

# 2021 HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

## JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day**  
Gantan-sai (New Year's Day) - Shinto  
Feast Day of St. Basil - Orth. Christian  
Mary, Mother of God - Cath. Christian
- 2 Day After New Year's Day (QC)**
- 5 Twelfth Night - Christian**  
Guru Gobind Singh birthday - Sikh
- 6 Epiphany - Christian**  
Feast of the Epiphany - Orth. Christian  
Dia de los Reyes - Christian
- 7 Orthodox Christmas Day - Orth. Christian**
- 10 Baptism of the Lord Jesus - Christian**
- 13 Maghi - Sikh**
- 14 Orthodox New Year**
- 17 Blessing of the Animals - Hisp. Cath. Christian**
- 25 Conversion of St. Paul - Christian**
- 28 Tu BiShvat\* - Jewish**  
Mahayana New Year - Buddhist

## FEBRUARY

- ### BLACK HISTORY MONTH
- 2 Candlemas - Christian**  
Imbolc\* - Wicca/Pagan
  - 3 St. Blaze Day - Christian**  
Setsubun-sai (beginning of spring) - Shinto
  - 5 Four Chaplains Sunday - Interfaith**
  - 12 Chinese New Year - Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist**  
(Year of the Ox)
  - 14 Saint Valentine's Day - Christian**  
Transfiguration Sunday - Christian  
Memorial Marches for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and girls
  - 15 Family Day (AB, BC, ON)**  
Nirvana Day - Buddhist
  - 16 Shrove Tuesday - Christian**  
Vasant Panchami - Hindu
  - 17 Ash Wednesday - Lent begins - Christian**
  - 25 Intercalary Days begin - Baha'i (to Feb. 28)**
  - 26 Purim\* - Jewish**

## MARCH

- 1 Nineteen-Day Fast\* - Baha'i (to March 19)**
- 7 Meatfare Sunday - Orth. Christian**
- 8 International Women's Day**
- 11 Laylat al Miraj\* - Islam**
- 12 Maha Shivarati - Hindu**
- 14 Daylight Savings Time starts**
- 17 St. Patrick's Day - Christian**
- 20 Spring Equinox**
- 21 Naw-Ruz (New Year)\* - Baha'i**  
Norooz (New Year) - Persian/Zoroastrian  
Ostara-Mabon - Wicca/Pagan  
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
Orthodox Sunday - Orth. Christian
- 25 Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Christian**
- 26 Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zarathushtra) - Zoroastrian**
- 28 Passover (Pesach)\* - Jewish (to April 4)**  
Magha Puja Day - Buddhist  
Palm Sunday - Christian  
Lord's Evening Meal - Jehovah's Witness Christian
- 31 International Transgender Day of Visibility**

## APRIL

- 1 Maundy Thursday - Christian**
- 2 Good Friday (except QC) - Christian**
- 4 Easter - Christian**
- 5 Easter Monday (QC) - Christian**
- 9 Yom HaShoah\* - Holocaust Remembrance Day - Jewish**
- 13 Ramadan Begins\* - Islam**  
Ramayana - Hindu (to April 21)
- 14 Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) - Sikh**
- 15 Yom Ha'Atzmaut\* - Jewish**
- 20 First Day of Ridván\* - Baha'i (Ninth Day: April 28, Last Day: May 1)**
- 21 Rama Navami - Hindu**
- 22 Earth Day**
- 23 St. George's Day - Christian**
- 24 Lazarus Saturday - Orth. Christian**
- 25 Mahavir Jayanti - Jain**  
Palm Sunday - Orth. Christian
- 27 Theravada New Year - Buddhist (to April 29)**  
Hanuman Jayanti - Hindu
- 28 National Day of Mourning for Workers Injured or Killed on the Job**
- 30 Holy Friday - Orth. Christian**  
Lag B'Omer\* - Jewish
- St. James the Great Day - Orth. Christian

## MAY

- ### ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH
- ### JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH
- 1 International Workers' Day - May Day**  
Beltane\* - Wicca
  - 2 Pascha (Easter) - Orth. Christian**
  - 8 Buddha Day - Visakha Puja - Buddhist**
  - 9 Mother's Day**  
Laylat al Qadr\* - Islam
  - 13 Eid al Fitr\* (Ramadan Ends) - Islam**  
Ascension of Jesus - Christian
  - 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**  
Shavuot\* - Jewish (to May 18)
  - 23 Pentecost - Christian**  
Declaration of the Bab\* - Baha'i
  - 24 Victoria Day (except QC)**  
**National Patriots' Day (QC)**
  - 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah\* - Baha'i**
  - 30 Trinity Sunday - Christian**

## JUNE

- ### LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH
- ### NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HISTORY MONTH
- 3 Corpus Christi - Cath. Christian**
  - 11 Sacred Heart of Jesus - Cath. Christian**
  - 12 World Day Against Child Labour**
  - 16 Guru Arjan Martyrdom - Sikh**
  - 20 Father's Day**
  - 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day**  
Summer Solstice\* (Litha) - Wicca
  - 24 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day (QC)**
  - 29 Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul - Christian**



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## JULY

### TIBETAN HERITAGE MONTH (ON)

- 1** Canada Day
- 9** Martyrdom of the Bab\* - Baha'i
- 18** Tish'a B'av\* - Jewish
- 19** Day of Arafat\* - Islam
- 20** Eid al-Adha\* - Islam (to July 23)
- 24** Asalha Puja Day - Buddhist  
Pioneer Day - Mormon Christian
- 27** Fast of the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz\* - Jewish

## AUGUST

- 1** Lammas - Christian  
Lughnassad\* - Wicca/Pagan
- 2** **Heritage Day (AB)**  
**British Columbia Day (BC)**  
**Civic Day (ON)**
- 6** Transfiguration of the Lord - Orth. Christian
- 10** Hijra - New Year\* - Islam
- 13** Obon (Ullambana) - Buddhist/Shinto (to Aug. 15)
- 15** Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary - Cath. Christian  
Dormition of the Theotokos - Orth. Christian
- 19** Ashura\* - Islam
- 22** Raksha Bandhan - Hindu
- 29** Beheading of St. John the Baptist - Christian
- 30** Krishna Janmashtami - Hindu

## SEPTEMBER

- 1** Ecclesiastical year begins - Orth. Christian
- 5** Paryushana Parva - Jain (to Sept. 11)
- 6** **Labour Day**
- 7** Rosh Hashanah\* - Jewish (to Sept. 8)
- 8** Nativity of Virgin Mary - Christian
- 14** Holy Cross Day - Christian
- 15** International Day of Democracy\*
- 16** Yom Kippur\* - Jewish
- 21** Sukkot\* - Jewish (to Sept. 27)
- 22** Fall Equinox\* - Wicca
- 27** Hoshana Rabbah\* - Jewish  
Meskel - Ethiopian Eritrean Orth. Christian
- 28** Shemini Atzeret\* - Ethiopian Eritrean Orth. Christian
- 29** Simchat Torah\* - Jewish

## OCTOBER

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH (ON)

- 4** National Day to Commemorate Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls  
St. Francis Day - Cath. Christian
- 7** Navaratri - Hindu (to Oct. 25)
- 11** **Thanksgiving Day**
- 15** Dasara - Hindu
- 19** Mawlid an Nabi\* - Prophet Muhammad's birthday - Islam
- 20** Birth of the Báb\* - Baha'i  
Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth - Sikh
- 31** Hallowe'en  
Reformation Day - Protestant Christian

## NOVEMBER

- 1** Samhain - Wicca  
All Saints' Day - Christian
- 2** All Souls' Day - Cath. Christian
- 4** Diwali (Deepavali) - Sikh - Hindu - Jain
- 11** **Remembrance Day (AB, BC)**
- 12** Birth of Bahá'u'lláh\* - Baha'i
- 13** Jain New Year - Jain
- 20** Transgender Day of Remembrance
- 21** Christ the King - Christian
- 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 26** Day of the Covenant\* - Baha'i
- 28** Advent begins - Christian (to Dec. 24)
- 29** Hanukkah\* - Jewish (to Dec. 6)
- 30** St. Andrew's Day - Christian

## DECEMBER

- 1** World AIDS Day
- 3** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 6** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women
- 8** Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) - Buddhism  
Immaculate Conception of Mary - Cath. Christian
- 10** Human Rights Day
- 12** Feast Day - Our Lady of Guadalupe - Cath. Christian
- 18** International Migrants Day
- 22** Yule - Christian  
Winter Solstice\* - Yule - Wicca/Pagan
- 25** **Christmas Day**  
Feast of the Nativity - Orth. Christian
- 26** **Boxing Day (BC, ON)**  
Zarathrost Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra) - Zoroastrian  
Kwanzaa - African Cult. Heritage (to Jan. 1)
- 28** Holy Innocents - Christian
- 31** New Year's Eve



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\* Asterisk indicates holy days that usually begin at sundown the day before the date listed.

The dates cited above represent either statutory holidays or the holiest days for that particular faith.

