

Religious Observances 2015

(Major Religious Observances Denoted in Bold)

Date	Observance	Denomination
January		
1 January	Mary, Mother of God*	Catholic Christian
	Feast of St Basil*	Orthodox Christian
	Gantan-Sai (New Years)*	Shinto
	Holy Name of Jesus*	Orthodox Christian
4 January	Gahambar Maidyarem (from Dec 31)*	Zoroastrian
5 January	Twelfth Night*	Christian
	Guru Gobindh Singh birthday*	Sikh
	Mahayana New Year	Buddhism
6 January	Epiphany*	Christian
	Feast of the Theophany*	Orthodox Christian
	Dia de los Reyes*	Christian
7 January	Nativity of Christ*	Armenian - Orthodox Christian
11 January	Baptism of the Lord Jesus	Christian
13 January	Maghi*	Sikh
14 January	Makar Sankranti	Hindu
17 January	Blessing of the Animals*	Hispanic Catholic Christian
18 January	World Religion Day	Baha'i
18 - 25 January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*	Christian
19 January	Timkat*	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
24 January	Vasant Panchami	Hindu
25 January	Conversion of Saint Paul*	Christian
	Zaccaeus Sunday	Orthodox Christian
February		
1 February	Four Chaplains Sunday	Interfaith
	Triodion begins	Orthodox Christian
2 February	Candlemas*	Christian
	Presentation of Christ in the Temple*	Anglican Christian
	Imbolc and Sughnassad*	Wicca/Pagan (Northern and Southern hemispheres)
	Saint Brigid of Kildare	Celtic Christian
3 February	Setsubun-sai*	Shinto
4 February	Tu BiShvat	Judaism
8 February	Prodigal Son	Orthodox Christian
14 February	Valentine's Day*	Christian
15 February	Nirvana Day	Buddhism – Jain
	Meatfare Sunday	Orthodox Christian
	Transfiguration Sunday	Christian
17 February	Shrove Tuesday	Christian
	Maha Shivaratri	Hindu
18 February	Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)	Christian

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19 February	Chinese New Year	Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist
22 February	Cheesefare Sunday	Orthodox Christian
23 February	Great Lent begins	Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian
	Clean Monday	Orthodox Christian
26 February – March 1	Intercalary Days*	Baha'i
March		
1 March	Saint David of Wales*	Christian
	Orthodox Sunday	Orthodox Christian
2 – 20 March	Nineteen Day Fast*	Baha'i
3 March	Purim	Judaism
5 March	Magha Puja Day	Buddhism
6 March	Holi	Hindu
	Hola Mohalla	Sikh
16-20 March	Gahambar Hamaspathmaidyem*	Zoroastrian
17 March	St. Patrick's Day*	Christian
18 March	H. Ron Hubbard Birthday	Scientology
19 March	Saint Joseph's Day*	Christian
20 March	Equinox* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ostara (northern hemisphere) • Mabon (southern hemisphere) 	Wicca/Pagan
21 March	Naw Ruz (New Year)*	Baha'i
	Norouz (New Year)*	Persian/Zoroastrian
	Hindu New Year	Hindu
21-28 March	Ramayana	Hindu
25 March	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin*	Christian
28 March	Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zaranhushttra)	Zoroastrian
	Ram Navami	Hindu
29 March	Palm Sunday	Christian
April		
2 April	Maundy Thursday	Christian
3 April	Mahavir Jayanti	Jain
	Good (Holy) Friday	Christian
4 April	Ch'ing Ming Festival	China/Taiwan/Macau
	Lazarus Saturday	Orthodox Christian
	Pesach (Passover) – First two days	Judaism
	Hanuman Jayanti	Hindu
	Therevadin New Year	Buddhism
5 April	Easter	Christian
	Palm Sunday	Orthodox Christian
6 April	Easter Monday	Christian

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10 April	Good Friday	Orthodox Christian
10-11 April	Pesach (last two days)	Judaism
12 April	Pasha (Easter)	Orthodox Christian
14 April	Baisakhi (New Year)*	Sikh
15 April	Lord's Evening Meal	Jehovah's Witness Christian
16 April	Yom HaShoah	Judaism
21 April	First Day of Ridvan*	Baha'i
23 April	St. George Day*	Christian
24 April	Yom Ha'Atzmaut	Judaism
29 April	Ninth Day of Ridvan*	Baha'i
30 April - May 4	Gahambar Maidyozarem*	Zoroastrian
May		
1 May	Beltane and Samhain*	Wicca/Pagan (Northern and Southern hemispheres)
2 May	Twelfth Day of Ridvan*	Baha'i
4 May	Visakha Puja – Buddha Day	Buddhism
6 May	Midfeast	Orthodox Christian
7 May	Lag B'Omer	Judaism
	National Day of Prayer USA	Interfaith
13 May	Lailat al Miraj	Islam
14 May	Ascension Day	Christian
21 May	Ascension of Jesus	Orthodox Christian
23 May	Declaration of the Bab*	Baha'i
24 May	Pentecost (Whit Sunday)	Christian
24-25 May	Shavuot	Judaism
29 May	Ascension of Baha'u'llah*	Baha'i
31 May	Trinity Sunday	Christian
	Pentecost	Orthodox Christian
June		
1 June	Lailat al Bara'ah	Islam
4 June	Corpus Christi	Catholic Christian
7 June	All Saints	Orthodox Christian
9 June	Saint Columba of Iona*	Celtic Christian
16 June	Guru Arjan Dev martyrdom*	Sikh
18 June	Ramadan begins	Islam
19 June	New Church Day*	Swedenborgian Christian
	Sacred Heart of Jesus	Catholic Christian
21 June	National Aboriginal Day*	Inuit, Métis, First Nations Peoples
	Solstice* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litha (northern hemisphere) • Yule (southern hemisphere) 	Wicca/Pagan

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29 June	Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul*	Christian
29 June - July 3	Gahambar Maidyoshem*	Zoroastrian
July		
2 July	Asalha Puja Day	Buddhism
3 July	St. Thomas The Apostle Day*	Catholic Christian
9 July	Martyrdom of the Bab*	Baha'i
11 July	Saint Benedict Day	Christian
	Imamat Day	Ismaili
13 July	Lailat al Kadr	Islam
13 – 15 July	Obon*	Shinto-Buddhism
15 July	Saint Vladimir Day*	Christian
18-21 July	Eid al Fitr	Islam
23 July	Saint James the Great Day*	Christian
	Emperoro Haile Selassie I Birth	Rastafari
24 July	Pioneer Day*	Mormon Christian
26 July	Tish'a B'Av	Judaism
August		
1 August	Fast in Honour of the Holy Mother of Jesus*	Orthodox Christian
	Lammas*	Christian
	Lughnassad and Imbolc*	Wicca/Pagan (Northern and Southern hemispheres)
6 August	Transfiguration of the Lord*	Orthodox Christian
13-15 August	Obon	Shinto
15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*	Catholic Christian
	Dormition of the Theotokos*	Orthodox Christian
29 August	Beheading of John the Baptist*	Christian
	Raksha Bandhan	Hindu
September		
1 September	Ecclesiastical Year begins*	Orthodox Christian
5 September	Krishna Janmashtami	Hindu
8 September	Nativity of Mary	Christian
12 – 16 September	Gahambar Paitishem*	Zoroastrian
14 September	Elevation of the Life Giving Cross – Holy Cross Day*	Christian
14-15 September	Rosh Hashanah	Judaism
17 September	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu
18 September	Paryushana Parva	Jain
22 September	Equinox* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mabon (northern hemisphere) • Ostara (southern hemisphere) 	Wicca/Pagan

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	Waqf al Arafa – Hajj Day	Islam
23 September	Yom Kippur	Judaism
23-26 September	Eid al Adha	Islam
27 September	Meskel*	Ethiopian Christian
28 September – 4 October	Sukkot	Judaism
29 September	Michael and All Angels*	Christian
October		
4 October	Saint Francis Day*	Catholic Christian
5 October	Shemini Atzeret	Judaism
6 October	Simchat Torah	Judaism
12 October	Thanksgiving - Canada	Interfaith
12 – 16 October	Gahambar Ayathrem*	Zoroastrian
13-21 October	Navaratri	Hindu
14 October	Hijra/Muharram – New Year	Islam
18 October	Saint Luke – Apostle and Evangelist	Christian
20 October	Birth of the Báb*	Baha’i
	Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth*	Sikh
22 October	Dasera	Hindu
23 October	Ashura	Islam
24 October	Parvarana/Sangha Day	Buddhism
25 October	Reformation Day	Protestant Christian
28 October	Milvian Bridge Day*	Christian
31 October	All Hallows Eve*	Christian
November		
1 November	All Saints Day*	Christian
	Samhain - Litha*	Wicca/Pagan (Northern and Southern hemispheres)
2 November	All Souls Day*	Catholic Christian
9-13 November	Deepavali	Hindu
11 November	Diwali	Hindu-Jain-Sikh
12 November	Jain New Year	Jain
	Birth of Baha’u’llah*	Baha’i
15 November	Winter Lent begins to Dec. 24	Orthodox Christian
16 November	Louis Riel Day*	Métis
21 November	Yule*	Christian
22 November	Christ the King	Christian
24 November	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom	Sikh
25 November	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib birthday	Sikh
26 November	Day of the Covenant	Baha’i
	Thanksgiving – USA	Interfaith
28 November	Ascension of Abdu’l-Baha*	Baha’i
29 November – 23 December	Advent (first Sunday)	Christian
30 November	Saint Andrew’s Day*	Christian

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December		
6 December	Saint Nicholas Day*	Christian
7-14 December	Hanukkah	Judaism
8 December	Rohatsu – Bodhi Day*	Buddhism
	Immaculate Conception of Mary*	Catholic Christian
12 December	Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe*	Catholic Christian
	Advent Fast begins	Orthodox Christian
16 – 25 December	Posadas Navidenas*	Hispanic Christian
21 December	Solstice* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yule (northern hemisphere) • Litha (southern hemisphere) 	Wicca/Pagan
23 December	Mawlid an Nabi	Islam
24 December	Christmas Eve*	Christian
25 December	Christmas*	Christian
	Nativity of Christ*	Orthodox Christian
26 December	Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra)*	Zoroastrian
27 December	Feast of the Holy Family	Catholic Christian
28 December	Holy Innocents*	Christian
31 December	Watch Night*	Christian

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