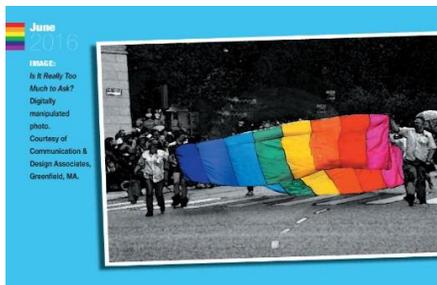


Religious & Ethnic Holidays & Days of Observance (Selected) June 2016



This handout is to call your attention to just some of the many nationally and internationally recognized and/or celebrated diverse days of observance and religious/ethnic holidays that fall within the month of June 2016. We invite you to share it with the students, staff, and faculty you work with across campus. For more information, feel free to visit the Multicultural Resource Calendar located on the Office of Student Life's Mosaic Center website:

http://www.diversityresources.com/aa_gsr/main_month.php?key=0

Thank you, The Office of Student Life's Mosaic: Center for Culture and Diversity & Interfaith

Pride Month: On June 11, 1999, President William J. Clinton issued a presidential proclamation designating June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and the birth of the modern gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Every year, an International Pride Theme is chosen at the InterPride Annual Conference.

Caribbean American Heritage Month: Caribbean American Heritage Month was first proclaimed in 2006 by President George W. Bush. Some notable Americans of Caribbean descent include the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, W.E.B. Du Bois, Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey, Shirley Chisholm, Sidney Poitier, and Roberto Clemente.

June 3: Feast of the Sacred Heart: Roman Catholic. This holy day, also known as the *Solemnity of the Sacred Heart*, is observed in the Roman Catholic Church nineteen days after Pentecost and eight days after the Feast of Corpus Christi. It always falls on a Friday, with the earliest possible date being May 29 and the latest possible date being July 2. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is one of the most popular of all devotions in the Roman Catholic Church. In Colombia, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, or *Sagrado Corazon*, is observed on the following Monday.

June 5: Ramadan (The Month of Fasting, first day of month-long fasting) begins at sighting of crescent moon: Islamic. This begins the first day of the Islamic month of Ramadan, the holiest month of the Muslim year. The fast of Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and mandatory for every Muslim who has reached puberty except those who are ill, pregnant, or on a journey. During this month, no water or food may be taken from sunrise to sunset. Worshippers eat a light meal, called *suhour*, early in the morning prior to daybreak. After sunset, Muslims break the fast with the evening meal called the *iftar*. The feast of Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan. **Recognizing the Festival/Holiday:** Observant Muslims pray and read the Qur'an, and are encouraged to give generously to charity during the month of Ramadan. Common greetings include *Ramadan Mubarak*, "Wishing you the blessings of Ramadan," and "Congratulations on the arrival of Ramadan."

June 9: Ascension Day: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian. This marks the anniversary of the day Coptic Orthodox Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians believe that Jesus rose to heaven.

June 16: Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib: Sikh. Guru Arjan (1563-1606) was the first Sikh martyr and fifth of the eleven Sikh Gurus. He compiled all of the past Gurus' writings into the Guru Granth Sahib, the central religious text of Sikhism.

June 20: Litha (Summer Solstice): Pagan and Wiccan. This is the Sabbat observed on the summer solstice.

June 24: Festival of St. John the Baptist (St. Jean-Baptiste Day): Canada, Puerto Rico. This holiday commemorates the feast day of St. John the Baptist. On this day, Canadians honor St. Jean-Baptiste, the patron saint of French Canada, and celebrate their country's rich French heritage. In Puerto Rico, the Festival of St. John the Baptist is a national holiday honoring the country's patron saint. The island was originally named *San Juan Bautista* in honor of St. John the Baptist, and the capital city, San Juan, still bears his name. This is one of Puerto Rico's most important holidays, celebrated with music, feasting, parades, and dancing

June 26: All Saints Day: Eastern Orthodox Christian. Eastern Orthodox Christians observe the festival of All Saints on the Sunday after Pentecost, marking the close of the Easter season.

SPECIAL NOTE: These descriptions are from the 2012 Multicultural Resource Calendar © 2012 by Diversity Resources, Inc.™, Amherst, MA which can be found on the Office of Student Life's Mosaic Center webpage (use your UMBC username and password to access the calendar, <http://www.umbc.edu/studentlife/diversity/calendar/>). If there are any incorrect dates or descriptions, please contact the calendar publisher directly. Please keep these days in mind as you do your multicultural and diversity work on campus and beyond.