

Religious Holidays

Provided by
The President's
Committee on
Religious,
Spiritual and
Nonreligious
Diversity

2020 August

1

Lammas | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the early harvest

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

3

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

6

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

10

Waqf al Arafa/Hajj Day | Muslim
(until 8/11)
Observance during Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy

Krishna Janmashtani | Hindu
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

15

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

16

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

17

Marcus Garvey's Birthday | Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

18

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)

19

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

22

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

29

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

September

1

Religious year begins | Orthodox Christian
Start of the religious calendar year

2

Obon/Ulambana | Buddhist, Shinto
Also known as Ancestor Day, a time to relieve the suffering of ghosts by making offerings to deceased ancestors

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

8

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

11

Ethiopian New Year's Day | Rastafarian
First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

13

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

14

Exaltation of the Cross |

Orthodox Christian
Commemorated the finding of the Cross of Christ, observed as a fast day

19

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish (until

9/20)
Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance

21

Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan

Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

27

Meskel | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

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

Yom Kippur | Jewish

(until 9/28)
Also known as the Day of Atonement with central themes of atonement and repentance

28

Confucius' Birthday |

Confucian Observance of the birth of Confucius

October

2

Sukkot | Jewish

(until 10/9) Feast Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents

4

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

2

7

Founding of the International Association of Scientologists

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

8

Birthday of Guru Ram Das |

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

Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish

(until 10/09)
Commemoration of the last of the reading of the Torah

9

Shemini Atzeret | Jewish

(until 10/11)
Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

10

Simchat Torah | Jewish

(until 10/11)
Day to celebrate the reading of the Law

12

Thanksgiving- Canada |

Interfaith Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year

25

Dussehra/Durga Puja | Hindu

10th day of Navrati. Celebration of the victory of Lord Ram over demon King Ravana and Goddess Durga over buffalo-demon Mahishasur

17

Navratri | Hindu (until 10/26)

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

18

Birth of the Bab | Baha'i

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

19

Birth of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i

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

20

Guru Granth Sahib Installation | Sikh

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

28

Milvian Bridge Day | Christian

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

Mawlid an Nabi | Muslim

Celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday

31

All Hallow's Eve | Christian

Praying and fasting prior to the feast day of All Saints 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

November

1

All Saints Day | Christian

Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of endings and beginnings

2

All Souls Day | Catholic

Christian Commemoration of the souls of Christians who have died

14

Diwali | Sikh, Jain, Hindu

The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year

15

Jain New Year | Jain Beginning of the Jain year

16

International Day for

Tolerance | Interfaith

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

Vikram New Year | Hindu

Beginning of the Hindu year

22

Christ the King Sunday |

Christian

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

24

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh

Bahadur | Sikh

Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

25

Day of the Covenant | Baha'i

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

26

Thanksgiving | Interfaith

Celebration of the harvest and community

27

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha |

Baha'i

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

28

Nativity Fast Begins |

Orthodox Christian (until 1/6/20)

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

29

Advent | Christian (until 12/24)

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

30

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's

birthday | Sikh

Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

December

6

St. Nicholas Day | Christian

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

8

Immaculate Conception of

Mary |

Catholic Christian

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

Bodhi Day | Buddhist

Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha

10

Hanukkah | Jewish

(until 12/18)

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

12

Feast of Our Lady of

Guadalupe |

Catholic Christian

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

16

Posadas Navidenas | Hispanic

Christian (until 12/25/18)

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

21

Yule | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the Winter Solstice

24

Christmas Eve | Christian

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

25

Christmas /Feast of Nativity |

Christian, Orthodox Christian

(New Calendar)

Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

26

Kwanzaa | Pan-African

(until 1/1/19)

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

27

Feast of the Holy Family |

Catholic Christian

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

28

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

30

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

31

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

2021

January

1

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

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

6

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

Theophany | Orthodox Christian (New Calendar)
Commemorates the revelation of the Holy Trinity at the Baptism of Jesus by John in the River Jordan

7

Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian (Old Calendar)
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas |

Rastafarian Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

10

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

11

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

14

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

17

World Religion Day | Baha'i
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

18

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

19

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

20

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

25

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

27

Tu B'Shvat | Jewish (until 1/28)
Celebration of the coming of spring

28

Mahayana New Year | Buddhist
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

February

2

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

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

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

3

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

12

Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian
Time period leading up to Lent

Chinese 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

14

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

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

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

15

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.

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

16

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

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

17

Ash Wednesday | Christian
Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent, ashes are marked on worshippers' foreheads as a sign of repentance

25

Intercalary Days | Baha'i
(until 2/28) Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered 'days outside of time'

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

Purim | Jewish (until 2/26)
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide

26

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

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

27

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

March

2

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

11

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

Laylat al Miraj | Muslim
Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to 'the farthest mosque' in Jerusalem

13

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

17

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

20

NawRúz | Baha'i
First day of the Baha'i calendar year

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

21

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

25

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

27

Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness
Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

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

28

Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian
Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra
First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated

Holi | Hindu

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

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

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

29

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

April

1

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

2

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

4

Easter | Christian
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

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

6

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

8

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

12

Ramadan begins | Muslim
(until 5/11)
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an

13

Ramayana Week | Hindu (until 4/21)
Nine-day festival that marks the auspicious celebration of the appearance of Hindu Lord, Sri Ram

14

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

20

First Day of Ridvan | Baha’i
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

21

Grounation Day | Rastafarian
Holy day celebrated in honor of Haile Selassie’s 1966 visit to Jamaica

Rama Navami | Hindu

Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

24

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

25

Mahavir Jayanti | Jain
Celebration of the birth of Mahavira, Founder of Jainism as a religion

Palm Sunday | Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of the Great and Holy Week

27

Theravadin New Year | Buddhist
Buddhist New Year

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

28

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

29

Lag Ba'Omer | Jewish

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

30

Great and Holy Friday |

Orthodox Christian
Commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ

May

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

Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha'i

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

Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian

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

2

Holy Pasha | Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

6

National Day of Prayer |

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

8

Laylat al Qadr | Muslim

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

9

Observance of the Publication of

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

13

Ascension of Jesus | Christian

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

Eid al Fitr | Muslim

Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day | Buddhist

Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

16

Shavuot | Jewish (until 5/18)

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

21

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

23

Pentecost | Christian

Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

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

African Liberation Day | Pan-African

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

26

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day | Buddhist

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

28

Ascension of Baha'u'llah |

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

30

Trinity Sunday | Christian

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

June

3

Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian

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

10

Feast of the Ascension |

Orthodox Christian
Commemorates Jesus' ascension into heaven, 40 days after his resurrection

11

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christian

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

13

Race Unity Day | Baha'i

Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

14

Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist

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

16

Guru Arjan Martyrdom | Sikh

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

19

New Church Day |

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

20

Pentecost | Orthodox Christian

Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Apostles

24

Litha | Wiccan/Pagan

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

July

9

Martyrdom of the Bab | Baha'i

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

17

Tish'a B'av | Jewish

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

19

Eid al Adha | Muslim

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

23

Birth of the Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian

Birthday of the revered Messianic figure among Rastafarians

24

Pioneer Day | Mormon

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

Guru Purnima | Hindu

Observance to revere and celebrate their teachers. The teachers who give education and wisdom and teachers who give spiritual wealth.

Asalha Puja Day | Buddhist

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

August

1

Lammas | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the early harvest

Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus | Orthodox Christian

Beginning of the 14-day period of preparation, leading up to the Dormition of Mary

6

Transfiguration of the Lord | Orthodox Christian

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

9

Hijri-New Year | Muslim

Marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year

10

Waqf al Arafa/Hajj Day | Muslim

Muslim

(until 8/11)

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

15

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

Orthodox Christian

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

17

Marcus Garvey's Birthday | Rastafarian

Rastafarian

Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey

22

Obon/Ulambana | Buddhist, Shinto

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

Raksha Bandhan | Hindu

Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in family

29 Thursday

Beheading of St. John the Baptist | Christian

Christian

Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist

Krishna Janmashtani | Hindu
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

September

1

Religious year begins | Orthodox Christian
Start of the religious calendar year

4

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

6

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish (until 9/8)
Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance

8

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

10

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

11

Ethiopian New Year's Day | Rastafarian
First day of the new year for the Ethiopian calendar

12

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

14

Exaltation of the Cross | Orthodox Christian
Commemorated the finding of the Cross of Christ, observed as a fast day

15

Yom Kippur | Jewish (until 9/16)
Also known as the Day of Atonement with central themes of atonement and repentance

18

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)

20

Sukkot | Jewish (until 9/27)
Feast Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents

21

Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

22

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

26

Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish (until 9/27)
Commemoration of the last of the reading of the Torah

27

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

Shemini Atzeret | Jewish (until 9/29)

Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah

28

Confucius' Birthday | Confucian
Observance of the birth of Confucius

Simchat Torah | Jewish (until 9/29)

Day to celebrate the reading of the Law

October

4

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

6

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

Navratri | Hindu (until 10/15)

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

7

Founding of the International Association of Scientologists | Scientology

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

8

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

11

Thanksgiving- Canada |

Interfaith Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year

18

Mawlid an Nabi | Muslim

Celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday

25

Dussehra/Durga Puja | Hindu

10th day of Navrati. Celebration of the victory of Lord Ram over demon King Ravana and Goddess Durga over buffalo-demon Mahishasur

28

Milvian Bridge Day | Christian

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

31

All Hallow's Eve | Christian

Praying and fasting prior to the feast day of All Saints 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

November

1

All Saints Day | Christian

Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of endings and beginnings

2

All Souls Day | Catholic

Christian Commemoration of the souls of Christians who have died

4

Diwali | Sikh, Jain, Hindu

The Festival of Lights marking the end of the Hindu year

5

Vikram New Year | Hindu

Beginning of the Hindu year

Jain New Year | Jain Beginning of the Jain year

7

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 the founder of the Baha'i faith

16

International Day for Tolerance | Interfaith

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

19

Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's birthday | Sikh

Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

20

Guru Granth Sahib Installation | Sikh

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

21

Christ the King Sunday | Christian

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

21

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikh

Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

25

Thanksgiving | Interfaith

Celebration of the harvest and community

Day of the Covenant | Baha'i

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

27

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha | Baha'i

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

28

Nativity Fast Begins | Orthodox Christian

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

Advent | Christian (until 12/24)

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

Hanukkah | Jewish (until 12/6)

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

December

6

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

8

Immaculate Conception of Mary |
Catholic Christian
Celebrates the belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Bodhi Day | Buddhist
Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha

12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe |
Catholic Christian
Honoring of legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531

16

Posadas Navidenas | Hispanic Christian
Nine-day religious observance during which families participate in nightly Christmas processions that re-create the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus on their way to Bethlehem

21

Yule | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the Winter Solstice

24

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

25

Christmas /Feast of Nativity |
Christian, Orthodox Christian (New Calendar)
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

26

Kwanzaa | Pan-African (until 1/1/19)
Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture among people of African descent

Feast of the Holy Family |
Catholic Christian
Celebration honoring Jesus, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph as a family

28

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

30

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

31 Tuesday

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