

2011

CALENDAR OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES



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2011

JANUARY

1	Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
	Feast of St. Basil - Orthodox Christian
	Shogatsu—Gantan-sai (New Years) - Shinto
	Temple Day - Buddhist
5	Twelfth Night - Christian
	Guru Gobindh Singh Birthday - Sikh
6	Epiphany - Christian
	Feast of the Theophany - Orthodox Christian
	Dia de los Reyes - Hispanic Christian
7	Nativity of Christ - Orthodox Christian
9	Feast of Baptism of the Lord Jesus - Christian
14	Makar Sakranti - Hindu
16	World Religion Day - Baha'i
17	Blessing of the Animals - Hispanic Christian
18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Christian
19	Tu B'shvat - Jewish
19-21	Mahayana New Year - Buddhist
25	Conversion of Saint Paul - Christian

FEBRUARY

2	Candlemas - Christian
	Imbolc - Wicca
3	Setsban-sai - Shinto
	Chinese New Year - Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist
6	Four Chaplains Sunday - Interfaith
	Triodion Begins - Orthodox
8	Vasant Pancham - Hindu
14	St. Valentine's Day - Christian
	Mawlid an Nabi - Islam
15	Nirvana Day - Buddhist, Jainism
26-March 1	Intercalary Days - Baha'i
27	Meatfare Sunday - Orthodox Christian

MARCH

1	St. David of Wales - Christian
3	Maha Shivaratri - Hindu
6	Transfiguration Sunday - Christian
7	Great Lent - Orthodox Christian
8	Shrove Tuesday - Scientology
9	Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) - Christian
17	St. Patrick's Day - Christian
20	Equinox (Ostara/Mabon) - Wicca
21	Norouz (The New Day) - Zoroastrian/Persian
	Naw-Ruz (New Year's Day) - Baha'i
25	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Christian

APRIL

1	Maundy Thursday - Christian
4-12	Ramayana - Hindu
6	Founding of the Church - Mormon
14	Baisakhi - Sikh
16	Lazarus Saturday - Orthodox Christian
17	Palms/Passion Sunday - Christian
18	Lord's Evening Meal - Jehovah's Witness Christian
	Hunuman Jayanti - Hindu
18-21	Theravadian New Year - Buddhist
19-26	Pesach (Passover) - Jewish
21	First Day of Ridvan - Baha'i
	Maundy Thursday - Christian
22	Good (Holy) Friday - All Christian
23	Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie I - Rastafari
24	Pioneer Day - Mormon Christian
25	St. James the Great Day - Christian

MAY

1	Yom HaSho' ah - Jewish
	Beltane - Wicca
	Samhain - Wicca
2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan - Baha'i
5	National Day of Prayer - Interfaith
9	Yom Ha' Atzmaut - Jewish
17	Buddha Day - Visakha Puja – Vesak - Buddhist
22	Lag B' Omer - Jewish
23	Declaration of the Bab - Baha'i
29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i
30	Trinity Sunday - Christian

JUNE

2	Ascension of Jesus - Christian
	Ascension of Christ - Orthodox Christian
8-9	Shavot - Jewish
10	All Saints Day - Orthodox Christian
12	Pentecost - Christian
	Race Unity Day - Baha'i
16	Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom - Sikh
19	New Church Day Swedennorgin - Christian
21	First nations Day - Canadian Native People
	Summer Solstice - Wicca
28	Lailat al Miraj - Islam
29	Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul - Orthodox Christian

JULY

1	Sacred Heart of Jesus - Catholic Christian
8-9	Shavuot - Jewish Martyrdom - Baha'i
11	St. Benedict Day - Catholic Christian
13-15	Ulambana (Obon) - Shinto
15	Saint Vladimir - Christian Lailat al Bara'a - Islam Asalha Puja Day - Buddhist
23	Birthday Guru Har Krishan - Sikh
24	Pioneer Day - Mormon Christian
25	St. James the Great Day - Christian

AUGUST

1	Lammas - Christian Fast to honor Holy Mother of Jesus - Orthodox Christian Ramadan begins - Islam
6	Transfiguration of the Lord - Orthodox Christian
9	Tisha B' Av – Jewis
13	Raksha Bandhan - Hindu
13-15	Obon - Shinto
15	Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian Dormition of the Theotokos - Orthodox Christian
22	Sri Krishna Janmashtami - Hindu
26	Lailat al Kadar - Islam
30	Eid al Fitr - Islam

SEPTEMBER

1	Ecclesiastical Year begins - Orthodox Christian Ganesha Chaturthi - Hindu
2	Paryusha - Jain
8	Nativity of Mary, The mother of God - Christian
14	Elevation of the Life Giving Cross (Holy Cross) - Christian
23	Mabon (Fall Equinox) - Wicca Ostara - Wicca
27	Meskel - Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
28- Oct 5	Navaratri - Hindu
29	Michael and All Angels - Christian Rosh Hashanah - Jewish

OCTOBER

1	St. Francis Day - Catholic Christian
8	Yom Kippur - Jewish
10	Thanksgiving - Interfaith – Canada
13-19	Sukkot - Jewish
20	Birth of the Bab - Baha'i Guru Granth Sahib Installation - Sikh Shemini Atzeret - Jewish
21	Simchat Torah - Jewish
26	Diwali - Jain, Hindu, Sikh

28	Milvian Bridge Day - Christian
31	All Hallows Eve - Christian Reformation Day - Protestant Christian

NOVEMBER

1	All Saints' Day - Christian Samhain - Wicca
2	All Souls' Day - Catholic Christian
6	Eid al Adha - Islam
10	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday - Sikh
12	Birth of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i
15	Nativity Fast (through Dec. 24) - Orthodox Christian
20	Christ the King - Christian Guru Nanak Dev Sahib birthday - Sikh
24	Thanksgiving - Interfaith (USA)
26	Day of the Covenant - Baha'i
27	First Sunday of Advent - Christian
28	Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha - Baha'i
30	Saint Andrew's Day - Christian

DECEMBER

4	Second Sunday of Advent - Christian
5	Ashura - Islam
6	St. Nicholas Day - Christian
8	Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) - Buddhist
11	Immaculate Conception of Mary - Catholic Christian
12	Third Sunday of Advent - Christian
12	Our Lady of Guadalupe - Catholic Christian
18	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christian
21	Hanukkah - Jewish
22	Yule - Christian Yule/Litha - Wicca
25	Christmas - Christian
26	Zarathosht Diso - Zoroastrian Kwanzaa (through January 1) - Interfaith
28	Holy Innocents - Christian
29	Freedom Day - Scientology
30	Feast of the Holy Family - Catholic Christian
31	Watch Night - Christian

Glossary

Advent: Christian time of preparation for observing the birth and anticipating the coming again to earth of Jesus Christ.

All Hallows Eve: Christian celebration combining prayers and merriment involving children and families.

All Saints' Day: Christian day for honoring saints, known and unknown.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Christian celebration of Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary the coming birth of Jesus.

Asalha Puja Day: One of the sacred days in Buddhism. It marks the coming into existence of the Triple Gems, namely the Lord Buddha, His Teaching, and His Disciples

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha: Baha'i celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu'l-Baha to the heavenly dwelling.

Ascension of Baha'u'llah: Baha'i recollection of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder.

Ascension of Christ: Christian recognition of the departure of Jesus from earth after the resurrection.

Ash Wednesday: Christian observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent.

Ashura: An Islamic optional one-day fast recognizing the creation, Noah's departure from the Ark, and the saving of Moses from Pharaoh.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Roman Catholic Christian observance commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven.

Baisakhi (Vaisakhi): Hindu start of the New Year. In Sikhi, commemorates the founding of the Khalsa.

Beltane: Wicca celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in the sacred marriage, the basis of all creation.

Birth of the Bab: Baha'i honoring of the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner to Baha'u'llah and the Baha'i faith.

Birth of Baha'u'llah: Baha'i celebration of the birth of their founder and teacher.

Blessing of the Animals: Christian observance of showing respect for the domestic animals that mean much to people.

Bodhi Day (Rohatsu): Buddhist celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha.

Buddha Day (Visakha Puja): Holiest of Buddhist holy days, which celebrates Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death.

Candlemas: Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

Christmas: Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Corpus Christi: Roman Catholic Christian celebration in recognition of the Eucharist.

Day of the Covenant: Baha'i celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha'u'llah.

Declaration of the Bab: Baha'i recognition of the declaration by Ali Muhammed that he is the anticipated "Coming One" of all religions.

Diwali (Deepevali): Hindu celebration marking the end of the Hindu year.

Dormition (falling asleep) of the Theotokos: Orthodox Christian observance of the death, burial, resurrection and transfer to heaven of the Virgin Mary.

Dussehra: Hindu festival celebrating the victory of Goddess Durga over the Demons.

Easter: Most holy of Christian sacred days. Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.

Eid al-Adha: Islamic Feast of Sacrifice. The most important feast of Islam.

Eid al Fitr ('Id al-Fitr): A three-day Islamic fast marking the close of Ramadan and a festival of thanksgiving to Allah for enjoying the month of Ramadan.

Elevation of the Holy Cross: Celebrates when St. Helen found the Holy Cross.

Epiphany: Christian commemoration of the manifestations of the divine nature of Jesus Christ.

Feast and Commemoration of St. Luke: Celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, conducted on the morning of the feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service.

Feast of St. Basil: Orthodox Christian commemoration of St. Basil the Great, who wrote a Eucharist Liturgy which bears his name.

Feast of the Theophany: Orthodox Christian feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of the Lord.

Founding of the Church: Mormon Christian commemoration of the appearance of the angel Moroni in 1830 to Joseph Smith and the founding of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Ganesa Chaturthi: A Hindu festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence and success.

Good Friday: Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.

Guru Granth Sahib Installation: Sikh remembrance of the eternal installation of the holy books, Granth Sahib.

Guru Nanak's Day: Sikh honoring of the birthday of their founder.

Guru Purnima: Hindu celebration of the ancient Gurus.

Hanukkah: Jewish Festival of Lights commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple.

Holi: Hindu spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure.

Holy Family: Celebrates the love between the family of Jesus.

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

Imbolc: Wicca reflection on the power of the gods from which physical and spiritual harvest will come.

Immaculate Conception: Roman Catholic Christian day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life.

Intercalary Days: Baha'i insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar.

Khordad Sal: Zoroastrian remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathushtra.

Krishna Janmashtami: Hindu commemoration of the birth of Krishna.

Kwanzaa: An African American and Pan-African holiday celebrating family, community and culture.

Lailat al-Miraj: Islamic observance of Mohammed's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven.

Lailat al Bara'ah: Islamic Night of Forgiveness.

Lailat el qadr: Islamic Night of Destiny; first revelation of Qur'an to Prophet Mohammed.

Lammas: Christian first fruits celebration observed by placing bread baked from first harvest on the altar. From the Celtic Christian tradition.

Lazarus Saturday - Orthodox Christian celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus, revealing that Jesus is "the resurrection and life" of all mankind.

Lent: A Christian time of reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter; usually forty days.

Litha: Wicca celebration of the sacred marriage in which energy of the gods is poured into the service of life.

Lord's Evening Meal: Jehovah's Witness (Christian) primary annual celebration taking place in the evening.

Glossary (continued)

Lughnassad: Wicca/neo pagan observance of first harvest of the year involving agricultural festivals and prosperity magic. The Christian name of Lammas is sometimes used.

Mabon (Fall Equinox): Wicca observance of the autumnal equinox.

Magha Puja Day: Buddhist celebration of the presentation of teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.

Maghi: Sikh commemoration of a battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobindh Singh Ji.

Maha Shivaratri: A Hindu festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati. Ceremonies involving prayers and hymns take place mostly at night. Special foods are not used.

Martyrdom of the Bab: Baha'i - Ali Mohammed was executed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers.

Mawlid an-Nabi: Islamic commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam.

Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday): Christian observance during Holy Week of the first Lord's Supper.

Meat Fare (Judgment) Sunday: Orthodox Christian observance preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

Milvian Bridge Day: Christian day of solemn reflection on the relationship of the spiritual community and the powers of civil government.

Moon Cake Festival: Third major festival of the Chinese calendar is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month. This festival corresponds to harvest festival s observed by Western cultures (in Hong Kong, it is held in conjunction with the annual Lantern Festival).

Muharram: The first day of the first month of the Muslim year.
Nativity of Mary, the Mother of God: Christian celebration of the birth of the Virgin Mary.

Navaratri: Hindu Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings. Also observed as a celebration recalling the days of Lord Krishna.

Naw-Ruz: Baha'i observance of the vernal equinox.

Norooz (the New Day): The Zoroastrian New Year.

Nirvana Day: Buddhist - a regional observance of the death of Buddha.

Orthodox Sunday: Orthodox Christian first Sunday of Lent at which restoration of icons to the church is celebrated.

Ostara: Wicca welcoming of spring and the goddess-as-maiden.

Palm/Passion Sunday: Christian celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which begins Holy Week.

Paryushana: 8 day festival signifying human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement. Celebration of the natural qualities of the soul.

Pascha: Orthodox Christian feast day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pentecost: Christian observation of the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind.

Pesach (Passover): Jewish 8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

Pioneer Day: Mormon observation of arrival of first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA.

Purim: Jewish celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide.

Quds Day: Islamic time of proclaiming solidarity in support of oppressed Muslim people.

Raksha Bandhan: Hindu festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sister in a family.

Ramadan: Islamic month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an. The holiest period of the Islamic Year.

Ramanavami: Hindu celebration of the birth of Lord Rama.

Reformation Day: Protestant Christian anniversary of their tradition and its emphasis on the place of the Bible and religious freedom.

Ridvan: Baha'i commemoration of the twelve-day period in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared that he was God's messenger for this age.

Rosh Hashanah: Jewish New Year.

Sacred Heart of Jesus: Roman Catholic Christian occasion to pay homage to Christ's all encompassing love for humanity.

Samhain: Wicca celebration of endings and beginnings.

Saturday of Souls: A day set aside for commemoration of the dead within the liturgical year of the Eastern Orthodox and Greek-Catholic Churches. Saturday is a traditional day for prayer for the dead, because Christ lay dead in the Tomb on Saturday.

Setsubun: Shinto celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of "Devils out, Good Fortune in". Bean throwing protects against demons.

Shavuot: Jewish celebration of Moses descent from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments.

Shemini Azteret: Jewish completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.

Shogatsu (Gantan-sai): Shinto New Year's Day celebration.

Shrove Tuesday: Christian carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday which begins Lent, a time of fasting and devotions.

Simchat Torah: Jewish day to celebrate the reading of the Law.

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

Thanksgiving: Interfaith celebration of the created earth.

Tisha B'av: Jewish day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 b.c.e. and 70 c.e.

Transfiguration of the Lord: 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.

Triodion: Triodion is the Orthodox Christian time period leading up to Lent. The liturgy involves hymns, odes and scriptures.

Tu B'shvat: Jewish celebration of the coming of spring.

Twelfth Night: Christian observance of the close of Christmastide.

Ulambana: Buddhist celebration of the ritual of saving the deceased from torments after death.

Vasant Panchami: Hindu festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning.

Waqf al Arafa: Islamic observance day during Hajj when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy.

Watch Night: Christian occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year. Developed by the African American community in the USA at the time of Emancipation (1863).

Yom HaSho'ah: Jewish Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45.

Yom Kippur: Jewish Day of Atonement. The holiest day of the Jewish year.

Yule: Christian celebration of the light dawning in Jesus.

Zarathosht Diso: Zoroastrian anniversary of death of Prophet Zarathushtra.

Notes

- While this calendar may not be all inclusive, it highlights many religious observances in our community.
- All information in this calendar is based on information available at 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 region.
- All Baha'i, Jewish and Muslim holidays begin at sunset the previous day.
- *We encourage places of worship to be accessible to persons with disabilities by making necessary accommodations.*

The Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) promotes the value of diversity through programs and initiatives that focus on embracing acceptance. Our efforts include:

Diversity Trainings and Presentations
Give Respect, Get Respect Youth Diversity Program
Diversity Arts Program
Sports Poster Series
Disability Tool Kit
One Community, Many Faiths Publications
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Initiative
Community Forums

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