



**Interfaith Partnership**  
of Greater St. Louis

**The greater St. Louis area is lucky to have a wide variety of religious experiences.**

Knowing the dates of major religious holidays is a simple but powerful way to learn more about the observances of our religiously diverse neighbors. Recognizing each other as neighbors is how we begin to build bridges, strengthen connections, and work toward a more inclusive St. Louis where we all feel safe and supported practicing our beliefs.

Members of the Cabinet and Board of Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis assisted with reviewing the holidays included in this 2023 calendar.

Here you'll find dates and descriptions of major religious holidays for the Bahá'í Faith, Buddhism, Christian Science, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Orthodox Christianity, Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism, and Sikhism. Brief descriptions of each holiday are also included.

Many communities begin observances at sundown, which are noted. Lunar holidays may vary based on sighting the new moon.



## **JANUARY**

- January 5**                    **PARKASH UTSAV DASVEH PATSHAH** • Sikhism  
Commemorates the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru
- January 6**                    **EPIPHANY** • Christianity  
Ends the Christmas season; celebrates the journey of the Magi (three kings) to Bethlehem.
- January 6**                    **THEOPHANY** • Orthodox Christianity  
Also known as the Feast of Epiphany, Theophany commemorates the Baptism of Jesus by his cousin St. John the Baptist and the manifestation of the Holy Trinity.
- January 7**                    **MAHAYANA NEW YEAR** • Buddhism
- January 7**                    **ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS DAY** • Orthodox Christianity  
Also known as the Feast of Epiphany, Theophany commemorates the Baptism of Jesus by his cousin St. John the Baptist and the manifestation of the Holy Trinity.
- January 14**                   **MAKAR SANKRANTI** • Hinduism  
Celebration of the sun, often commemorated with kites and bonfires.
- January 22**                   **LUNAR NEW YEAR** • Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism  
Important in Buddhist, Daoist, and Confucian traditions, the Lunar/Chinese New Year celebrates the beginning of the Chinese Calendar.
- January 26**                   **VASANT PANCHAMI** • Hinduism  
Festival marking the beginning of spring.



## **FEBRUARY**

- February 2**      **THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST** • Orthodox Christianity  
Celebrated by Orthodox Christians (and by Roman Catholics and Protestants as "The Purification of the Holy Virgin"), this feast commemorates Jesus' presentation in the Temple as a baby.
- February 5**      **TU B'SHVAT** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
New Year's Day for trees; Jewish celebration of Environmental awareness.
- February 15**      **NIRVANA DAY** • Buddhism  
Celebrates when the Buddha passed away, thereby achieving complete Nirvana. *Sometimes Celebrated Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.*
- February 18**      **SHIVA RATRI/ MAHASHIVARATRI** • Hinduism  
Festival of the god Shiva.
- February 18**      **LAILAT AL-MIRAJ** *begins at sundown* • Islam  
Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension into heaven.
- February 21**      **SHROVE TUESDAY/ MARDI GRAS** • Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox Christianity  
Last feast day before the beginning of Lent.
- February 22**      **ASH WEDNESDAY** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity  
Marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of fasting leading up to Easter. Many Christians wear the sign of the cross in ashes on their forehead.
- February 25**      **AYYÁM-I-HA** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
The "intercalary days" leading up to the last month of the Bahá'í year, marked by spiritual preparation for a month of fasting and celebration.
- February 27**      **CLEAN MONDAY** • Orthodox Christianity  
The beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches.



## **MARCH**

- March 1**                    **BEGINNING OF THE BAHÁ'Í FAST** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
During Alá, the last month in the Bahá'í calendar, Bahá'ís take up a daily fast from sunrise to sunset.
- March 6**                    **SANGHA DAY (MAGHA PUJA)** • Buddhism (Theraveda)  
Spontaneous assembly of the Buddha's followers and the continued sangha, or Buddhist community.
- March 6**                    **HOLI** • Hinduism  
Festival of spring, colors, and love.
- March 6**                    **PURIM** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
Purim, or the "Feast of Lots," celebrates the escape of the Jews from a violent plot in ancient Persia.
- March 7**                    **HOLA MOHALLA** • Sikhism  
Spring festival that includes displays of martial skills, music, and poetry.
- March 20**                   **NAW-RÚZ** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
Ancient Iranian festival celebrating the beginning of spring and the new year.
- March 22**                   **RAMADAN** *begins at sundown* • Islam  
Month of daily fasting commemorating the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims end the fast each day of Ramadan with an iftar dinner at sunset, often with family and friends. *During Ramadan, you can wish Muslims "Ramadan Mubarak," or a blessed Ramadan.*
- March 25**                   **THE ANNUNCIATION** • Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christianity  
In Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Christianity, commemorates the Angel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary that she would become pregnant with Jesus through the power of God.
- March 30**                   **RAMA NAVAMI** • Hinduism  
Celebrates the birth of Rama, an ancient Indian king and incarnation of the god Vishnu.



## **APRIL**

- April 2**                    **PALM SUNDAY** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity  
The Sunday before Easter, commemorating Jesus's entry into Jerusalem. Many churches hold processions with palm leaves.
- April 4**                    **MAHAVIR JAYANTI** • Jainism  
Celebrates the birth of Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankara (Jain sages).
- April 5**                    **PESACH (PASSOVER)** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
Passover, or the "Feast of Unleavened Bread," celebrates the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt more than 3,000 years ago. Celebrated with a seder dinner. Jews abstain from leavened bread during Passover, instead eating matzah. *Simple greetings on Passover can be "Happy Passover," or "Happy Pesach."* Ends April 12 or April 13.
- April 6**                    **THERVADA NEW YEAR** • Buddhism (Theravada)
- April 6**                    **MAUNDY THURSDAY** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity  
Commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus and the Apostles.
- April 7**                    **GOOD FRIDAY** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity  
Commemorates Jesus's crucifixion.
- April 8**                    **FLOWER FESTIVAL** • Buddhism (Mahayana)  
In the Mahayana Buddhist tradition, the Flower Festival celebrates the Buddha's Birthday.
- April 9**                    **EASTER** • Roman Catholic & Protestant, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Most important Christian holiday; celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- April 9**                    **ORTHODOX PALM SUNDAY** • Orthodox Christianity
- April 14**                   **VAISAKHI** • Sikhism  
Celebrates the founding of the Sikh community. Vaisakhi is also celebrated as a harvest festival by most non-Sikhs from the Punjab region of India. *You can wish Sikhs a "Happy Vaisakhi."*
- April 16**                   **PASCHA/ ORTHODOX EASTER** • Orthodox Christianity
- April 17**                   **LAILAT AL-QADR** *begins at sundown* • Islam  
The "Night of Power" commemorates the night when the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Celebration date varies between Sunni and Shia Muslims.



- April 20**                    **FIRST DAY OF RIDVÁN** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
Ridván commemorates the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger. The first, ninth, and twelfth days are celebrated as holy days.
- April 21**                    **EID AL-FITR** *begins at sundown* • Islam  
Celebration of the end of the holy month of Ramadan; a major holiday for Muslims.  
*To wish someone a happy Eid, you can say "Eid Mubarak."*
- April 28**                    **NINTH DAY OF RIDVÁN** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith



**MAY**

- May 1**                    **TWELFTH DAY OF RIDVÁN** • Bahá'í Faith
- May 18**                    **ASCENSION DAY** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity  
Celebrates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven; 40 days after Easter.
- May 23**                    **MARTYRDOM OF GURU ARJAN DEV JI** • Sikhism  
commemorates the fifth Sikh Guru and first Sikh martyr, killed in 1606.
- May 23**                    **DECLARATION OF THE BÁB** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
Commemoration of the Báb's announcement of Himself as God's herald.
- May 25**                    **SHAVUOT** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
The "Feast of Weeks" commemorates the reception of the Torah at Mt Sinai.
- May 28**                    **ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
Commemoration of the death of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
- May 28**                    **PENTECOST** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity  
Also known as Whit Sunday, the festival celebrating the Holy Spirit's descent on Jesus's followers and the birth of the Christian Church.



## **JUNE**

- June 3**                   **VESAK (BUDDHA DAY)** • Buddhism  
Celebrates the birth, awakening, and death of the Buddha.  
*Celebration date varies based on region and sect.*
- June 4**                   **ORTHODOX HOLY PENTECOST** • Orthodox Christianity
- June 28**                 **EID AL-ADHA** *begins at sundown* • Islam  
Celebration concluding the Hajj; commemorates Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.

## **JULY**

- July 3**                   **ASALA (DHARMA DAY)** • Buddhism (Theravada)  
In Theravada Buddhism, commemorates the day the Buddha began teaching the dharma.
- July 9**                   **MARTYRDOM OF THE BÁB** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
Commemorates the execution of the Báb, the herald of the Bahá'í Faith.
- July 19**                 **AL HIJRA** *begins at sundown* • Islam  
The first day of Muharram, the month beginning the Islamic year. Recalls Muhammad and his followers' migration from Mecca to Medina. For Shia Muslims, begins the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which grieves the martyrdom of Hussein, Muhammad's grandson.
- July 26**                 **TISHA B'AV** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
Mourns the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem.
- July 28**                 **ASHURA** *begins at sundown* • Islam  
10th day of the month of Muharram; celebrates Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shia Muslims, it marks the end of the Remembrance of Muharram.

## **AUGUST**

- August 11**             **RAKSHA BANDHAN** • Hinduism  
Celebrates the loving ties between siblings.





## **SEPTEMBER**

- September 6**      **SRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI** • Hinduism  
Celebrates the birth of Krishna, an incarnation of the god Vishnu.
- September 11**      **PARYUSHANA PARVA** • Jainism  
Eight-day festival celebrating the human soul and its capacity for moral accomplishment.
- September 15**      **ROSH HASHANAH** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
The Jewish New Year, the beginning of ten days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur. *A customary greeting is shanah tovah or "happy new year!"*
- September 18**      **GANESH CHATURTHI** • Hinduism  
Celebrates the birth of Ganesh, the elephant deity.
- September 19**      **SAMVATSARI** • Jainism  
"Forgiveness Day," the last day of the Paryushana festival, is the most important holy day for Jains; on it, Jains seek forgiveness for their faults.
- September 24**      **YOM KIPPUR** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
The Day of Atonement; a very solemn day devoted to fasting, prayer, and repentance. *One appropriate thing to say to someone observing Yom Kippur is "Have an easy fast."*
- September 29**      **SUKKOT** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
A week-long harvest festival commemorating when the Israelites lived in temporary booths (sukkah) during their 40-year journey in the Sinai desert.



## **OCTOBER**

- October 7**                    **SIMCHAT TORAH** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
On Simchat Torah, Jews celebrate finishing the annual reading of the Torah and begin a new cycle. *Celebrations include a procession of the Torah around the synagogue.*
- October 15**                    **NAVARATRI** • Hinduism  
Nine-day festival celebrating good's victory over evil and Devi, the divine feminine.
- October 15**                    **BIRTH OF THE BÁB** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
Commemorates the birth of the Báb, predecessor to the founder of the Bahá'í Faith. With the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, celebrated as the Twin Holy Days.
- October 16**                    **BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH** *begins at sundown* • Bahá'í Faith  
Commemorates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, founder of the Bahá'í faith.
- October 24**                    **VIJAYA DASTAMI** • Hinduism  
The final day of the festival of Navaratri
- October 31**                    **REFORMATION SUNDAY** • Protestant Christianity  
Commemorates the beginning of the Reformation movement in 1517.



## **NOVEMBER**

- November 1**      **ALL SAINTS' DAY** • Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity  
Day to honor all the Saints in the Christian tradition.
- November 2**      **ALL SOULS' DAY** • Roman Catholic Christianity  
Commemorates all the faithful departed.
- November 12**      **DIWALI** • Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism  
Indian festival of lights commemorating the victory of good over evil and light over darkness. *You can wish those celebrating a "Happy Diwali!"*
- November 15**      **GUR-GADDI GURU GRANTH SAHIB** • Sikhism  
Celebrates Sri Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal Guru of mankind.
- November 27**      **PRAKASH UTSAV GURU NANAK DEV JI** • Sikhism  
Also known as also Gurbpurab, the birthday of the founder and First Guru of the Sikhs is one of the most important Sikh holidays.
- November 23**      **MARTYRDOM OF GURU TEG BAHADUR JI** • Sikhism  
Marks the death of the ninth Sikh guru who died supporting religious freedom.
- November 24**      **THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE** • Christian Science  
Christian Scientists traditionally celebrate a Thanksgiving morning prayer service focused on gratitude, in keeping with the example set by Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of the Church.



## **DECEMBER**

- December 3**      **ADVENT SUNDAY** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity  
Marks the beginning of Advent, the season leading up to Christmas.
- December 8**      **BODHI DAY** • Buddhism  
Celebrates the day that the Buddha experienced enlightenment.
- December 8**      **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** • Roman Catholic Christianity  
Commemorates the immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Roman Catholicism.
- December 7**      **HANUKKAH/ CHANUKAH** *begins at sundown* • Judaism  
Hanukkah commemorates the liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem in 164 B.C.E. Modern celebrations of Hanukkah include the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah.
- December 12**      **FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** • Roman Catholic Christianity  
Commemorating the 1531 apparition of Mary in Meso-America in the Roman Catholic Tradition, this feast day has particular importance for Latine Catholics.
- December 24**      **CHRISTMAS EVE** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Celebrates the arrival of Mary & Joseph in Bethlehem.
- December 25**      **CHRISTMAS DAY** • Roman Catholic & Protestant Christianity, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Celebrates the birth of Jesus. *You can with those celebrating a "Merry Christmas!"*
- December 26**      **KWANZAA** • Black American Cultural Holiday  
Celebration of Black American culture and heritage.  
*Sometimes the holiday is celebrated in the Caribbean or other areas where there are a great number of descendants of Africans. It was created as a holiday both non-political and non-religious.*