

## Religious, Cultural & Ethnic Holidays & Days of Observance (Selected)

### June 2017

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 2017. 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/index.php?key=adCaO2Shix6u](http://www.diversityresources.com/aa_gsr/index.php?key=adCaO2Shix6u)

Thank you,

*The Office of Student Life's Mosaic: Center for Culture and Diversity & Interfaith Center Staff*

### **June 1-30: Gay and Lesbian 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. In that proclamation, the president said "...Since our earliest days as a nation, Americans have strived to make real the ideals of equality and freedom so eloquently expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We now have a rare opportunity to enter a new century and a new millennium as one country, living those principles, recognizing our common values, and building on our shared strengths. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that celebrate our diversity, and to remember throughout the year the gay and lesbian Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our national life." Every year, an International Pride Theme is chosen at the InterPride Annual Conference.

**June 4: Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian:** Pentecost: Pentecost is observed on this day according to the Julian calendar followed by Coptic Orthodox Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians. Observed fifty days after Easter, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Pentecost is called Trinity Sunday and the following Sunday is All Saints Day.

**June 4: Christian, Pentecost (Whit Sunday):** This spring festival takes its name from the Greek word for fifty because Pentecost originally occurred on the fiftieth day after the first day of Passover, corresponding to the Jewish festival of Shavuot. Christians now celebrate Pentecost on the seventh Sunday after Easter to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. For this reason, Pentecost signifies the birth of the Christian Church. The day is sometimes called Whit Sunday (White Sunday) because the newly baptized wore white baptismal robes. Among foods associated with Pentecost is *Sopa do Espirito Santo*, Holy Spirit Soup, a hearty mixture of meats, from the Azores. Azorean communities in Massachusetts retain the custom.

**June 11: Baha'i : Race Unity Day:** Celebrated worldwide by Baha'is on the second Sunday in June, this day was inaugurated in 1957 by the Baha'i National Spiritual Assembly in the United States to promote racial harmony and understanding. Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i Faith, proclaimed that humanity is a single race and called on the world to recognize the oneness of humanity to achieve peace.

**June 15: Roman Catholic : Feast of Corpus Christi:** The Feast of Corpus Christi (Latin for "Body of Christ") is a moveable Christian feast commemorating the Holy Eucharist. Observed on the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi mirrors Holy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter and the day on which Christians believe the first Eucharist, The Last Supper, took place.

**June 16: Sikh : Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib:** 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 20-21: Begins at sundown Islamic : Laylat al-Qadr:** This festival occurs during the month of Ramadan and commemorates the beginning of the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

**June 23: Roman Catholic : Feast of the Sacred Heart:** 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. The Mass is similar to that celebrated on Good Friday, and many devotional exercises are observed. 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 24- 25: Begins at Sundown: Islamic : Eid al-Fitr (The Feast of Breaking the Fast):** This holiday, which marks the end of Ramadan, begins at the sighting of the first lunar crescent following the new moon and is the time for breaking the fast. This is a three-day festival of feasting, buying and wearing new clothes, and celebrations. (See discussion under [Days of Religious Observance](#).) This ends the month-long fast during Ramadan. Gifts of sweets, such as pastries, halvah, and sugared almonds, are appropriate. *Eid Mubarak* and "Happy Eid" are common greetings.

**June 26: Begins at sundown Pagan and Wiccan : Litha**

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