2017 & 2018
18-MONTH INTERFAITH CALENDAR
DID YOU KNOW?

THE ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS.

Diversity Awareness Partnership’s Interfaith Calendar is distributed annually and features observances celebrated across 26 religious traditions. Take one with you to meetings, keep it in your office, bring it to your class, or just have it handy at home. Please use this calendar as a guide to better understand, acknowledge, and respect friends’, neighbors’, employees’ and co-workers’ holidays.

To be more accommodating, please consider the following:

FOOD
Halal and Kosher restrictions may apply. Consider vegetarian, non-alcoholic, and non-caffeinated options. During some holidays, individuals will be fasting.

HOURS
Consider allowing flexibility in work/school hours, as some holidays may require individuals to attend their place of worship during the day.

ABSENCE
Some individuals may request to use vacation or personal days for holidays that are not recognized as company or school-wide days off.

DEADLINES
Consider allowing flexibility for deadlines around important holidays, as some individuals may be participating in celebrations or fasting, which could cause decreased stamina.

PRAYER
Consider designating a space for employees or students to pray, as some holidays may require increased prayer throughout the day/ evening.

NOTES:
This calendar aims to be as inclusive as possible. Please contact us if you would like the 2018 Interfaith Calendar to include a holiday that is not currently listed.

All content in this calendar is based on information available at the time of production. To the greatest extent possible, holidays based on
lunar phases or other variables that change yearly have been factored into observance dates. The spelling of certain observances may vary as well.

The length of some holidays and the extent to which they are observed may vary according to denominational affiliations or regions.

All Baha’i, Jewish and Muslim holidays begin at sunset the previous day.

We encourage all places of worship to be accessible to persons with disabilities by making necessary accommodations. Contact DAP for additional information.

More about religions/holidays:
http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/multifaith-calendar/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/

USE THE FOLLOWING COLORS AS A GUIDE TO FIND CELEBRATIONS BY SPECIFIC RELIGIONS/DENOMINATIONS:

- Rastafarian
- Buddhist
- Sikh
- Hindu
- Wiccan/Pagan
- Jain
- Confucian
- Jewish
- Shinto
- Pan-African
- Baha’i
- Muslim
- Interfaith
- Zoroastrian
- Taoist
- Scientologist
- Catholic Christian
- Swedenborgian Christian
- Christian
- Orthodox Christian
- Mormon
- Protestant Christian
- Jehovah’s Witnesses
- Hispanic Christian
- Anglican Christian
- Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

Interested in ordering calendars for your home, office, school or place of worship? Request more at dapstl.org today.
1 SUNDAY
Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian
Celebration of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

Feast of St. Basil | Orthodox Christian
Commemoration of St. Basil the Great, who wrote a great Eucharist liturgy that bears his name

Shogatsu/Gantan-sai | Shinto
New Year’s Day celebration

5 THURSDAY
Twelfth Night | Christian
Conclusion of the 12 Days of Christmas

Guru Gobind Singh’s Birthday | Sikh
Honoring the birth of the founder of Khalsa

6 FRIDAY
Epiphany/Three Kings Day | Christian
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child

Feast of Theophany | Orthodox Christian
Feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of Jesus

7 SATURDAY
Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Fast of Tevet 10 | Jewish (until 1/8)
Day of fasting, mourning, and repentance

8 SUNDAY
Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian
Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus

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

12 THURSDAY
Mahayana New Year | Buddhist (until 1/15)
Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries

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

14 SATURDAY
Makar Sankranti | Hindu
Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; observed by flying kites, feeding the poor and offering libations to the dead

15 SUNDAY
World Religion Day | Baha’i
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian (until 1/22)
Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity

17 TUESDAY
Blessing of the Animals | Christian
Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are significant to people

19 THURSDAY
Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River

Triodion Begins | Orthodox Christian (ends 4/16)
Time period leading up to Lent

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

28 SATURDAY
Chinese New Year | Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist
Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Wed</td>
<td>Vasant Panchami</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Thu</td>
<td>Imbolc</td>
<td>Wiccan / Pagan</td>
<td>Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox; celebrates the passage from winter to spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Fri</td>
<td>Setsubun-sai</td>
<td>Shinto</td>
<td>Celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of, “Devils out, Good Fortune in!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Sun</td>
<td>Four Chaplains Sunday</td>
<td>Interfaith</td>
<td>Commemoration of U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during WWII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Fri</td>
<td>Tu B’Shvat</td>
<td>Jewish (until 2/11)</td>
<td>Celebration of the coming of Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Sat</td>
<td>Spring Lantern Festival</td>
<td>Taoist</td>
<td>Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations, Chinese equivalent to Valentine’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Sat</td>
<td>Spring Lantern Festival</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Day recognizing the importance of interracial relations and learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Tue</td>
<td>Race Relations Day</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Day recognizing the importance of interracial relations and learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Wed</td>
<td>Nirvana Day</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>Observance of the physical death and spiritual enlightenment of the Buddha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Sat</td>
<td>National Founding U.S.A.</td>
<td>Scientologist</td>
<td>Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Sun</td>
<td>Meatfare Sunday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Observance preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Sat</td>
<td>Maha Shivaratri</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Sun</td>
<td>Intercalary Days</td>
<td>Baha’i (until 3/1)</td>
<td>Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, considered ‘days outside of time’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Fri</td>
<td>Cheesefare Sunday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>The Sunday of forgiveness, last Sunday before Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Wed</td>
<td>Nirvana Day</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>Feast day celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Sat</td>
<td>Clean Monday - Great Lent Begins</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Tue</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday)</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 WEDNESDAY
Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent)  
I Christian  
Observance to begin the 40 day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshippers' foreheads as a sign of repentance

13 MONDAY
L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday  
I Scientologist  
Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

25 SATURDAY
Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
I Christian  
Feast Day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

2 THURSDAY
Nineteen Day Fast  
I Baha’i (until 3/20)  
Fast to be observed by adult Baha’is in good health from sunrise to sunset

5 SUNDAY
Orthodox Sunday  
I Orthodox Christian  
First Sunday of Lent, at which time restoration of icons in the church is celebrated.

10 FRIDAY
Ta’anit Esther  
I Jewish (until 3/11)  
Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim

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

17 FRIDAY
St. Patrick’s Day  
I Christian  
Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

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

21 TUESDAY
Naw-Ruz  
I Baha’i  
Observance of the Vernal Equinox

Norooz  
I Zoroastrian  
New Year

Purim  
I Jewish (until 3/13)  
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Religion(s)</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 TUESDAY</strong> TAOIST, CONFUCIAN</td>
<td>Qingming Festival</td>
<td>Taoist, Confucian</td>
<td>Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, important day showing respect for ancestors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 WEDNESDAY</strong> HINDU</td>
<td>Rama Navami</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 THURSDAY</strong> MORMON</td>
<td>Founding of the Church</td>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>Commemoration of the appearance of the angel, Moroni, in 1830 to Joseph Smith; subsequently founding the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8 SATURDAY</strong> Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Lazarus Saturday</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 SUNDAY</strong> CHRISTIAN, ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Christian, Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Celebration of the entry of Jesus to Jerusalem which marks the start of Holy Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10 MONDAY</strong> JAIN</td>
<td>Mahavir Jayanti</td>
<td>Jain</td>
<td>Festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder’s birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11 TUESDAY</strong> JEHovah’s Witnesses</td>
<td>Lord’s Evening Meal</td>
<td>Jehovah’s Witnesses</td>
<td>Memorial commemoration of Christ’s death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12 WEDNESDAY</strong> HINDU</td>
<td>Hanuman Jayanti</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless works are encouraged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13 THURSDAY</strong> CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14 FRIDAY</strong> SIKH, HINDU</td>
<td>Baisaki/Vaisaki</td>
<td>Sikh, Hindu</td>
<td>Festival commemorating the establishment of the Khalsa, or the nation of Sikhs. Hindu beginning of the New Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16 SUNDAY</strong> CHRISTIAN, ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN</td>
<td>Easter/Pascha</td>
<td>Christian, Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21 FRIDAY</strong> BAHAI</td>
<td>First Day of Ridvan</td>
<td>Baha’i (until 5/2)</td>
<td>Commemoration of the twelve-day period in 1863 when Baha’u’llah declared that he was God’s messenger for this age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22 SATURDAY</strong> JEWISH</td>
<td>Yom HaShoah</td>
<td>Jewish (until 4/23)</td>
<td>Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>29 SATURDAY</strong> BAHAI</td>
<td>Ninth Day of Ridvan</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
<td>Work is prohibited on this day, and the community gathers for prayer and celebration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 MONDAY
Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

2 TUESDAY
Twelfth day of Ridvan | Baha’i
Work is prohibited on this day, and the community gathers for prayer and celebration

4 THURSDAY
National Day of Prayer | Interfaith
U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

7 SUNDAY
Chonmyo Taeje | Confucian
Confucian memorial ceremony to honor the kings and queens of the Yi, or Joseon, Dynasty

9 TUESDAY
Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientologist
Observance of the publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health in 1950, which was the forerunner of Scientology

10 WEDNESDAY
Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist
Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha in the Theravada tradition

13 SATURDAY
World Falun Dafa Day / Falun Gong | Buddhist
Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

15 THURSDAY
Lag B’Omer | Jewish
Observation of the counting of the day - the link - between Pesach and Shavout

16 FRIDAY
Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientologist
Continuation of the observance of the publication of Dianetics

17 SATURDAY
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | Interfaith
United Nations day to deepen understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live more peacefully

19 SUNDAY
Ascension of Baha’u’llah | Baha’i
Remembrance of the death of Baha’u’llah, the founder

20 MONDAY
Ascension of Jesus | Christian
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection. Celebrated 40 days after Easter.

21 SUNDAY
Ramadan Begins | Muslim (until 6/25)
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an

25 THURSDAY
African Liberation Day | Pan-African
Holiday celebrating the formation of the OAU / African Union

27 SATURDAY
Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist
Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety. Three activities conducted during the Festival are eating zongzi, drinking realgar wine, and racing dragon boats.
JUNE

4 SUNDAY
Pentecost | Christian
Remembrance of when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind

11 SUNDAY
Trinity Sunday | Christian
Day to honor the belief in one God with a threefold nature

Race Unity Day | Baha’i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

15 THURSDAY
Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian
Celebration in recognition of the Eucharist (body of Christ)

16 FRIDAY
Guru Arjan Dev’s Martyrdom | Sikh
Time of remembering those who have suffered for this faith

19 MONDAY
New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christian
Annual commemoration of the vision document “The True Christian Religion,” in 1770

21 WEDNESDAY
Litha | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the service of life (Summer Solstice)

Laylatul Qadr | Muslim
The Night of Destiny, the first revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad

23 TUESDAY
Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christian
Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity

26 MONDAY
Eid al-Fitr | Muslim (until 6/28)
Breaking of the month-long Ramadan fast and a festival of thanksgiving

WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE & DEVELOPMENT

In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity. People around the world celebrate this day by joining the campaign “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion” which aims to: raise awareness worldwide about the importance of intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion; build a world community of individuals committed to support diversity with real and everyday-life gestures; combat polarization and stereotypes to improve understanding and cooperation among people from different cultures.
9 SUNDAY
Asalha Puja Day/Dharma Day | Buddhist
Sacred day that marks the Buddha’s first teaching following enlightenment

Martydom of the Bab | Baha’i
Observance of the day Ali Muhammad was executed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers

13 THURSDAY
Obon/Ulamban | Shinto/Buddhist
Celebration of the ritual of saving the deceased from torments after death

23 SUNDAY
Birth of the Emperor Haile Selassie I | Rastafarian
Birthday of the revered Messianic figure among Rastafarians

24 MONDAY
Pioneer Day | Mormon
Observation of the arrival of the first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA

31 MONDAY
Tish’a B’Av | Jewish (until 8/1)
Day of fasting in the remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 BCE and 70 CE

BUDDHISM

Buddhism is a religion to about 300 million people around the world. The word comes from ‘budhi’, ‘to awaken’. It has its origins about 2,500 years ago when Siddhartha Gotama, known as the Buddha, was himself awakened (enlightened) at the age of 35. There are many different types of Buddhism, because the emphasis changes from country to country due to customs and culture. However the essence of all Buddhist teaching is the Four Noble Truths: 1) Suffering exists 2) Suffering arises from attachment to desires 3) Suffering ceases when attachment to desires cease 4) Freedom from suffering is possible by practicing the eightfold path. The Eightfold Path includes: right view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right contemplation.
**AUGUST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 TUESDAY</td>
<td>Lammas I Wiccan/Pagan</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
<td>Celebration of the early harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus I</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Beginning of the 14 day period of preparation, leading up to the Dormition of Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 SUNDAY</td>
<td>Transfiguration of the Lord I Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Observance of the transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor in the presence of his disciples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 MONDAY</td>
<td>Raksha Bandhan I Hindu</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in a family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 TUESDAY</td>
<td>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary I</td>
<td>Catholic Christian</td>
<td>Observance commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dormition of the Virgin Mary I Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>Observance of the death, burial, resurrection, and transfer to heaven of the Virgin Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 THURSDAY</td>
<td>Marcus Garvey’s Birthday I Rastafarian</td>
<td>Rastafarian</td>
<td>Celebration of the birth of Marcus Garvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 SATURDAY</td>
<td>Paryushana Parva I Jain (until 9/4)</td>
<td>Jain</td>
<td>Festival signifying human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement, and a celebration of the natural qualities of the soul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 TUESDAY</td>
<td>Beheading of John the Baptist I Christian</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 THURSDAY</td>
<td>Waqf al Arafah/Hajj Day I Muslim</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>Observance during Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HINDUISM**

Hinduism is the world’s third largest religion, with over 1 billion followers or 15% of the global population. It has been called the “oldest religion” in the world, and some practitioners and scholars refer to it as Sanatana Dharma, “the eternal law” or the “eternal way” beyond human origins. Scholars regard Hinduism as a fusion or synthesis of various Indian cultures and traditions, with diverse roots and no founder. Prominent themes in Hindu beliefs include (but are not restricted to) Dharma (ethics/duties), Samsara (the continuing cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth), Karma (action, intent and consequences), Moksha (liberation from samsara or liberation in this life), and the various Yogas (paths or practices).
1 FRIDAY  
Eid al-Adha | Muslim  
(u)ntil 9/4)  
Feast of Sacrifice, concluding the Hajj  

Religious Year Begins | Orthodox Christian  
Start of the religious calendar year  

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

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

11 SUNDAY  
Auditors’ Day | Scientologist  
Scientology Auditors are acknowledged for their dedication in helping their fellow men and women  

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

14 THURSDAY  
Elevation of the Holy Cross | Orthodox Christian  
Celebration of when St. Helen found the Holy Cross  

21 THURSDAY  
New Year - Hijri | Muslim  
(u)ntil 9/22)  
Marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year  

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish  
(u)ntil 9/22)  
Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance.  

Navratri | Hindu  
(u)ntil 9/29)  
Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessing  

22 FRIDAY  
Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan  
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox  

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

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

28 THURSDAY  
Confucius’ Birthday | Confucian  
Observance of the birth of Confucius  

29 FRIDAY  
Yom Kippur | Jewish  
(u)ntil 9/30)  
Day of Atonement  

YOM KIPPUR  
Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year for Jews. Its central theme is atonement and reconciliation. Repentance in Judaism is done through a process called Teshuva (return), which in its most basic form consists of regretting having committed the sin, resolving not to commit that sin in the future and to confess that sin before God. Jewish people traditionally observe this holy day with an approximate 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Religion/Tradition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Ashura</strong></td>
<td>Muslim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Wednesday</td>
<td><strong>St. Francis Day (Blessing of Animals)</strong></td>
<td>Catholic Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sukkot</strong></td>
<td>Jewish (until 10/11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Founding of the International Association of Scientologists</strong></td>
<td>Scientologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Monday</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving - Canada</strong></td>
<td>Interfaith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Birthday of Guru Ram Das</strong></td>
<td>Sikh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dussehra/Durga Puja</strong></td>
<td>Hindu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Wednesday</td>
<td><strong>Hoshanah Rabbah</strong></td>
<td>Jewish (until 10/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Thursday</td>
<td><strong>Shemini Atzeret</strong></td>
<td>Jewish (until 10/13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Friday</td>
<td><strong>Simchat Torah</strong></td>
<td>Jewish (until 10/14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Thursday</td>
<td><strong>Diwali</strong></td>
<td>Hindu, Jain, Sikh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Friday</td>
<td><strong>Birth of the Bab</strong></td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Guru Granth Sahib Installation</strong></td>
<td>Sikh</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Jain New Year</strong></td>
<td>Jain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Milvian Bridge Day</strong></td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Reformation Day</strong></td>
<td>Protestant Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>All Hallow’s Eve</strong></td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 WEDNESDAY
All Saints’ Day | Christian
Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of endings and beginnings

2 THURSDAY
All Souls’ Day | Catholic Christian
Commemoration of the faithful departed

Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian
Celebration of the coronation of the messianic figure of Rastafarian

4 SATURDAY
Guru Nanak Dev Sahib’s Birthday | Sikh
Honoring of the birth of the founder of Sikhism

12 SUNDAY
Birth of Baha’u’llah | Baha’i
Celebration of the birth of the founder of Baha’i

15 WEDNESDAY
Nativity Fast begins | Orthodox Christian (until 12/24)
Period of abstinence and penance in preparation for the birth of Jesus

16 THURSDAY
International Day for Tolerance | Interfaith
United Nations observance day to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance

23 THURSDAY
Thanksgiving | Interfaith
Celebration of the harvest and community

24 FRIDAY
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikh
Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur

26 SUNDAY
Day of the Covenant | Baha’i
Celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha’u’llah

28 TUESDAY
Ascension of the Abdu’l-Baha | Baha’i
Celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu’l-Baha to the heavenly dwelling

ALL SAINTS’ AND ALL SOULS’ DAY

All Saints’ Day is a holy day for Christians to honor and remember all the saints (those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven), known and unknown. Following All Saints’ day is All Souls’ day, a day for Christians to remember and pray for the dead, particularly one’s family members. Celebrations vary around the world, but can include special altars with images of the departed and food/drink they enjoyed, visiting the gravesites of one’s relatives, and saying special prayers for all the departed.
DECEMBER

3 SUNDAY
First Sunday of Advent
Christian (until 12/24)
Beginning of time preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ. Marked with special prayers and lighting an additional candle each week.

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

8 FRIDAY
Bodhi Day
Buddhist
Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha.

Immaculate Conception of Mary
Catholic
Day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all her life.

12 TUESDAY
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Catholic
Christian
Honoring of a legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 CE.

Hanukkah
Jewish (until 12/20)
Festival of Lights commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple.

16 SATURDAY
Posadas Navidenas
Hispanic Christian (until 12/25)
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 THURSDAY
Yule
Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the Winter Solstice.

24 SATURDAY
Christmas Eve
Christian
Day before Christmas, often celebrated with a midnight Mass/Liturgy of Jesus’ birth.

25 SUNDAY
Christmas, Feast of Nativity
Christian, Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

26 TUESDAY
Zarathosht Diso
Zoroastrian
Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathustra.

Kwanzaa
Pan-African (until 1/1/18)
Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture.

28 THURSDAY
Holy Innocents
Christian
Day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the attempt to destroy Jesus.

30 SATURDAY
Freedom Day
Scientologist
Day celebrating the official recognition of the Church of Scientology in the United States in 1974.

31 SUNDAY
Watch Night
Christian
Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year.

Holy Family
Catholic
Christian
Celebration honoring Jesus, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph as a family.

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December is a month full of important celebrations and observances across various faiths and cultures. From the First Sunday of Advent to the Holy Family, each day is marked with its own unique significance, offering opportunities for reflection, remembrance, and celebration.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 MONDAY | **Mary, Mother of God**  
|        | Catholic Christian  
|        | Celebration of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ  
|        | **Feast of St. Basil**  
|        | Orthodox Christian  
|        | Commemoration of St. Basil the Great, who wrote a Eucharist liturgy that bears his name.  
|        | **Shogatsu/Gantan-sai**  
|        | Shinto  
|        | New Year’s Day celebration  
| 2 TUESDAY | **Mahayana New Year**  
|        | Buddhist (until 1/4)  
|        | Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Mahayana countries  
| 5 FRIDAY | **Twelfth Night**  
|        | Christian  
|        | Conclusion of the 12 Days of Christmas  
|        | **Guru Gobind Singh’s Birthday**  
|        | Sikh  
|        | Honoring the birth of the founder of Khalsa  
| 6 SATURDAY | **Epiphany / Three Kings Day**  
|        | Christian  
|        | Feast to celebrate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child  
|        | **Feast of the Theophany**  
|        | Orthodox Christian  
|        | Feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of the Lord.  
| 7 SUNDAY | **Orthodox Christmas, Ethiopian Christmas**  
|        | Orthodox Christian, Rastafarian  
|        | Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ  
|        | **Baptism of the Lord**  
|        | Jesus I Christian  
|        | Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus  
| 8 MONDAY | **Seijin no Hi**  
|        | Shinto  
|        | Holiday honoring those who have reached, or will reach the age of twenty within the current year  
| 13 SATURDAY | **Maghi**  
|        | Sikh  
|        | Commemoration of a battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh Ji  
| 14 SUNDAY | **Makar Sankranti**  
|        | Hindu  
|        | Celebration marking the turning of the sun toward the north; observed by flying kites, feeding the poor and offering libations to the dead  
| 17 WEDNESDAY | **Blessing of the Animals**  
|        | Christian  
|        | Observance of showing respect for domestic animals that are important to people  
| 18 THURSDAY | **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
|        | Christian (until 1/25)  
|        | Ecumenical observance focused on prayer for church unity.  
| 19 FRIDAY | **Timkat**  
|        | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian  
|        | Celebration of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River  
| 21 SUNDAY | **World Religion Day**  
|        | Baha’i  
|        | Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of all world religions  
|        | **Triodion Begins**  
|        | Orthodox Christian (until 4/8)  
|        | Time period leading up to Lent  
| 22 MONDAY | **Vasant Panchami**  
|        | Hindu  
|        | Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning  
| 25 THURSDAY | **Conversion of St. Paul**  
|        | Christian  
|        | Event in the life of Paul the Apostle which led him to become a follower of Jesus  
| 30 TUESDAY | **Tu B’Shvat**  
|        | Jewish (until 1/31)  
|        | Celebration of the coming of Spring  

*JANUARY 2018*
February 2018

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

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

3 Saturday
Setsubun-sai | Shinto
Celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of, "Devils out, Good Fortune in!"

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

8 Thursday
Nirvana Day | Buddhist
Observance of the physical death and spiritual enlightenment of the Buddha

11 Sunday
Transfiguration Sunday | Christian
Feast day celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus

Meatfare Sunday | Orthodox Christian
Observance preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ

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

14 Wednesday
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

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

Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent) | Christian
Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent; ashes are marked on worshippers’ foreheads as a sign of repentance

16 Friday
Chinese New Year | Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist,
Beginning a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

18 Sunday
National Founding U.S.A. | Scientologist
Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954

Cheesefare Sunday | Orthodox Christian
The Sunday of forgiveness, last Sunday before Lent

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

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

26 Monday
Intercalary Days | Baha’i
Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain the solar calendar, thought of as 'days outside of time'

27 Tuesday
Ta’anit Esther | Jewish
Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim
1 THURSDAY
Purim | Jewish (until 3/2)
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide

2 FRIDAY
Nineteen Day Fast | Baha’i (until 3/20)
Fast to be observed by adult Baha’is in good health from sunrise to sunset.

Hola Mohalla | Sikh
Week-long event including mock fights, kirtan, music poetry, and community meals

Spring Lantern Festival | Taoist
Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations, Chinese equivalent to Valentine’s Day.

3 SATURDAY
Holi | Hindu
Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure

13 TUESDAY
L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday | Scientist
Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

17 SATURDAY
St. Patrick’s Day | Christian
Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

18 SUNDAY
Week of the Ramayana | Hindu (until 3/26)
Festival celebrating Lord Rama, in which the Ram Lila is staged and the Ramayana is recited

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

Naw-Ruz | Baha’i
Observance of the Vernal Equinox

Norooz | Zoroastrian
New Year

25 SUNDAY
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.

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

26 MONDAY
Rama Navami | Hindu
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

28 WEDNESDAY
Khordad Sal | Zoroastrian
Remembrance of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra

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

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

Pesach/Passover | Jewish (until 4/7)
8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

31 SATURDAY
Lord’s Evening Meal | Jehovah’s Witnesses
Memorial commemoration of Christ’s death

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

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

Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Religion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Sunday</td>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Tuesday</td>
<td>Mahavir Jayanti</td>
<td>Jain</td>
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<td>Festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder’s birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Thursday</td>
<td>Qingming Festival</td>
<td>Taoist, Confucian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, important day showing respect for ancestors</td>
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<td>6 Friday</td>
<td>Founding of the Church</td>
<td>Mormon</td>
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<td>Commemoration of the appearance of the angel, Moroni, in 1830 to Joseph Smith; subsequently founding the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Sunday</td>
<td>Pascha</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Thursday</td>
<td>Yom HaShoaah</td>
<td>Jewish</td>
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<td>(until 4/13) Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Saturday</td>
<td>Baisaki/Vaisaki</td>
<td>Sikh / Hindu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Festival commemorating the establishment of the Khalsa, or the nation of Sikhs. Hindu beginning of the New Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Saturday</td>
<td>First Day of Ridvan</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(until 5/2) Commemoration of the twelve-day period in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared that he was God’s messenger for this age</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Sunday</td>
<td>Ninth Day of Ridvan</td>
<td>Baha’i</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Work is prohibited on this day, and the community gathers for prayer and celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Monday</td>
<td>Theravadin New Year</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(until 5/2) Buddhist New Year, as celebrated in Theravadin countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 TUESDAY
Beltane | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

2 WEDNESDAY
Twelfth day of Ridvan | Baha’i
Work is prohibited on this day, and the community gathers for prayer and celebration

Lag B’Omer | Jewish (until 5/3)
Observation of the counting of the day - the link - between Pesach and Shavout

3 THURSDAY
National Day of Prayer | Interfaith
U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

6 SUNDAY
Chongmyo Taeje | Confucian
Confucian memorial ceremony to honor the kings and queens of the Yi, or Joseon, Dynasty

9 WEDNESDAY
Observance of the Publication of Dianetics | Scientologist
Observance of the publication of Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health on 1950 which was the forerunner of Scientology

10 THURSDAY
Ascension of Jesus | Christian
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection. Celebrated 40 days after Easter

13 SUNDAY
World Falun Dafa Day / Falun Gong | Buddhist
Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

16 WEDNESDAY
Ramadan | Muslim (until 6/15)
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an

19 SATURDAY
Shavuot | Jewish (until 5/21)
Celebration of Moses descent from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

20 SUNDAY
Pentecost | Christian
Observation of the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind

21 MONDAY
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development | Interfaith
United Nations day to deepen understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live more peacefully

23 WEDNESDAY
Declaration of the Bab | Baha’i
Recognition of the declaration by Ali Muhammad that he is the anticipated “Coming One” of all religions

25 FRIDAY
African Liberation Day | Pan-African
Holiday celebrating the formation of the OAU / African Union.

27 SUNDAY
Trinity Sunday | Christian
Day to honor the belief in one God with a threefold nature

29 TUESDAY
Ascension of Baha’u’llah | Baha’i
Remembrance of the death of Baha’u’llah, founder of Baha’i

31 THURSDAY
Corpus Christi | Catholic
Celebration in recognition of the Eucharist (Body of Christ)
JUNE 2018

8 FRIDAY
Sacred Heart of Jesus | Catholic Christian
Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity

10 SUNDAY
Race Unity Day | Baha’i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

11 MONDAY
Laylatul Qadr | Muslim
The Night of Destiny, the first revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad

15 FRIDAY
Eid al-Fitr | Muslim (until 6/17)
Breaking of the month-long Ramadan fast and a festival of thanksgiving

16 SATURDAY
Guru Arjan Dev’s Martyrdom | Sikh
Time of remembering those who have suffered for this faith

18 MONDAY
Dragon Boat Festival | Taoist
Chinese festival commemorating fealty and filial piety. Three activities conducted during the Festival are eating zongzi, drinking realgar wine, and racing dragon boats.

19 TUESDAY
New Church Day | Swedenborgian Christian
Annual commemoration of the vision document “The True Christian Religion,” in 1770

21 THURSDAY
Litha | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the service of life (Summer Solstice)

ISLAM

The Arabic term Islam literally means “surrender,” or “submission.” Islam’s believers (known as “Muslims” from the active participle of “Islam”), accept surrender to the will of Allah (God). The will of God is made known through the Qur’an (the Koran), revealed to his messenger Muhammad. Muhammad, it is claimed was the last of the great prophets which included Adam, Noah, Moses, Jesus and others. The basic belief of Islam is expressed in the shahadah, the Muslim confession of faith, “There is no god but God; Muhammad is the prophet of God.”
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TRAINING
Diversity & Inclusion Training is delivered through presentations, workshops, and roundtables. Trainings raise awareness around the importance of diversity and inclusion among employees by exposing challenges, generating dialogue, and providing tangible resources needed to create a more inclusive workplace.

DAP CONNECT PROGRAM
The DAP Connect Program has one purpose - to help you diversify your social and professional networks. Too often we build personal and working relationships with others “like us”. DAP Connect helps you leave your comfort zone to meet individuals who are different from you, whether by race or ethnicity, age, religion, ability, sexual orientation or gender identity. Through DAP Connect, you will build relationships with leaders throughout the St. Louis region and gain a stronger appreciation for diversity.

GIVE RESPECT, GET RESPECT YOUTH PROGRAM
The Give Respect, Get Respect Youth Program is a collaboration between Diversity Awareness Partnership and local corporations who bring together students and teachers from the St. Louis metro area and company associates to explore race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

EXPLORE CAREER IMMERSION PROGRAM
Diversity Awareness Partnership is investing in St. Louis high school students through an externship program. Together, DAP and local businesses have developed this program to expose, empower, and encourage students of color to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and other careers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS
Diversity Awareness Partnership provides in-depth professional development seminars for diversity and inclusion practitioners or individuals interested in entering the diversity field. Seminar topics include: Diversity vs. Inclusion, Creating a Diverse Pipeline, Diversity & Employee Engagement, and more.
**MISSION**

Diversity Awareness Partnership is a catalyst to increase awareness, facilitate engagement and provide education about diversity and inclusion.

**VISION**

Diversity Awareness Partnership’s vision is inclusive communities where diversity is respected and embraced, and equity is the norm.
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Living Insights