

January 2021

Diversity Holidays



1 New Year's Day, the first day of the year according to the modern Gregorian calendar, celebrated within most Western countries.

Feast Day of St. Basil, a holiday observed by the Eastern Orthodox Church, commemorating the death of Saint Basil the Great.

3 Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church, commemorates the naming of the child Jesus.

4 World Braille Day, observed in order to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. Celebrated on Louis Braille's birthday, the inventor of braille.

5 Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday, the Tenth Guru of the Sikhs who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and is known as the Father of the Khalsa.

Twelfth Night, a festival celebrated by some branches of Christianity that marks the coming of the Epiphany

6 Epiphany or Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day), a holiday observed by Eastern and Western Christians that recognizes the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus 12 days after his birth.

Christmas, recognized on this day by Armenian Orthodox Christians, who celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany.

7 Christmas, recognized on this day by Eastern Orthodox Christians, who celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches because they follow the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.

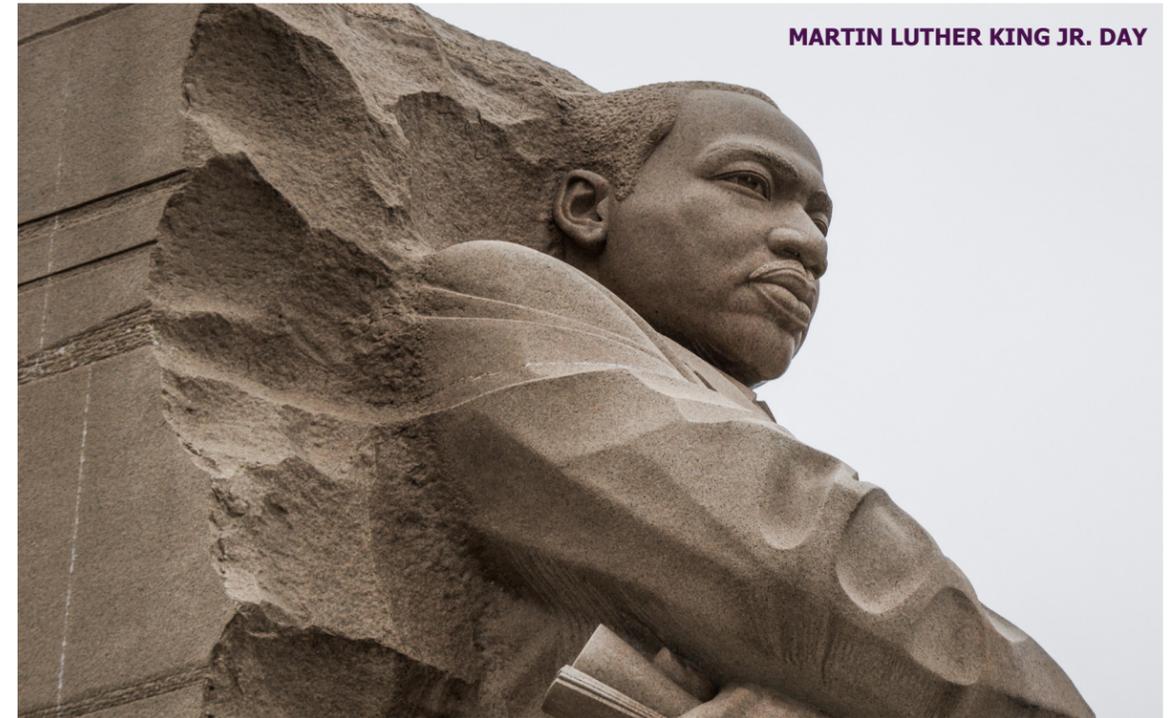
13 Lori-Maghi, an annual festival celebrated by the Sikhs commemorating the memory of 40 Sikh martyrs.



14-April 27 Kumbh Mela, a mass pilgrimage event which takes place every 12 years and is of deep religious significance to Hindus. Millions of devotees and pilgrims congregate on the banks of the Ganges River to take part in a ritual bathing on various dates through April 27. It is believed that taking a dip in the holy water cleanses devotees of their sins. It is known as the world's largest religious and cultural human gathering. The history of Kumbh Mela is related to the days when the Devtas and the Demons conjointly produced nectar of immortality as depicted by the legends.

14 Makar Sankranti, a major harvest festival celebrated in various parts of India.

17 World Religion Day, observed by those of the



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Bahá'í faith to promote interfaith harmony and understanding.

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemorates the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and an activist for nonviolent social change until his assassination in 1968.

18-25 The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, during which Christians pray for unity between all churches of the Christian faith.

19 Timkat, a holiday observed by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians who celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River on Epiphany.

26 Republic Day of India recognizes the date the Constitution of India came into law in 1950, replacing the Government of India Act of 1935. This day also coincides with India's 1930 declaration of independence.

27 The International Day of Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust. The anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and U.N. Holocaust Memorial Day.

(sundown to sundown): Holocaust Remembrance Day, a time to "mourn the loss of lives, celebrate those who saved them, honor those who survived, and contemplate the

obligations of the living." — Former President Barack Obama.

(sundown to sundown): Tu B'Shevat or or Rosh Ha-Shanah La'Ilanot, a Jewish holiday recognizing "The New Year of the Trees." It is celebrated on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. In Israel, the flowering of the almond tree usually coincides with this holiday, which is observed by planting trees and eating dried fruits and nuts.

28 Mahayana New Year, a holiday celebrated by the Mahayana Buddhist branch, on the first full-moon day in January.