

Tuesday - September 8, 2009

Nativity of Virgin Mary

Orthodox Christian and Catholic celebration of the birth of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Monday - September 14, 2009

Elevation of the Life Giving Cross

Orthodox Christian remembrance of St. Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine, who searched out the hidden cross of Jesus, an object of veneration.

Wednesday - September 16, 2009

Laylat el-qadr

Islamic Night of Destiny. First revelation of Qur'an to Mohammed. Observed during the last ten days of Ramadan. Prayers to Allah for good destiny.

Friday - September 18, 2009

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, prayer and penitence. The story of Abraham is read, the Shofar (ram's horn) is sounded, and special foods are prepared and shared.

Saturday - September 19, 2009

Navaratri Dusserha

Hindu Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings. Also observed as a celebration recalling the days of Lord Krishna.

Sunday - September 20, 2009

Eid ul Fitr

A 3 day Islamic fast marking the close of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to Allah for enjoying the month of Ramadan. It involves wearing finest clothing, saying prayers, and fostering understanding with other religions.

Monday - September 28, 2009

Yom Kippur

Jewish Day of Atonement. This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with strict fasting and ceremonial repentance.

Tuesday - September 29, 2009

Saint Michael & All Angels

A.k.a. Michaelmas, A festival honoring the archangel Michael. Mainly celebrated in Britain, where it was tradition to eat goose for dinner.

Saturday - October 3, 2009

Sukkot

Jewish Feast of the Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.

Sunday - October 4, 2009

Saint Francis Day

Catholic Christian recognition of the founder of the Franciscan Order. Service to people and appreciation of the natural creation are marks of the Order.

Shemini Atzeret

Jewish (8th day of Assembly)

Sunday - October 11, 2009

Simhat Torah

Jewish day to celebrate the reading of the Law. Synagogue services involve readings, processions and blessing of the children.

Saturday - October 17, 2009

Diwali

Hindu Festival of Lights symbolizing the human urge to move toward the light. Gift exchanges, fireworks and festive meals.

Tuesday - October 20, 2009

Birth of the B'ab

Baha'i honoring of the founder, Mirza 'Ali-Muhammed, in 1819

Sunday - October 25, 2009

Reformation Day

Protestant Christian anniversary of their tradition and its emphasis on the place of the Bible and religious freedom. On October 31, 1517 c.e. Martin Luther posted a belief statement on the Wittenberg Church door.

Wednesday - October 28, 2009

Milvian Bridge Day

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Description:

Christian day of solemn reflection on the relationship of the spiritual community and the powers of civil government. On Oct 28, 312 c.e., Emperor Constantine prevailed in a battle and proceeded to make Christianity the legal religion of the Roman Empire.

Saturday - October 31, 2009

All Hallow's Eve

Christian celebration combining prayers and merriment involving children and families. It is a prelude to All Saint's Day.

Sunday - November 1, 2009

All Saints Day

Christian day for honoring saints. A Holy Day of Obligation in the Roman Catholic Church where saints have special formal status. In general, saints are persons with reputations for unusual lives of holiness and devotion to God.

Samhain

Wicca celebration of endings and beginnings. Revering of elders is observed.

Monday - November 2, 2009

All Souls Day

Christian (Catholic) day of prayers of intercession for the dead. Prayers of the faithful are seen as helping to cleanse the souls for the vision of God in heaven.

Guru Nanak's Day

Sikh honoring of the birth of the first Sikh teacher who lived from 1469 -1539 c.e. Sacred readings, prayers, hymns, meals together.

Thursday - November 12, 2009

Birth of Baha'u'llah

Baha'i celebration of the birth of their teacher and Messiah. Refrain from work.

Sunday - November 15, 2009

Nativity Fast

Lasting until Christmas, forms the Church's time of preparation for the feast of the birth of God.

Sunday - November 22, 2009

Christ the King

Christian celebration of the preeminence of Jesus over all earthly authorities.

Tuesday - November 24, 2009

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Sikh time of remembering the execution of Teg Bahadur by the Moghul Emperor in India.

Thursday - November 26, 2009

Day of the Covenant

Baha'i celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha'u'llah.

Thanksgiving

Interfaith celebration of the created earth. Celebrated in the USA.

Eid al Adha

Islamic day to remember Abraham and the almost sacrifice of Isaac. Meat is given to the poor.

Saturday - November 28, 2009

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha

Baha'i celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu'l-Baha to the heavenly dwelling.

Tuesday - December 8, 2009

Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)

Buddhist celebration of the time when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

Immaculate Conception (of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Roman Catholic (Christian) day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life. A day of obligation and required church attendance.

Saturday - December 12, 2009

Advent

Christian time of preparation for observing the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest November 30 and is the beginning of the Christian worship year. Advent is observed with the lighting of advent candles, display of wreaths, and special ceremonies. Advent also anticipates the coming again to earth of Jesus Christ. The season continues through December 24.

Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Catholic Christian honoring of a legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 c.e.

Wednesday - December 16, 2009

Posadas Perpetual (Navideñas)

Hispanic Christian feast of The Lodgings commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

Monday - December 21, 2009

Winter Solstice

Wicca celebration of the winter-born king, symbolized by the rebirth of the sun.

Yule

A Christian celebration of the light dawning in Jesus.

Friday - December 25, 2009

Christmas Day

Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties.

Saturday - December 26, 2009

Zarathosht Diso

Zoroastrian anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathushtra.

Sunday - December 27, 2009

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph

Catholic Christian celebration of the love between the family of Jesus.

Monday - December 28, 2009

Holy Innocents Day

Christian day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the attempt to destroy Jesus.

Thursday - December 31, 2009

Watch Night

Christian occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year. Developed by the African American community in the USA at the time of Emancipation (1863).
