

## SEPTEMBER 2020

**September 15– October 15 NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

**September 17 CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY** - Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.

**September 18(evening)– 20 ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish** Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

**September 27(evening)-28 YOM KIPPUR • Jewish** The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.

## October 2020

**LGBT HISTORY MONTH** - Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.

**October 2(evening)–9 SUKKOT • Jewish** - The week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

**October 8 DUSSEHRA/DASERA • Hindu** - Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as Durga Puja, which celebrates the goddess Durga

**October 9(evening)-11 SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish** “The Eighth (Day) of Assembly” is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.

**October 10(evening)-11 SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish** “Rejoicing in the Torah” celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.

**October 12 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY**- Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.

**October 17–25 NAVARATRI • Hindu** - Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall

**October 18 BIRTH OF THE BÁB • Bahá’í** Bahá’í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, “the Báb,” the prophet herald of the Bahá’í Faith, in Shiráz, Persia.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/calendar-of-observances>

**October 19 BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH** • Bahá'í Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.

**October 20 GUR-GADDI GURU GRANTH SAHIB** • Sikh Since 1708, Sikhs have accepted Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru that holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs. They consider Guru Granth Sahib to be a spiritual guide not only for Sikhs but for all of mankind; it plays a central role in guiding the Sikhs' way of life.

**October 25 DUSSEHRA/DASSERA** • Hindu - Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as Durga Puja, which celebrates the goddess Durga.

**October 29 MAWLID AL-NABI** (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

**October 30 GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY** • Sikh - A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev's was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.

**October 31 REFORMATION DAY** • Protestant Christian - Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517. October 31 HALLOWEEN The eve of All Saints' Day. 2019-2020

## NOVEMBER 2020

**NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH** - Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans and indigenous people in the United States.

**November 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY** • Christian - Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

**November 2 ALL SOULS' DAY** • Christian - Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead.

**November 3 MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI)** • Islamic (Shi'a) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Sunni Muslims celebrate it five days earlier than Shi'a Muslims.

**November 14 BANDI-CHHOR DIWAS** • Sikh - A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

**November 14 DIWALI • Hindu** - Also called Deepavali, “Festival of Lights”, which celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

**November 20 TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE** - Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

**November 25 DAY OF THE COVENANT • Bahá’í**

Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá’u’lláh’s appointment of His son, Abdu’l-Baha, as His successor.

**November 29– December 24 ADVENT • Christian** - Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.

**November 30 GURU NANAK DEV JI’S BIRTHDAY • Sikh** - A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev’s was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date

## DECEMBER 2020

**December 3 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** - Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

**December 8 BODHI DAY • Buddhist** -- Also known as Rohatsu, commemorates the day that the Buddha, Siddharta Gautama, experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening (bodhi). Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.

**December 10(evening)–18 HANNUKKAH • Jewish** - Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, also known as Hanukkah, celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.

**December 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian** - Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.

**December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE • Christian** - Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

**December 25 CHRISTMAS • Western Christian** - Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

**December 26 2020– January 1, 2021 KWANZAA** - A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.

## **JANUARY 2021**

**January 5 GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh** - Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa.

**January 6 CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian** - Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19<sup>th</sup>

**January 6 EPIPHANY • Christian** - Known as Theophany in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church Associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.

**January 7 CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian** - Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based

**January 14 MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu** - Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun toward the north.

**January 17 WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í** - Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

**January 18 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY** The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is on January 15th but it is observed on the third Monday in January. The purpose of the holiday is for ‘a day on’ (not a day off) of community service.

**January 28 MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist** - In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.

**January 27(evening)-28 TU B'SHVAT • Jewish** - New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.

## **FEBRUARY 2021**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** - Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

**February 12 LUNAR NEW YEAR • Confucian, Daoist and Buddhist** -Also known as the Spring Festival, is an important festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.

**February 15 NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist** - Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on **February 8**.

**February 16 SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian** - A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide.

**February 17 ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian** - The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.

**February 25–28 AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í** - The Ayyám-i-ha, or “Days of Ha” are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year by inserting days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar.

**February 25(evening)-26 PURIM • Jewish** - The “Feast of Lots” marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

## **MARCH 2021**

### **NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

Honors women as significant agents of historical change.

**March 1–19 NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í** - Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.

**March 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** - Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.

**March 11 MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu** - Also called Shiva Ratri, the Great Night of Shiva, is a festival in reverence of the god Shiva. The festival is celebrated at the 13th night or 14th day of the waning moon in the Hindu calendar (month of February or March of the English calendar)

**March 27(evening)–April 4 PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish** - The eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

**March 28 MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist** - Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 disciples, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.

**March 28 PALM SUNDAY • Christian** - Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

**March 29 HOLA MOHALLA • Sikh** - An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday.

**March 29 HOLI • Hindu** - A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.

## APRIL 2021

**April 1 HOLY THURSDAY • Christian** - Also known as Maundy Thursday, it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.

**April 2 GOOD FRIDAY • Christian** - Known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.

**April 4 EASTER • Christian** - Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

**April 8(evening)-9 YOM HASHOAH • Jewish** - "Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.

**April 8 BUDDHA DAY/VISAKHA PUJA • Buddha's Birthday.**

**April 13–May 12 RAMADAN • Islamic** Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

**April 14 VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi) • Sikh** - The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.

**April 20–May 1 FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá'í** - Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (April 20), ninth (April 28), and twelfth (May 1) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'is suspend work.

**April 21 RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu** - Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

**April 23 DAY OF SILENCE** - Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQIA+) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

**April 25 PALM SUNDAY • Eastern Christian** - Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

**April 27 THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist** In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

**April 30 HOLY FRIDAY • Eastern Christian** - Known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.

### **MAY 2021**

**ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH** - Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

**JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH** - Recognizes the history of Jewish contributions to American culture, acknowledging the diverse achievements of American Jews.

**May 2 EASTER/PASCHA • Eastern Christian** - Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

**May 8 LAILA AL-QADR • Islamic** - Commemorates the night that the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is known as the "Night of Power." Often set on the 27th day of Ramadan, Sunnis may observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th and Shī'ite (Shiite) observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd day of Ramadan.

**Evening of May 12 - Evening of May 13 EID AL-FITR • Islamic** - The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.

**May 16(evening)–18 SHAVUOT • Jewish** - The "Feast of Weeks" celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

**May 23 DECLARATION OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í** - Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

**May 26 VISAKHA PUJA • Buddhist** - Also known as Vesak or Buddha Day, it marks the birth, spiritual awakening and death (nirvana) of the historical Buddha. (This date may vary based on region or sect.)

**May 28 ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í** - Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

**May 28 ALL SAINTS' DAY • Eastern Christian** - In Orthodox churches observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost, it commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints

**May 30 ALL SAINTS' DAY • Eastern Christian** - In Orthodox churches observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost, it commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints.

## **JUNE 2021**

**LGBTQ+ Pride Month** - commemorates the Stonewall riots, which occurred at the end of June 1969. June is when Pride festivities occur in the US.

**June 13 RACE UNITY DAY • Bahá'í** - Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

**June 19 JUNETEENTH** - Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, (years after the Emancipation Proclamation) it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African-American freedom and achievement.

## **JULY 2021**

**July 9 MARTYRDOM OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í** - Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabríz, Persia, of the 30-year-old Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad, the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith.

**July 13–15 ULLAMBANA (also known as Obon) • Buddhist** - Ullambana, a Sanskrit term that means “hanging upside down and suffering,” honors the spirits of past ancestors and strives to relieve aching souls from suffering. It lasts about half of the month of August. Obon, the Japanese transliteration of Ullambana, is only three days and varies from region to region—July in the eastern region and August in the western region.

**July 17(evening)-18 TISHA B'AV • Jewish** - Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

**July 19 EID AL-ADHA • Islamic** - Commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. Marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).  
**July 24 DHARMA DAY • Buddhist** Also known as Asalha Puja, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.

**July 26 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) DAY** - Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.