



CITY OF
**EAU
CLAIRE**

**Calendar of
Diverse Observances**

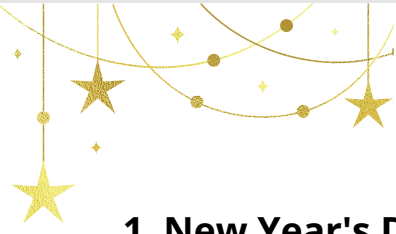


The City of Eau Claire celebrates the rich diversity of cultures, religions, and populations that make up our Eau Claire community. To enhance understanding and promote inclusivity, the City of Eau Claire has created this resource as a tool to foster respect and awareness for religious obligations and ethnic and cultural festivities that our community members may have.

You can visit the following websites to explore the various resources used to compose this Calendar of Diverse Observances:

- [Anti-Defamation League: Calendar of Observances](#)
- [Seramount Diversity Holiday Calendar](#)
- [National PTA Multicultural Calendar](#)

JANUARY



1 New Year's Day

The first day of the year according to the modern Gregorian calendar, celebrated in most Western countries.

1 Feast Day of St. Basil

Holiday observed by the Eastern Orthodox Church, commemorating the death of Saint Basil the Great.

3 Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church, commemorates the naming of the child Jesus.

4 World Braille Day

Observed to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people; celebrated on the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille.

5 Twelfth Night

Festival celebrated by some branches of Christianity that marks the coming of the Epiphany.

6 Three Kings Day (Dia de los Reyes)

Holiday observed by Eastern and Western Christians that recognizes the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus twelve days after his birth.

7 Christmas

Recognized on this day by Eastern Orthodox Christians, who celebrate Christmas thirteen days later than other Christian churches because they follow the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.

9 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji,

The Tenth Guru of the Sikhs who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and who is known as the Father of the Khalsa.

10 Bhodi Day

Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment; also known as Bodhi in Sanskrit and Pali.

16-17 Rosh Hashanah La'llanot

(Sundown to Sundown): Jewish holiday recognizing "The New Year of the Trees." It is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. In Israel, the flowering of the almond tree usually coincides with this holiday, which is celebrated by planting trees and eating dried fruits and nuts.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

(Third Monday of January) Commemorates and honors the achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr. A Baptist minister who advocated the use of nonviolent means to end racial segregation.



17 World Religion Day

Observed by those of the Bahá'í faith to promote interfaith harmony and understanding.

18 Mahayana New Year

Holiday celebrated by the Mahayana Buddhist branch on the first full-moon day in January.

18-25 The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, during which Christians pray for unity between all churches of the Christian faith.

19 Timkat

Holiday observed by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians who celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River on Epiphany.

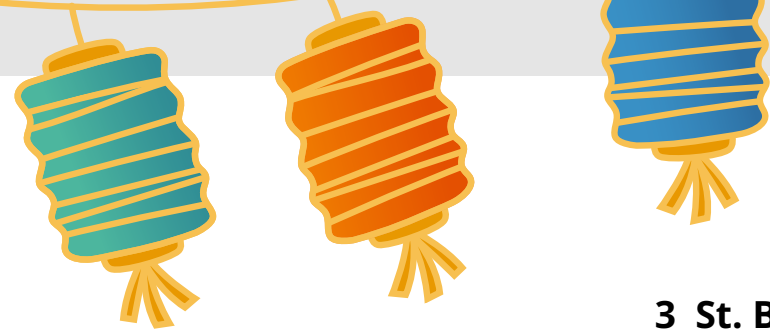


27 The International Day of Commemoration

To remember the victims of the Holocaust; the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and UN Holocaust Memorial Day.



FEBRUARY



1 Lunar New Year

One of the most sacred of all traditional Chinese holidays, a time of family reunion and celebration. The Lunar New Year is also celebrated at this time in Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Mongolia.

1 National Freedom Day

Celebrates the signing of the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States in 1865.

1-2 Imbolc

Gaelic, Pagan, and Wiccan traditional festival that represents making way for spring and the rebirth of nature.

1 St. Brigid of Kildare

Feast day for St. Brigid celebrated by some Christian denominations.

2 Candlemas

Christian holiday that celebrates three occasions according to Christian belief the presentation of the child Jesus, Jesus' first entry into the temple, and Virgin Mary's.

3 St. Blaise Day

(The Blessing of the Throats) Feast day of St. Blaise of Sebaste celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church and some Eastern Catholic Churches.

3 Four Chaplains Day

Commemorates the fifty-fifth anniversary of the sinking of the US Army transport Dorchester and the heroism of the four chaplains aboard.

5 Vasant Panchami

Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring. On this day, Hindus worship Saraswati Devi, the goddess of wisdom, knowledge, music, art, and culture.

14 St. Valentine's Day

Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus. This holiday is typically associated with romantic love and celebrated by people expressing their love with gifts.

15 Lantern Festival

First significant feast after the Chinese New Year; participants enjoy watching paper lanterns illuminate the sky on the night of the event.

15 Parinirvana Day (Nirvana Day)

Commemoration of Buddha's death at the age of 80, when he reached the zenith of Nirvana; February 8 is an alternative date of observance.

16 Maghi-Purnima

Hindu festival especially for worshippers of Lord Vishnu. Devotees take a holy bath on this day and also carry out charity work.

16 Magha Puja Day

Also known as Maka Bucha, Buddhist holiday that marks an event early in the Buddha's teaching life when a group of 1,250 enlightened saints ordained by the Buddha gathered to pay their respect to him. It is celebrated on various dates in different countries.

21 Presidents Day

Federally recognized celebration in the United States that honors the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln birthday, as well as those of every US president.

25-March 1 Intercalary Days or Ayyám-i-Há

Celebrated by people of the Bahá'í faith. At this time, days are added to the Bahá'í calendar to maintain their solar calendar. Intercalary days are observed with gift-giving, special acts of charity, and preparation for the fasting that precedes the New Year.

27 Meatfare Sunday

Traditionally the last day of eating meat before Easter for Orthodox Christians.



Black History Month in the United States and Canada. Since 1976, the U.S and Canada honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history.



MARCH

Women's History Month.

Established in 1987, Women's History Month recognizes all women for their valuable contributions to history and society.

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Established to increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



1 Lailat al Miraj

Muslim holiday that commemorates the prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to the "Farthest Mosque" in Jerusalem, where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily. Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day, so observing Muslims will celebrate Lailat al Miraj starting at sundown on February 28.

1 Maha Shivaratri

Hindu festival celebrated each year to honor Lord Shiva. It is celebrated just before the arrival of spring. It is also known as the Great Night of Shiva or Shivaratri and is one of the largest and most significant among the sacred festival nights of India.

1 Mardi Gras

Last day for Catholics to indulge before Ash Wednesday starts the sober weeks of fasting that accompany Lent. The term "Mardi Gras" is particularly associated with the carnival celebrations in New Orleans, Louisiana.

1 Shrove Tuesday

Day before Ash Wednesday. Although named for its former religious significance, it is chiefly marked by feasting and celebration, which traditionally preceded the observance of the Lenten fast. It is observed by various Christian denominations.

2 Ash Wednesday

First day of Lent on the Christian calendar. Its name is derived from the symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.

7 Beginning of Great Lent

In the Orthodox Christian faith also known as Clean Monday.

8 International Women's Day

First observed in 1911 in Germany, it has now become a major global celebration honoring women's economic, political, and social achievements.

13-April 15 Deaf History Month

This observance celebrates key events in deaf history, including the founding of Gallaudet University and the American School for the Deaf.

16-17 Purim

Jewish celebration that marks the time when the Jewish community living in Persia was saved from genocide. On Purim, Jewish people dress up in costumes, offer charity, and share food with friends.

17 St. Patrick's Day

Holiday started in Ireland to recognize St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland who brought Christianity to the country in the early days of the faith.



18 Holi

Ancient Hindu festival, also known as the Festival of Spring, the Festival of Colors or the Festival of Love. The festival celebrates the eternal and divine love of Radha Krishna.



18-19 Shab-e-Bara

"Night of Forgiveness"- Islamic holiday during which practitioners of the faith seek forgiveness for sins. Muslims spend the night in special prayers. It is regarded as one of the most sacred nights on the Islamic calendar.

21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Observed annually in the wake of the 1960 killing of 69 people at a demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in South Africa. The United Nations proclaimed the day in 1966 and called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

31 International Transgender Day of Visibility

Celebrated to bring awareness to transgender people and their identities as well as recognize those who helped fight for rights for transgender people.



APRIL

Celebrate Diversity Month, a celebration that was initiated in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all. By celebrating differences and similarities during this month, organizers hope that people will gain a deeper understanding of each other.



Autism Acceptance Month, established to raise awareness about and acceptance of the developmental disability that impacts an individual's experience of the world around them.

2 World Autism Awareness Day

Created to raise awareness around the globe.

2-11 Chaitra Navaratri

Nine-day festival which starts on the first day of Hindu Luni-Solar calendar.

2-May 2 Ramadan

(Sundown to Sundown). Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer, and devotion to Islam.

10 Palm Sunday

Christian holiday commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It takes place on the last Sunday of Lent, at the beginning of the Holy Week.

10 Ram Navami

Hindu day of worship and celebration of the seventh avatar of Vishnu (Lord Rama). Devotees typically wear red and place extravagant flowers on the shrine of the God.

14 Holy Thursday

Christian holiday commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the crucifixion. It is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter.

14 Mahavir Jayanti

Holiday celebrated by the Jains commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira. It is one of the most important religious festivals for Jains.

14 Vaisakhi

(Also known as Baisakhi), the celebration of the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated) and the birth of the Khalsa.

15 Good Friday

Day celebrated by Christians to commemorate the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. It is recognized on the Friday before Easter.

15 Lord's Evening Meal

Celebrated by Jehovah's Witnesses in commemoration of an event believed to have occurred on the first night of Passover in approximately 33 CE, i.e., the Last Supper.

15-23 Passover

Eight-day Jewish holiday in commemoration of the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

16 Lazarus Saturday

Day celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox Church and Oriental Orthodoxy to commemorate the raising from the dead of Lazarus of Bethany.

17 Easter

Holiday celebrated by Christians to recognize Jesus' return from death after the crucifixion.

21-May 2 The Festival of Ridvan

Holiday celebrated by those of the Bahá'í faith, commemorating the twelve days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder, resided in a garden called Ridvan (paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age.

22 Earth Day

Promotes world peace and sustainability of the planet. Events are held globally in support of environmental protection of the Earth.

23 St. George's Day

Feast day of St. George celebrated by various Christian churches.

24 Orthodox Easter

(*Pascha*), a later Easter date than what is observed by many Western churches.



29 Ninth Day of Ridvan

Festival of joy and unity in the Bahá'í faith to commemorate the reunification of Bahá'u'lláh's family and by extension the unity of the entire human family the Bahá'í faith calls for. It permeates the symbolic meaning of the Ninth Day of Ridvan.

29 Laylat al-Qadr

Holiest night of the year for Muslims, is traditionally celebrated on the twenty-seventh day of Ramadan. It is known as the Night of Power and commemorates the night that the Quran was first revealed to the prophet Muhammad.



MAY



Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the United States. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks on the project were Chinese immigrants.

1 Beltane

Ancient Celtic, Pagan, and Wiccan holiday commemorated about halfway between the spring equinox and summer solstice. The day is often used to celebrate love and romance.

2-3 Eid al-Fitr

(Sundown to sundown). First day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, marking the end of Ramadan. Many Muslims attend communal prayers, listen to a khutuba (sermon), and give Zakat alFitr (charity in the form of food) during Eid al-Fitr.

3 Feasts of Saints Philip and James

Roman rite feast day held on the anniversary of the dedication of the Church to Saints Phillip and James in Rome.

4-5 Yom Ha'Atzmaut

(Sundown to sundown). National Independence Day in Israel.

5 National Day of Prayer

Day of observance in the United States when people are asked to "turn to God in prayer and meditation."

5 Cinco de Mayo

Mexican holiday commemorating the Mexican Army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). This day celebrates Mexican culture and heritage with a variety of festivities, including parades and mariachi music performances.

8 Buddha Day

(Vesak or Visakha Puja), a Buddhist festival that marks Gautama Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death. It falls on the day of the full moon in and is a gazetted holiday in India.



18-19 Lag BaOmer

Jewish holiday marking the day of hillula of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.

20 Malcom X Day

Holiday celebrated either on May 19th, his birthday, or on the third Friday in May, to commemorate the Civil Rights leader.

23-24 Declaration of the Báb

Day of declaration of the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í faith.

26 Ascension of Jesus or Ascension Day

Celebrated as the ascension of Christ from Earth in the presence of God within most of the Christian faith.



29 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh

Holiday celebrated either on May 19th, his birthday, or on the third Friday in May, to commemorate the Civil Rights leader.

30 Memorial Day

United States federal holiday established to honor military veterans who died in wars fought by U.S forces.



Haitian Heritage Month, celebrates the contributions Haitian Americans have made to American history, society and culture.

Jewish American Heritage Month, which recognizes the diverse contributions of the Jewish people to American culture.

Mental Health Awareness Month, which aims to raise awareness and educate the public about mental illnesses and reduce the stigma that surrounds mental illnesses.

JUNE



LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, established to recognize the impact that gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals have had on the world. LGBTQIA+ groups note this time with Pride parades and memorials for those lost to hate crimes and HIV/AIDS, and other group gatherings. The last Sunday in June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Day.

4-6 Shavuot

Jewish holiday that has double significance. It marks the wheat harvest in Israel and commemorates the anniversary of the day when the Jews received the Torah at Mount Sinai.

5 Pentecost

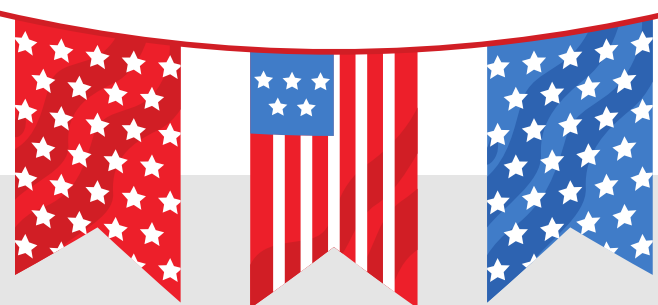
Celebration of the giving of the Ten Commandments by God at Mount Sinai.

12 Trinity Sunday

Observed in the Western Christian faith as a feast in honor of the Holy Trinity.

14 Flag Day

Observed in the United States to celebrate the history and symbolism of the U.S flag.



15 St. Vladimir Day

Roman Catholic feast celebrating St. Vladimir.

15 Native American Citizenship Day

Commemorating the day in 1924 when the US Congress passed legislation recognizing the citizenship of Native Americans.

16 Corpus Christi

Catholic holiday celebrating the presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev

Observed by members of the Sikh faith. Guru Arjan Dev was the fifth Sikh guru and the first Sikh martyr.

19 Juneteenth

Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, was established as a federal holiday in 2022. This celebration honors the day in 1865 when slaves in Texas and Louisiana finally heard they were free, two months after the end of the Civil War. 19, therefore, became the day of emancipation for thousands of African Americans.

19 New Church Day

According to Christian belief, on this day the Lord called together the twelve disciples who had followed him on Earth, instructed them in the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem, and sent them out to teach that "the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns, whose kingdom shall be for ages and ages." This was the beginning of the New Christian Church.

24 Litha

Also known as midsummer, the summer solstice celebrated by Wiccans and Pagans. It is the first day of summer and longest day of the year, representing the sun's "annual retreat."



24 Feast of the Most Sacred Heart

Solemnity in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church.

29 Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul

Liturgical feast in honor of the martyrdom in Rome for the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul in Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

Last Sunday in June

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Day in the United States. It commemorates the Stonewall Riots that occurred on 28, 1969.

Immigrant Heritage Month, established in June 2014. It gives people across the United States an opportunity to explore their heritages and celebrate the shared diversity that forms the unique story of the United States. It celebrates immigrants across the United States and their contributions to their local communities and economy.

JULY



4 Independence Day

(The Fourth of July), a US federal holiday that celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on 4, 1776. The original thirteen American colonies declared independence from Britain and established themselves as a new nation known as the United States of America.

8-9 Waqf al Arafa

(Sundown to sundown), second day of pilgrimage within the Islamic faith.

9-10 Eid al-Adha

(Sundown to sundown), Islamic festival to commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim to follow Allah's command to sacrifice his son, Ishmael. Muslims around the world observe this event.

11 St. Benedict Day

Feast day of St. Benedict celebrated by some Christian denominations.

11 World Population Day

Observance established in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program. The annual event is designed to raise awareness of global population issues.

13 Dharma Day

Celebration of Buddha's first teachings.

14 International Nonbinary People's Day

Aimed at raising awareness and organizing around the issues faced by nonbinary people around the world while celebrating their contributions.

15 St. Vladimir of the Great Day

Feast day for St. Vladimir celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches.

18 Nelson Mandela International Day

In recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly. It was inspired by a call Mandela made for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices. It is a global movement to honor his life's work and to change the world for the better.

24 Pioneer Day

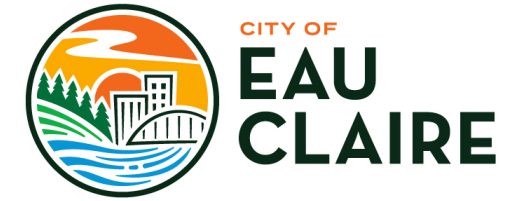
Observed by Mormons to commemorate the arrival in 1847 of the first Latter-day Saints pioneer in Salt Lake Valley.

25 St. James the Greater Day

Feast day for St. James the Greater celebrated by some Christian denominations.

26 Disability Independence Day

Celebrating the anniversary of the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



29-30 Hijri New Year

The day that marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year

30 International Day of Friendship

Proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build July 2022 bridges between communities



AUGUST



1 Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus

Beginning of the fourteen-day period of preparation for Orthodox Christians leading up to the Dormition of the Virgin Mary.

5-6 Tisha B'Av

Fast in commemoration of the destruction of two holy and sacred temples of Judaism destroyed by the Babylonians (in 586 BCE) and Romans (in 70 CE). At the Tisha B'Av, after select passages from the Torah are read and understood, netilat yadayim, or the washing of the hands, is performed.

6 Transfiguration of the Lord

(Feast of the Transfiguration), celebrated by various Christian denominations, the feast day is dedicated to the transfiguration of Jesus.

7-8 Ashura

(Sundown to sundown). Islamic holiday commemorating the day Noah left the ark and the day Allah saved Moses from the Egyptians.

9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. Also recognizes the achievements and contributions of indigenous people globally.

Raksha Bandhan

(Dates vary, occurs during Purnima (full moon) of Shrawan.) Raksha Bandhan is observed on the last day of the Hindu lunar calendar month of Shraavana, which typically falls in August. Traditionally Hindu, annual rite, or ceremony. Sisters of all ages tie a Rakhi, around the wrists of their brothers, symbolically protecting them, receiving a gift in return.

12 Hungry Ghost Festival

Chinese holiday in which street, market, and temple ceremonies take place to honor dead ancestors and appease other spirits.

13-15 Obon

Buddhist festival and Japanese custom that honors the spirits of ancestors.

15 Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

According to the beliefs of the Catholic Church, Eastern and Oriental Orthodoxy, as well as parts of Anglicanism, the day commemorates the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

15 Dormition of the Theotokos

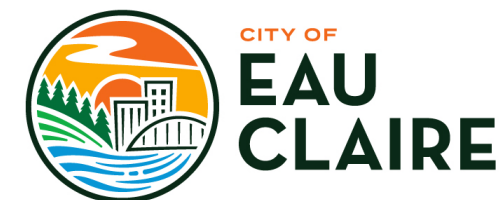
Great Feast of the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Eastern Catholic Churches that commemorates the "falling asleep," or the passing of Mary the Theotokos and her bodily resurrection before ascending into heaven.

18-19 Krishna Janmashtami

Hindu celebration of Lord Vishnu's most powerful human incarnations, Krishna, the god of love and compassion. Celebrations include praying and fasting.

26 Women's Equality Day

Commemorates the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution that gave women the right to vote. Congresswoman Bella Abzug first introduced a proclamation for Women's Equality Day in 1971. Since that time, every US president has published a proclamation recognizing the 26th as Women's Equality Day.



SEPTEMBER

Second Week in September: National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week

A week-long celebration of the vital role that HBCUs play in molding Black leaders, encourage high-school aged youth to enroll into HBCU's, provide scholarship dollars for matriculation, and sustain a pipeline for employment from undergraduate school to corporate America.

5 Labor Day

In the United States honoring the contribution that workers have made to the country and is observed on the first Monday of September.

11 Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Holy day observed by various Christian churches that follow liturgical traditions. The day commemorates the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, who was beheaded on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of his stepdaughter, Salome, and her mother.

11 Ethiopian New Year

Rastafarians celebrate the New Year on this date and believe that Ethiopia is their spiritual home.

18 International Equal Pay Day

Celebrated for the first time in 2020, represents the long-standing efforts toward the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations' commitment to human rights and its efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.



23 Mabon

The second harvest ritual celebrated in Gaelic, Pagan, and Wiccan traditions. Mabon is the first day of fall and celebration of the vernal equinox. The holiday is about gathering wisdom and honoring elders.

23 Native American Day

Federal holiday observed annually on the fourth Friday in September in the state of California and Nevada and on the second Monday in October in South Dakota and Oklahoma, United States.

25-27 Rosh Hashanah

(Sundown to sundown). The Jewish New Year celebration, marking the creation of the world.

27 Elevation of the Life Giving Cross

(Holy Cross), in some Christian denominations, a day that commemorates the cross used in the crucifixion of Jesus.



27 Meskel

Religious holiday in the Ethiopian Orthodox and Eritrean Orthodox Churches that commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by the Roman Empress Helena in the fourth century.

29 Michaelmas

Feast of Michael and All Angels, is a minor Christian festival dedicated to Archangel Michael that is observed in some Western liturgical calendars.

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 to October 15. This month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16, and recognizes the revolution in 1810 that ended Spanish dictatorship.

OCTOBER

National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This observance was launched in 1945 when Congress declared the first week in October as “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1998, the week was extended to a month and renamed. The annual event draws attention to employment barriers that still need to be addressed.

LGBTQ+ History Month, a US observance started in 1994 to recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer history and the history of the gay rights movement.

Global Diversity Awareness Month, a month to celebrate and increase awareness about the diversity of cultures and ethnicities and the positive impact diversity can have on society.

4 St. Francis Day

Feast day for St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, celebrated by many Catholic denominations.

4-5 Yom Kippur

(Sundown to sundown). Holiest day on the Jewish calendar, a day of atonement marked by fasting and ceremonial repentance.

9 Eid Milad un-Nabi,

Islamic holiday commemorating the birthday of the prophet Muhammad. During this celebration, homes and mosques are decorated, large parades take place, and those observing the holiday participate in charity events.

9-16 Sukkot

Seven-day Jewish festival giving thanks for the fall harvest.

10 World Mental Health Day

First celebrated in 1993, this day is meant to increase public awareness about the importance of mental health, mental health services, and mental health workers worldwide.

11 National Coming Out Day

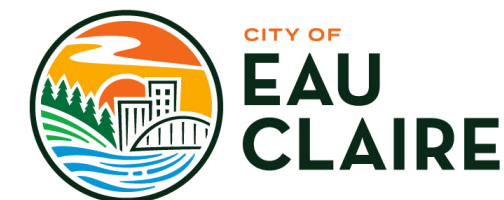
For those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer, this day celebrates coming out and the recognition of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.

16-18 Shemini Atzeret

(Sundown to sundown). Jewish holiday also known as The Eighth (Day) of Assembly, takes place the day after the Sukkot festival, where gratitude for the fall harvest is deeply internalized.

17-18 Simchat Torah

Jewish holiday, marks the end of the weekly readings of the Torah. The Torah is read from chapter one of Genesis to Deuteronomy 34 and then back to chapter one again, in acknowledgement of the words of the Torah being a continuous cycle



20 Sikh Holy Day

The day Sikhs celebrate Sri Guru Granth Sahib, their spiritual guide.

25-26 Birth of Báb

Bahá'í holiday celebrating the birth of the prophet Báb.

31 All Hallows' Eve

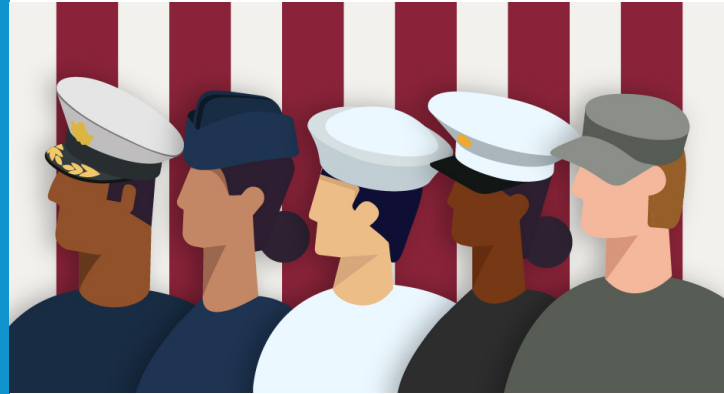
(Halloween), a celebration observed in a number of countries on the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

31 Reformation Day

Protestant Christian religious holiday celebrated alongside All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) during the triduum of Allhallowtide in remembrance of the onset of the Reformation.



NOVEMBER



1 All Saints' Day

Christian holiday commemorating all known and unknown Christian saints (In Eastern Orthodox Christianity, the day is observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost.)

2 All Souls' Day

Christian holiday commemorating all faithful Christians who are now dead. In the Mexican tradition, the holiday is celebrated as Dia de los Muertos (October 31-2), which is a time of remembrance for dead ancestors and a celebration of the continuity of life.

11 Veterans Day

U.S federal holiday honoring military veterans. The date is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world and commemorates the ending of World War I in 1918.

13-19 Transgender Awareness Week

The week before Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th, in which people and organizations participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility of transgender people and address issues members of the community face.



20 Feast of Christ the King

Catholic holiday established to thank God for the gift of time and a rededication to the Christian faith.



24 Thanksgiving Day

In the United States. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.

25 Native American Heritage Day

Held annually on the Friday after Thanksgiving, encourages Americans of all backgrounds to observe and honor Native Americans through appropriate ceremonies and activities.

28-Jan 6 Nativity Fast

Period of abstinence and penance practiced by the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Eastern Catholic Churches in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus.



27-Dec 24 Advent

Christian season of celebration leading up to the birth of Christ.

30 St. Andrew's Day

Feast day for St. Andrew within various Christian denominations.



National Native American Heritage Month.

Which celebrates the history and contributions of Native Americans.

DECEMBER



1 World AIDS Day

Commemorates those who have died of AIDS and acknowledges the need for continued commitment to all those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Designed to raise awareness in regard to persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.



6 St. Nicholas Day

Also called the Feast of Saint Nicholas, observed on December 5th or 6th in Western Christian countries, and on December 19th in Eastern Christian countries using the old church Calendar. It falls within the season of Advent.

8 Immaculate Conception of Mary

Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the solemn celebration by various Christian denominations of belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

10 International Human Rights Day

Established by the United Nations in 1948 to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



18-26 Hanukkah

Jewish holiday that is celebrated for eight days and nights. Also known as the Festival of Lights, commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century.

21 Yule Winter Solstice

Celebrated by Pagans and Wiccans. The first day of winter and shortest day of the year represents a celebration focusing on rebirth, renewal, and new beginnings as the sun makes its way back to the Earth. A solstice is an astronomical event that happens twice each year when the sun reaches its highest position in the sky.

25 Christmas Day

The day that many Christians associate with Jesus' birth.

26-Jan 1 Kwanzaa

Annual celebration of African-American culture, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and Southeast Africa.

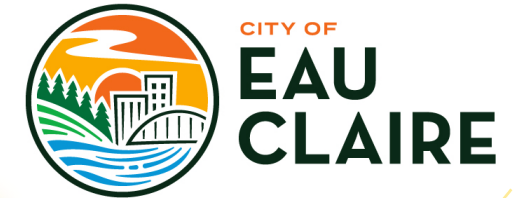


26 Zartosht No-Diso

(Death of Prophet Zarathushtra), a day of remembrance in the Zoroastrian religion. It commemorates the anniversary of the death of the prophet Zoroaster, or Zarathushtra.

26 St. Stephen's Day

Day to commemorate St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, or protomartyr.



27 St. John's Apostle and Evangelist Day

Feast day for St. John, celebrated by Christian denominations.

30 Feast of the Holy Family

Liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus, his mother, and his foster father, St. Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.

31 New Year's Eve

In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve, also known as Old Year's Day or Saint Sylvester's Day in many countries, the evening or the entire day of the last day of the year, is on December 31st.