2015 18-MONTH INTERFAITH CALENDAR

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

To be more accommodating, please consider the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More About [Religion/Holiday] Sources:
http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=968
http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday5.htm
**JANUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fast of Tevet 10</strong></td>
<td>Jewish Fast commemorating the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mary, Mother of God</strong></td>
<td>Catholic Christian Celebration of the mother of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feast of St. Basil</strong></td>
<td>Orthodox Christian Commemoration of St. Basil the Great, who wrote a Eucharist Liturgy that bears his name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shogatsu/Gantan-sai</strong></td>
<td>Shinto New Year’s Day celebration</td>
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<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Epiphany</strong></td>
<td>Christian Commemoration of the manifestations of the divine nature of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feast of the Theophany</strong></td>
<td>Orthodox Christian Feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orthodox Christmas</strong></td>
<td>Orthodox Christian A time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orthodox Christmas</strong></td>
<td>Orthodox Christian A time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ</td>
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<tr>
<th>11</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baptism of the Lord Jesus</strong></td>
<td>Christian Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seijin no Hi</strong></td>
<td>Shinto Holiday honoring those who have reached, or will reach, the age of twenty within the current year</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>12</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td><strong>Seijin no Hi</strong></td>
<td>Shinto Holiday honoring those who have reached, or will reach, the age of twenty within the current year</td>
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<tr>
<th>17</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blessing of the Animals</strong></td>
<td>Christian Observed as an observance focused on showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people</td>
</tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>18</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</strong></td>
<td>Christian [until 1/25] Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World Religion Day</strong></td>
<td>Baha’i Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>19</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timkat</strong></td>
<td>Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>24</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vasant Panchami</strong></td>
<td>Hindu Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>25</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conversion of St. Paul</strong></td>
<td>Christian Event in the life of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**MONDAY**

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

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

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

**TUESDAY**

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

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

**THURSDAY**

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

**MONDAY**

**Tu B’Shevat | Jewish**
Celebration of the coming of spring

**SUNDAY**

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

**SUNDAY**

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

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Song of Songs | Jewish**
Celebration of the coming of spring

**WEDNESDAY**

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

**SATURDAY**

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

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

**SUNDAY**

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

**WEDNESDAY**

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

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

**THURSDAY**

**Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian**
First day of Lent
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Orthodox Sunday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons to the church is celebrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Nineteen Day Fast</td>
<td>Baha’i [until 3/20] Fast to be observed by adult Baha’is in good health from sunrise to sundown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>Christian Celebration of Saint Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the early days of the faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday</td>
<td>Scientologist Observance day marking the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Ta’anit Esther</td>
<td>Jewish Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Purim</td>
<td>Jewish Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Rama Navami</td>
<td>Hindu Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Christian Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which begins Holy Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Ostara</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (vernal equinox)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Naw-Ruz</td>
<td>Baha’i Observance of the vernal equinox</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Nowruz</td>
<td>Zoroastrian New year</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Week of the Ramayana</td>
<td>Hindu [until 3/28] Festival celebrating Lord Rama, in which the Ram Lila is staged and the Ramayana is recited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Holi Mohalla</td>
<td>Sikh Weeklong event including mock fights, kirtan, music, poetry, and community meals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Religion/Tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mahavir Jayanti</td>
<td>Jain</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lazarus Saturday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hanuman Jayanti</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
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<td>Theravadin New Year</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pesach/Passover</td>
<td>Jewish [until 4/11]</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Founding of the Church</td>
<td>Mormon</td>
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<td>MONDAY</td>
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<td>Holy Friday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Pascha</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lord’s Evening Meal</td>
<td>Jehovah’s Witness Christian</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Yom HaShoah</td>
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<td>Baisakhi/Vaisakhi</td>
<td>Sikh/Hindu</td>
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**APRIL**
Learn more about diversity and inclusion in the workforce at Diversity Awareness Partnership’s Diversity Summit.

Visit dapsstl.org for more information.
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<th>Event/Note</th>
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<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Lailat al Bara’a</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>Catholic Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Sacred Heart of Jesus</td>
<td>Catholic Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Race Unity Day</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Guru Arjan Dev’s Martyrdom</td>
<td>Sikh</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Ramadan</td>
<td>Muslim (until 7/17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>New Church Day</td>
<td>Swedenborgian Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Litha</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MORE ABOUT/ JUDAISM**

Abraham is the founding father of Judaism

The covenant are the expectations Jews must adhere to

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

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

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

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

The Torah is a Hebrew word for the “law”

Some Jews observe the Jewish law of Kosher

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

Asalha Puja Day/Dharma Day | Buddhist
Sacred day that marks the Buddha’s first teaching following his enlightenment

9  THURSDAY

Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie I | Rastafarian
Birthday of the revered Messianic figure among Rastafarians

13  MONDAY

Lailat al Qadr | Muslim
Night of destiny, the first revelation of the Qur’ān to the Prophet Muhammad

18  SATURDAY

Eid al-Fitr | Muslim
[until 7/21]
Breaking of the month-long Ramadan fast and a festival of thanksgiving

23  THURSDAY

Tish’a B’’av | Jewish
Day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 BCE and 70 CE

24  FRIDAY

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

26  SUNDAY

MORE ABOUT / Dharma Day

Established when the Buddha started his teaching
Celebration of the Buddha

Reflection and gratitude for the beliefs and teachings of the religion

Dharma symbolizes the body of the Buddha’s teachings
Lammas | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the early harvest

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

Obon/Ullambana | Shinto/Buddhist [until 8/15]
Celebration of the ritual of saving the deceased from torments after death

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

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

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

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

MORE ABOUT / ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

Collective term for Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox

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

Eastern Church believes in essential goodness and is centered on dogma

Oriental Church addresses humans’ sinful tendencies and focuses on worship

Celebrate seven mysteries

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

**5 SATURDAY**

**Krishna Janmashtami** | Hindu
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

**8 TUESDAY**

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

**13 SUNDAY**

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

**14 MONDAY**

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

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

**17 THURSDAY**

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

**18 FRIDAY**

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

**23 WEDNESDAY**

**Mabon** | Wiccan/Pagan
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

**24 THURSDAY**

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

**28 MONDAY**

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

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

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**MORE ABOUT / SUKKOT**

Begins the fifth day after Yom Kippur

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

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

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

Lasts for seven days

No work is allowed on the first and second days

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

The holiday suggests building a temporary shelter, called a Sukkah
4  SUNDAY

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

**Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish**
Commemoration of the last of the Days of Judgment

5  MONDAY

**Shemini Atzeret | Jewish**
Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

6  TUESDAY

**Simchat Torah | Jewish**
Day to celebrate the reading of the Law

7  WEDNESDAY

**Founding of the International Association of Scientologists | Scientologist**
Scientologists rededicate themselves to the Aims of Scientology: a world without criminals, suffering, and war

8  THURSDAY

**Birthday of Guru Ram Das | Sikh**
Commemoration of the birth of one of the foremost 10 Gurus of Sikhism

13  TUESDAY

**Navratri | Hindu [until 10/21]**
Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessing

**Waqf al Arafa/Hajj Day | Muslim**
Observance during Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy

14  WEDNESDAY

**Al-Hijra | Muslim**
Remembrance of the migration of Muhammad and followers to Medina in 622 CE

20  TUESDAY

**Birth of the Bab | Baha’i**
Honoring of the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner to Baha’u’llah and the Baha’i faith

**Guru Granth Sahib Installation | Sikh**
Remembrance of the eternal installation of the holy books, Granth Sahib

22  THURSDAY

**Dussehra/Durga Puja | Hindu [until 10/4]**
Festival celebrating the victory of the goddess Durga over demons

23  FRIDAY

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

25  SUNDAY

**Reformation Day | Protestant Christian**
Anniversary of the tradition and its emphasis on the place of the Bible and religious freedom

28  WEDNESDAY

**Milvian Bridge Day | Christian**
Day of solemn reflection on the relationship of the spiritual community and the powers of civil government

31  SATURDAY

**All Hallow’s Eve | Christian**
Celebration combining prayers and merriment involving children and families

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

Visit dapstl.org for more information.
SUNDAY

All Saints’ Day | Christian
Day for honoring saints
Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of endings and beginnings

MONDAY

All Souls’ Day | Catholic
Christian
Commemoration of the faithful departed
Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I | Rastafarian
Celebration of the coronation of the Messianic figure of Rastafarianism

WEDNESDAY

Diwali | Hindu, Jain
Celebration marking the end of the Hindu year
Guru Nanak Dev Sahib’s Birthday | Sikh
Honoring of the birth of the founder

THURSDAY

Birth of Baha’u’llah | Baha’i
Celebration of the birth of the founder
Jain New Year | Jain

THURSDAY

Thanksgiving | Interfaith
Celebration of the created Earth and community
Day of the Covenant | Baha’i
Celebration of the last will and testament of Baha’u’llah

SATURDAY

Ascension of Abdu’l-Baha | Baha’i
Celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu’l-Baha to the heavenly dwelling
Advent Sunday | Christian
Time of preparation for observing the birth of Jesus Christ and for anticipating His return to Earth

MORE ABOUT / JEHOVAH’S WITNESS

Founded in collaboration with the International Bible Students’ Association, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society
Belief that Jesus Christ was God’s first creation
Belief that 144,000 believers will rule in Heaven
High religious expectations, such as prohibition of blood transfusions and participating in nationalism are prohibited
Produce a magazine called The Watchtower
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Day</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the birth of Saint Nicholas, patron saint of children and role model for gift giving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Hanukkah</td>
<td>Jewish [until 12/14]</td>
<td>Festival of Lights commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Bodhi Day</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>Celebration of the Enlightenment of the Buddha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Honoring of a legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Yule</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
<td>Celebration of the Winter Solstice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Fast of Tevet 10</td>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>Fast commemorating the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Zarathosht Diso</td>
<td>Zoroastrian</td>
<td>Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Holy Innocents</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the attempt to destroy Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Freedom Day</td>
<td>Scientologist</td>
<td>Day celebrating the official recognition of the Church of Scientology in the United States in 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Watch Night</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MORE ABOUT / FEAST OF OUR LADY GUADALUPE**

Accounts state during the time missionaries came to Mexico to convert the native people to Catholicism, Lady Guadalupe came to Juan Diego in a dream and asked him to build a Catholic Church in her honor. In order to authenticate her identity, Juan Diego asked for a miracle. She in turn healed his uncle. In the next year, thousands of Mexicans were converted to Catholicism. Lady Guadalupe represents understanding and faith. Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe is celebrated globally, but has a strong following in Mexico. The festival begins at sundown with conchero dancers at the Church. The feast is a very happy day and includes food, drinks and dancing.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Mary, Mother of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Maghi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Seijin no Hi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Orthodox Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Twelfth Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Epiphany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Feast of the Theophany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Baptism of the Lord Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Conversion of St. Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Shogatsu/Gantan-sai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Makar Sankranti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Tu B’Shvat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>World Religion Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Timkat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Mahayana New Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**FEBRUARY 2016**

**1 MONDAY**

**Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian**
First day of Lent

**2 TUESDAY**

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

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

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

**3 WEDNESDAY**

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

**9 TUESDAY**

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

**10 WEDNESDAY**

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

**12 FRIDAY**

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

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

**13 SATURDAY**

**14 SUNDAY**

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

**15 MONDAY**

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

**18 THURSDAY**

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

**26 FRIDAY**

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

**1 MONDAY**

**Chinese New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist**
 Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Nineteen Day Fast</td>
<td>Baha'i</td>
<td>(until 3/20) Fast to be observed by adult Baha’is in good health from sunrise to sundown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Meatfare Sunday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Observance preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Maha Shivaratri</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess, Parvati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of Saint Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the early days of the faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday</td>
<td>Scientologist</td>
<td>Obsiance day marking the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Ostara</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
<td>Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which begins Holy Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Orthodox Sunday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons to the church is celebrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Naw-Ruz</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
<td>Observance of the Vernal Equinox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Nowruz</td>
<td>Zoroastrian</td>
<td>New year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Ostara</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
<td>Welcoming of spring and celebration of the goddess-as-maiden (Vernal Equinox)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Orthodox Sunday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons to the church is celebrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Khordad Sal</td>
<td>Zoroastrian</td>
<td>Remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathustra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Holy day that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from His death by crucifixion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Religious Group</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of Gabriel’s announcement to the Virgin Mary of the coming birth of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Founding of the Church</td>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>Commemoration of the appearance of the angel, Moroni, in 1830 to Joseph Smith; subsequently, the founding of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Week of the Ramayana</td>
<td>Hindu [until 4/15]</td>
<td>Festival celebrating Lord Rama, in which the Ram Lila is staged and the Ramayana is recited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Baisakhi/Vaisakhi</td>
<td>Sikh/Hindu</td>
<td>Festival commemorating the establishment of the Khalsa, or the nation of Sikhs. Hindu beginning of the New Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Rama Navami</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Mahavir Jayanti</td>
<td>Jain</td>
<td>Festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder’s birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>First Day of Ridvan</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
<td>Commemoration of the twelve-day period in 1863 when Baha’u’llah declared that he was God’s messenger for this age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Hanuman Jayanti</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless works are encouraged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Lazarus Saturday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus; revealing that Jesus is “the resurrection and life” of all mankind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Ninth Day of Ridvan</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Pesach/Passover</td>
<td>Jewish [until 4/30]</td>
<td>8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUNDAY

Learn more about diversity and inclusion in the workforce at Diversity Awareness Partnership’s Diversity Summit. Visit dapstl.org for more information.

1  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  Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha’i

5  National Day of Prayer | Interfaith
United States day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

Pascha | Orthodox
Christian
Holy day that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from His death by crucifixion

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha’i

THURSDAY

National Day of Prayer | Interfaith
United States day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

Yom HaShoah | Jewish
Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis

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

Lailat al Miraj | Muslim
Observance of Muhammad’s night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

21  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

22  Trinity Sunday | Christian
Day to honor the belief in one God with a threefold nature

23  Declaration of the Bab | Baha’i
Recognition of the declaration by Ali Muhammad that he is the anticipated “Coming One” of all religions

26  Corpus Christi | Catholic
Celebration in recognition of the Eucharist

29  Ascension of Baha’u’llah | Baha’i
Recollection of the death of Baha’u’llah, the founder

FRIDAY

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

Lailat al Bara‘a | Muslim
Night of forgiveness
**JUNE 2016**

### Sunday, June 5th

**Race Unity Day** | **Baha’i**
---
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

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

### Friday, June 10th

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

### Monday, June 13th

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

### Sunday, June 19th

**New Church Day** | **Swedenborgian Christian**
---
Annual commemoration of the vision document, “The True Christian Religion,” in 1770

### Friday, June 24th

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

### Monday, June 27th

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

---

**More About Hinduism**

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

Believe in the triad of gods

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

Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth, love, and beauty

Hinduism observes thousands of gods and has no standard practice

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

Some Hindus center their worship on one god or goddess

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

Believe in karma, cause and effect is connected to the rebirth process; in order to achieve a positive rebirth, it is critical to achieve good karma
Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion around issues of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age, and gender identity. DAP achieves its mission through three pillars of impact: education and training, youth engagement, and awareness initiatives. For more information on becoming a partner, participating in our programs, requesting publications, or supporting our efforts, call (314) 246-3146 or visit DAPSTL.ORG.

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

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

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

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

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

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

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS & PUBLICATIONS
Diversity Publications include the Interfaith Calendar, Diversity Sports Poster Series, and We’re All Alike, We’re All Different Disability Toolkit.
Interested in ordering calendars for your home, office, place of worship, or school?
Request more at dapstl.org today.

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