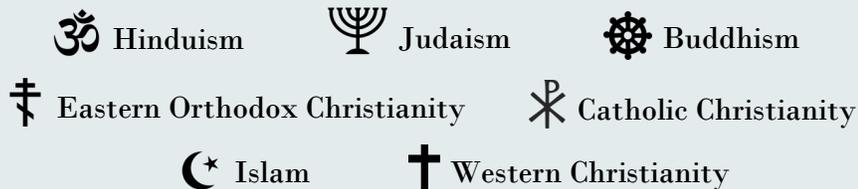


# 2021 Interreligious Calendar

<b>N</b>	29 First Sunday of Advent †
<b>D</b>	10 Hanukkah begins ☪ 25 Christmas Day †
<b>J</b>	1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Theotokos) ✠ ☧ 6 Epiphany/Theophany ✠ ☧ 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins † ✠ ☧ 28 Tu B'Shevat ☪
<b>F</b>	8 Nirvana Day ☸ 12 Lunar New Year ☸ 17 Ash Wednesday † 26 Purim ☪
<b>M</b>	25 Annunciation of Mary ✠ ☧ 28 Passover begins ☪ / Palm Sunday †
<b>A</b>	1 Holy Thursday † 4 Easter Sunday † 8 Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) ☸ 13 Ramadan begins ☾ 21 Ram Navami ☸
<b>M</b>	2 Pascha (Orthodox Easter) ☧ 13 Eid al Fitr ☾ 17 Shavuot ☪ 23 Pentecost ✠
<b>J</b>	3 Corpus Christi ✠ 20 Pentecost ☧
<b>J</b>	18 Tish'a B'av ☪ 20 Eid al Adha ☾
<b>A</b>	6 Transfiguration of the Lord † ☧ 15 Assumption/Dormition of Mary ✠ ☧
<b>S</b>	1 Season of Creation begins ✠ ☧ 8 Nativity of Mary (Theotokos) ✠ ☧ 7 Rosh Hashanah begins ☪ 16 Yom Kippur ☪ 21 Sukkot begins ☪ 29 Simcha Torah ☪
<b>O</b>	4 Feast of St. Francis † 7 Navaratri Festival ☸ 31 Reformation Day †
<b>N</b>	1 All Saints Day † 4 Diwali ☸ 28 Advent begins † 29 Hanukkah begins ☪



## Holy Days & Seasons in the Abrahamic Traditions

*Holidays in Judaism and Islam begin at sundown the previous evening.*

**Hanukkah** celebrates the liberation of Israel from the Greeks and the purification of the temple.

**Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity** celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and the mystery of the incarnation.

**Solemnity of Mary (Theotokos)** celebrates Mary as the Mother of God.

**Epiphany/Theophany** celebrates the revelation of the manifestation of God in Jesus to the gentiles as remembered in the gospel of Matthew.

**Tu B'Shevat** celebrates the birth of trees and marks the beginning of the agricultural cycle.

**Ash Wednesday** begins the liturgical season of Lent in Christianity.

**Purim** commemorates the story of Esther and deliverance of the Jewish people.

**Passover** commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

**Holy Thursday** commemorates the last supper of Jesus and institution of the Holy Eucharist.

**Good Friday** commemorates the suffering and death of Jesus.

**Easter/Pascha** celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Ramadan** commemorates Muhammad's (pbuh) receiving the first revelations of the Quran.

**Eid al Fitr** marks the end of Ramadan and fasting from sunrise-to-sunset.

**Shavuot** commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and celebrates harvest.

**Ascension of the Lord** commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension to God in heaven.

**Pentecost** commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles.

**Corpus Christi** celebrates the Blessed Sacrament as the Real Presence of Jesus.

**Tish'a B'av** mourns disasters in Jewish history, such as the temple's destruction.

**Eid al Adha** commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son as told in the Quran.

**Transfiguration** celebrates the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ as remembered in scripture.

**Assumption/Dormition of Mary** celebrates the *falling asleep* or assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven.

**Season of Creation** is a month focused on care for our common home, the earth.

**Rosh Hashanah** is the Jewish New Year and celebrates God as Creator and Sovereign.

**Yom Kippur** is the day of atonement when Jews seek God's forgiveness for their transgressions.

**Sukkot** commemorates the forty years the Israelites spent in the wilderness after the Exodus and celebrates the harvest.

**Feast of St. Francis** commemorates the death and life of Francis of Assisi.

**Reformation Day** commemorates the Protestant Reformation that began in Europe in 1517.

**All Saints Day** commemorates the deaths and lives of all the Christian Saints.

The different religions...contribute significantly to building fraternity and defending justice in society. Dialogue between the followers of different religions does not take place simply for the sake of diplomacy, consideration or tolerance. In the words of the Bishops of India, "the goal of dialogue is to establish friendship, peace and harmony, and to share spiritual and moral values and experiences in a spirit of truth and love". (*Fratelli Tutti*, No. 271)

# About this Calendar

This interreligious calendar was prepared by the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations for the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and is promoted by the Ecumenical and Interreligious Commission. For more information contact the diocesan Ecumenical & Interreligious Officer at [albright@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:albright@diocesekcsj.org)



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## The Ecumenical and Interreligious Commission exists to:

- affirm and promote ecumenical and interreligious efforts by individuals and institutions.
- provide vision and leadership to the local Catholic Church in its mission to dialogue with other Christians, Jews, Muslims and all people of good will.
- facilitate a visible unity among area religious communities that is rooted in prayer, dialogue, acts of service and friendship.



Liturgical colors are those specific colors used for vestments and church décor within the context of Christian liturgy. The symbolism of violet, white, green, red, and other colors serve to underline moods appropriate to a season of the liturgical year or to highlight a specific holy day. The season of Advent marks the Christian New Year in the common lectionary.

- Violet** Advent & Lent
- White** Christmas & Easter
- Green** Ordinary Time
- Red** Holy Week & Pentecost



## Missouri-Kansas Area Religious History & Headquarters

The Kansas City Metro, which straddles the Stateline between Kansas and Missouri, is home to over 23 distinct religious traditions. Both Kansas and Missouri have had an important impact on the American religious landscape, with several traditions rooting themselves here in origin or headquarters.

<b>Community of Christ</b> origin & headquarters (Independence, MO)	<b>Unity Church</b> origin & headquarters (Lee's Summit, MO)	<b>Classical Pentecostalism</b> origin (Topeka, KS)
<b>Missouri Synod Lutheran</b> headquarters (Kirkwood, MO)	<b>Church of the Nazarene</b> headquarters (Lenexa, KS)	<b>International House of Prayer</b> origin & headquarters (Grandview, MO)

## Holy Days & Seasons in the Abrahamic Traditions

The Ecumenical and Interreligious Commission endeavors to list holidays that are significant in either their religious context or potential for dialogue. The description of each holiday cannot exhaust nor capture its religious meaning for faith practitioners. If you would like to learn more about a particular holiday we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood church, synagogue or mosque. If you would like help with your outreach, please contact your diocesan Ecumenical Officer.

## 18-25 January 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 was prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit," is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family. Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning. The chosen theme for 2021 allowed the sisters to share the experience and wisdom of their contemplative life abiding in the love of God, and to speak about the fruit of this prayer: closer communion with one's brothers and sisters in Christ and greater solidarity with the whole of creation. [Materials and resources available at www.christianunity.va](http://www.christianunity.va)



*Abide in my love  
and you shall bear  
much fruit*

(cf. John 15:5-9)

### THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY & THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- 1894** Pope Leo XIII encourages the practice of a Prayer Octave for Unity in the context of Pentecost.
- 1964** In Jerusalem, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I prayed together Jesus' prayer "that they all may be one" (John 17).
- 1964** The *Decree on Ecumenism* emphasizes that prayer is the soul of the ecumenical movement and encourages observance of the Week of Prayer.
- 1968** First official use of Week of Prayer material prepared jointly by Faith and Order and the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.
- 2004** Agreement reached that WPCU resources be jointly published and produced in the same format by WCC and the Catholic Church.
- 2008** Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**Fratelli Tutti** (*Brothers and Sisters All*) is the third encyclical of Pope Francis, subtitled of "on fraternity and social friendship". In the document, Francis states that the COVID-19 pandemic has proven the failure of the world to work together during the crisis. The encyclical calls for more human fraternity and solidarity, and is a plea to reject wars. The title of the encyclical, the context of its publication, and the patronage of Francis of Assisi, a pioneer of interreligious dialogue, invite observers to consider the document's theme of human fraternity. (source: Wikipedia) [Read the full text at www.usccb.org/fratelli-tutti](http://www.usccb.org/fratelli-tutti).

