

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

Seijin no Hi | Shinto

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

15 Wednesday

Makar Sankranti | Hindu

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

17 Friday

Feast of St. Anthony the Abbot/ Blessing of the Animals | Hispanic Catholic

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

18 Saturday

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian (until 1/25/20)

Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19 Sunday

World Religion Day | Baha'i

Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

20 Monday

Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

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

25 Saturday

Conversion of St. Paul | Christian

Honoring the conversion of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus

Lunar New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist

New Year's celebration marking the start of the lunar new year; begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

29 Wednesday

Vasant Panchami | Hindu

Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

FEBRUARY 2020

1 Saturday

Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan

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

2 Sunday

Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian

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

Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith

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

3 Monday

Setsubun-sai | Shinto

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

9 Sunday

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

Celebration of the coming of spring

Magha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

10 Monday

Spring Lantern Festival | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist

Marks the final day of the Lunar New Year celebrations

12 Wednesday

Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian

Time period leading up to Lent

14 Friday

Race Relations Day | Christian

Day recognizing the importance of interracial relations and learning

St. Valentine's Day | Christian

Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection

15 Saturday

Nirvana Day | Buddhist

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

18 Tuesday

National Founding Day United States | Scientology

Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954

19 Wednesday

Magha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

22 Saturday

Maha Shivaratri | Hindu

Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

25 Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian

Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

26 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday | Christian

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

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

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

29 Saturday

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

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

MARCH 2020

2 Monday

Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian

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

8 Sunday

Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian

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

9 Monday

Ta'anit Esther | Jewish

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

Purim | Jewish (until 3/10/20)

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

Holi | Hindu (until 3/10/20)

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

10 Tuesday

Hola Mohalla | Sikh

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

13 Friday

L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday | Scientology

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

17 Tuesday

St. Patrick's Day | Christian

Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

19 Thursday

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness

Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

20 Friday

Ostara | Wiccan/Pagan

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

Naw Ruz (Norooz) | Baha'i, Zoroastrian

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

25 Wednesday

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christian

Feast day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, the son of God

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

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

28 Saturday

Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian

Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

APRIL 2020

2 Thursday

Rama Navami | Hindu

Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

3 Friday

Laylat al Miraj | Muslim

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

4 Saturday

Qingming Festival | Taoist, Confucian

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

5 Sunday

Palm Sunday | Christian

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

6 Monday

Founding of the Church | Mormon

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

7 Tuesday

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness

Memorial commemoration of Christ's death

8 Wednesday

Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu

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

9 Thursday

Maundy Thursday | Christian

Remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples

Mahavir Jayanti | Jain

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

Theravadin New Year | Buddhist (until 4/11/20)

Buddhist New Year

Passover/Pesach | Jewish (until 4/15/20)

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

10 Friday

Good Friday/Holy Friday | Christian, Orthodox Christian

Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

11 Saturday

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian

Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

12 Sunday

Easter | Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

14 Tuesday

Baisakhi/Vaisakhi | Sikh, Hindu

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

19 Sunday

Easter/Pasca | Christian, Orthodox Christian

Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

First Day of Ridvan | Baha'i (ends 5/1/20)

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

20 Monday

Yom HaShoah | Jewish (ends 4/21/20)

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

21 Tuesday

Laylat al Bara'ah | Muslim

Also known as the Night of Records and the Night of Forgiveness, commemorating when God descends from heaven and forgives the people of their sins

Grounation Day | Rastafarian

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

23 Friday

Ramadan Begins | Muslim (until 5/23/20)

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

28 Tuesday

Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

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

MAY 2020

1 Friday

Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan

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

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

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

3 Sunday

Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian

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

7 Thursday

National Day of Prayer | Interfaith

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

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist

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

9 Saturday

Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientology

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

11 Monday

Lag Ba'Omer | Jewish (until 5/12/20)

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

13 Wednesday

World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day | Buddhist

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | Interfaith

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

19 Tuesday

Laylat al Qadr | Muslim (until 5/20/20)

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

22 Friday

Ascension of Jesus | Christian

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

Declaration of the Bab | Baha'i

Celebration of the Bab, Ali Muhammad's announcement in 1844 that he was the "gate" to the coming of the promised one of all religions

23 Saturday

Eid al Fitr | Muslim (until 5/24/20)

Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

25 Monday

African Liberation Day | Pan-African

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

27 Wednesday

Ascension of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i (until 5/28/20)

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

28 Thursday

Shavuot | Jewish (until 5/30/20)

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

Ascension Day | Orthodox Christian

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

31 Sunday

Pentecost | Christian, Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

JUNE 2020

7 Sunday

Trinity Sunday | Christian

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

11 Thursday

Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian

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

14 Sunday

Race Unity Day | Baha'i

Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

Sunday of All Saints | Orthodox Christian

Celebrating the memory of all saints

16 Tuesday

Guru Arjan Martyrdom | Sikh

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

19 Friday

New Church Day |

Swedenborgian Christian

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

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christian

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

21 Sunday

Litha | Wiccan/Pagan

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

25 Thursday

Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist

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

ABOUT DAP

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

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

We offer youth diversity programs for students in K-12:

- Give Respect, Get Respect Program
- EXPLORE Career Immersion Program
- Diverse-City Art Competition

AWARENESS INITIATIVES

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

DAP CONNECT

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

Call (314) 246-3146 or visit www.dapinclusive.org for more information.



MISSION

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

VISION

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

Diversity Awareness Partnership
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