



The nation's children's hospital

**Office of InterFaith
Pastoral and Spiritual Care**

Senior Chaplain

Rev. Kathleen Ennis-Durstine
extension 3321/ room 4201

Staff Chaplain

Janie Brooks
extension 5050/ room 4115

Staff/Spanish Language Chaplain

Margarita Roque
extension 2626/ room 4115

Catholic Chaplain

Fr. Tukura Michael
extension 2626/room 4115

Catholic Mass: Thursday at 12:00 p.m.
(East Chapel, room 3033, 3rd floor, East Tower) and **Saturday at 4:00 p.m.** (Main Chapel, room 3201, 3rd Floor Main Hospital)

Prayer and Meditation: Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m. East Chapel, room 3033, third floor East Tower—please listen for the announcement*

Friday: Jumma Prayer R-114, floor 3.5 Main Hospital at 1:15 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 4:00 pm Room 3201, Main Chapel third floor, Main Hospital - please listen for the announcement**

**Because of staffing limitations leaders for these worship opportunities may not be available. We OVERHEAD announce them 1/2 hour prior to the service.

Note the Information Boards and Brochure Racks for other information

www.ChildrensNational.org

The Holy Days of April

Celebrations, Observances and Information about Religious, Spiritual, and Cultural Occasions



APRIL is Autism Awareness Month, Celebrate Diversity Month, Defeat Diabetes Month, Frog Month, IBS Awareness Month (irritable bowel syndrome), National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Pecan Month, Stress Awareness Month and Workplace Conflict Awareness Month. Medication Safety Week is 1–7, National Week of the Ocean is 3–9, Fiddler's Frolic is 14–17, National Playground Safety Week is 24–30, Sky Awareness Week is 24–30, Safe Kids Week is 25 to 5/1, Gathering of the Nations Powwow is 28–30. Tweed Day is the 3rd, One Day Without Shoes Day is the 5th, National Day of Hope is the 6th, National Beer Day is the 7th, Safety Pin Day is the 10th, World Parkinson's Disease Day is the 11th, Jelly Bean Day is the 22nd, and Malaria Awareness Day is the 25th— among a host of others!

Holy Days with no fixed date

Eagle Dance of the Pueblo People continues (See March Newsletter)

Baswant India, Pakistan This is a spring festival celebrated in northern India and Pakistan. During the festival everyone wears yellow, the sacred color of India and the color of spring. In Sanskrit "*Baswant*" means "yellow". In the morning the family makes an offering of food and white flowers to *Saraswati*, the goddess of learning, while they observe a fast. At noon the fast is broken and everyone goes outdoors to enjoy a picnic luncheon. During the afternoon men and boys fly bright kites made of bamboo and tissue paper. Often the first 100 feet or so of the kite string is covered with glue holding ground glass. The purpose is to enable one to cut the string of other kites when the lines cross. Exciting kite battles end in a chase by the boys to retrieve and "capture" kites as they fall to the ground.

Feast of Nganja Angola This is a children's festival surrounding the corn harvest. On a mutually decided upon day each child gathers some fresh, ripe corn from the family's field. They gather and roast the corn around a fire. Different groups of children will try to "steal" some of the roasted corn from other groups.



April 2 is World Autism Day

[http://](http://www.worldautismawarenessday.org/site/c.egLMI2ODKpF/b.3917077/k.186A/AboutWorldAutismAwarenessDay.htm)

[www.worldautismawarenessday.org/site/c.egLMI2ODKpF/b.3917077/k.186A/](http://www.worldautismawarenessday.org/site/c.egLMI2ODKpF/b.3917077/k.186A/AboutWorldAutismAwarenessDay.htm)

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On December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 62/139, tabled by the State of Qatar, which declares April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) in perpetuity. Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, Consort of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, supported the campaign for a World Autism Awareness Day through the current 62nd UN General Assembly Session, garnering consensus support from all United Nations Member States.

This UN resolution is one of only three official disease-specific United Nations Days and will bring the world's attention to autism, a pervasive disorder that affects tens of millions. The World Autism Awareness Day resolution encourages all Member States to take measures to raise awareness about autism throughout society and to encourage early diagnosis and early intervention. It further expresses deep concern at the prevalence and high rate of autism in children in all regions of the world and the consequent developmental challenges.

Lich'un China This Chinese festival is linked to the agricultural cycle and spring. The major feature is a procession of musicians and dancers led by a papier-mâché ox and ox-driver. These are constructed and painted only after a careful examination of the almanac under official direction. Five colors of paint are used – red, black, white, green, and yellow. These represent metal, wood, fire, water, and earth, five elements of nature. The use of these colors and the appearance of the ox and driver are very symbolic. If the head of the ox is painted red, drought is predicted for the spring. Yellow indicates heat; green, sickness; white, high winds; and black, much rain. The driver's appearance is also significant. If he is wearing a hat and shoes there will be rain but if he is barefooted then there will be drought. Many clothes indicate cold weather, few clothes hot weather. On this day people erect bamboo poles with feathers attached in front of their homes – as the spring winds blow the feathers off everyone celebrates that it has truly arrived!

Holy Days with Fixed Date

April 1 Worldwide General Conference Latter Day Saints Twice a year the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints broadcasts a General Conference worldwide from the Conference Center at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah. General Conference of the LDS Church is held in April and October, usually on the first Saturday and Sunday of the month. In these meetings the First Presidency, 12 Apostles, and other leaders of the LDS Church share inspirational messages to members throughout the world. There are five, two hour sessions. Broadcasts of General Conference are transmitted over TV, radio, and satellite. Video feeds of the conference are hosted online at www.byu.tv. All messages presented during General Conferences are made available in audio, video, and written formats (in over 80 languages including American Sign Language) at the Broadcast Archives as well as in the subsequent issue (May and November) of the LDS Church's Ensign magazine.

April 3 Mothering Sunday Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Although it's often called Mothers' Day it has no connection with the American festival of that name. Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. Today it is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers.



History of Mothering Sunday: Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'. Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or Cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.) Most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family. As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

April 4 Ugadi Hindu Ugadi is the New Year's Day for the people of Andhra Pradesh and also for the Telugu people all over the world. It is believed that the creator of the Hindu pantheon Lord Brahma started creation on this day - "Chaitra Sud-dha Padhyami" or the Ugadi day. The onset of spring also marks a beginning of new life. The vibrancy of life and verdant fields, meadows full of colorful blossoms signify (continued page 3)

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April 6 – National Day of Hope

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, this day asks all Americans to keep victims of abuse and neglect in their thoughts and prayers, to seek to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect and to give victimized children hope for the future. This is also a day when the faith community, nonprofit organizations and volunteers across America should recommit themselves and mobilize their resources to assist abused and neglected children. Observed since 2000. Annually, the first Wednesday of April. For info: National Day of Hope, Childhelp, 15757 N 78th St, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. Phone: (480) 922-8212. Fax: (480) 922-7061. E-mail: Nationaldayofhope@childhelp.org. Web: www.childhelp.org.

growth, prosperity and well-being.

With the coming of Ugadi, the naturally perfumed Jasmines spread a sweet fragrance. While large garlands of Jasmine are offered to Gods in homes and temples, Jasmine flowers woven in clusters adorn the braids of women. On this day, people chant mantras and the pundits make predictions for the coming year. Preparations for the festival begin a week ahead. Houses are given a thorough wash. Shopping for new clothes and buying other items that go with the requirements of the festival are done with a lot of excitement. On Ugadi day, people wake up before the break of dawn and take a head bath after which they decorate the entrance of their houses with fresh mango leaves. The green mango leaves tied to the doorway signify a good crop and general well being. People also splash fresh cow dung-water on the ground in front of their house and draw colorful floral designs. This is a common sight in every household. People perform the ritualistic worship to God invoking his blessings before they start off with the New Year. They pray for their health, wealth and prosperity and success in business too. Ugadi is also the most auspicious time to start new ventures. All experiences have to be treated with equanimity. Every one should make a resolve to face calmly whatever happens in this year, accepting it with good grace and welcoming everything.



Kavi Sammelanam or poetry recitation is a typical Telugu Ugadi feature. Ugadi is also a time when people look forward to a literary feast in the form of Kavi Sammelanam. Many poets come up with new poems written on subjects ranging from Ugadi to politics to modern trends and lifestyles.

April 5 Qingming Taoism The 1st day of the 5th solar term is the *Qingming* for people to go outside and enjoy the greenery of springtime and to tend to the graves of departed ones. *Qingming* Festival is the 15th day after the Spring Equinox occurring around April 5 of the Gregorian calendar. The *Qingming* Festival is commonly translated as the Clear Bright Festival or the Tomb Sweeping Day. The *Qingming* Festival itself was created by the Tang Emperor Xuanzong in 732.



The most important activity on the *Qingming* Festival is tomb sweeping to remember and honor one's ancestors at grave sites. Young and old pray before the ancestors, sweep the tombs and offer food, tea, wine, chopsticks, (joss) paper accessories, and/or libation to the ancestors. The rites are very important to most Chinese. Some people carry willow branches with them, or put willow branches on their gates and/or front doors. They think that willow branches help ward off the evil ghosts that wander on *Qingming*. People also go on family outings, start the spring plowing, sing, dance, and *Qingming* is a time when young couples start courting. Another popular thing to do is fly kites (in shapes of animals, or characters from Chinese opera).

April 8 Vesakha Mahayana Buddhist *Vesākha* is an annual holiday observed traditionally by Buddhists in the Nepal and subcontinent, Sri Lanka, and the South East Asian countries of Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Indonesia. Sometimes informally called "Buddha's Birthday", it actually encompasses the birth, enlightenment (*nirvāṇa*), and passing away (*Parinirvāna*) of (continued page4)



April 11 – World Parkinson's Disease Day

The World Parkinson's Day is annually celebrated on April 11, in commemoration of Dr. James Parkinson's birthday (1755-1825) who established the disease as a clinical entity in a paper entitled "An Essay on the Shaking Palsy".



Indonesian Monks Keeping Vigil



Novice Monks Intoning Birthday Prayer to Buddha



Sri Rama

Gautama Buddha. The exact date of *Vesākha* varies according to the various lunar calendars used in different traditions.

On *Vesākha* day, devout Buddhists and followers alike are expected and requested to assemble in their various temples before dawn for the ceremonial, and honorable, hoisting of the Buddhist flag and the singing of hymns in praise of the holy triple gem: The Buddha, The Dharma (his teachings), and The *Sangha* (his disciples). Devotees may bring simple offerings of flowers, candles and joss-sticks to lay at the feet of their teacher. These symbolic offerings are to remind followers that just as the beautiful flowers would wither away after a short while and the candles and joss-sticks would soon burn out, so too is life subject to decay and destruction. Devotees are enjoined to make a special effort to refrain from killing of any kind. They are encouraged to partake of vegetarian food for the day. In some countries, notably Sri Lanka, two days are set aside for the celebration of *Vesākha* and all liquor shops and slaughter houses are closed by government decree during the two days. Also birds, insects and animals are released by the thousands in what is known as a 'symbolic act to liberation'; of giving freedom to those who are in captivity, imprisoned, or tortured against their will. Some devout Buddhists will wear a simple white dress and spend the whole day in temples with renewed determination to observe the eight Precepts.

Some temples also display a small image of the baby Buddha in front of the altar in a small basin filled with water and decorated with flowers, allowing devotees to pour water over the statue; it is symbolic of the cleansing of a practitioners bad karma, and to reenact the events following the Buddha's birth, when *devas* and spirits made heavenly offerings to him. Devotees are expected to listen to talks given by monks. On this day monks will recite verses uttered by the Buddha twenty-five centuries ago, to invoke peace and happiness for the Government and the people. Buddhists are reminded to live in harmony with people of other faiths and to respect the beliefs of other people as the Buddha had taught.

Celebrating *Vesākha* also means making special efforts to bring happiness to the unfortunate like the aged, the handicapped and the sick. Buddhists will distribute gifts in cash and kind to various charitable homes throughout the country. *Vesākha* is also a time for great joy and happiness, expressed by concentrating on useful activities such as decorating and illuminating temples, painting and creating exquisite scenes from the life of the Buddha for public dissemination. Devout Buddhists also vie with one another to provide refreshments and vegetarian food to followers who visit the temple to pay homage to the Enlightened One.

Tradition ascribes to the Buddha himself instruction on how to pay him homage. Just before he died, he saw his faithful attendant *Ananda*, weeping. The Buddha advised him not to weep, but to understand the universal law that all compounded things (including even his own body) must disintegrate. He advised everyone not to cry over the disintegration of the physical body but to regard his teachings (The *Dhamma*) as their teacher from then on, because only the *Dhamma* truth is eternal and not subject to the law of change. He also stressed that the way to pay homage to him was not merely by offering flowers, incense, and lights, but by truly and sincerely striving to follow his teachings. This is how devotees are expected to celebrate *Vesak*: to use the opportunity to reiterate their determination to lead noble lives, to develop their minds, to practice loving-kindness and to bring peace and harmony to humanity.

April 12 Ramnavami Hindu Ramnavami or the birthday of Lord Rama falls on the 9th day of the bright fortnight of the month of *Chaitra* (March-April). *Ramnavami* is one of the most important festivals of the Hindus, particularly the *Vaishnava* sect of the Hindus and is celebrated over 9 days. On this auspicious day, devotees repeat the name of Rama with every breath and vow to lead a righteous life. People pray to attain the final beatitude of life through intense devotion towards Rama and invoke him for his blessings and protection. (continued on page 5)



Thai chicken Satay for Song Kran

Ingredients:

1 teaspoon coriander seed
 1 teaspoon cumin seed
 1 tablespoon chopped garlic
 1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger
 1 pound chicken breasts, skinned, boned, and cut into bite sized pieces; 2 tablespoons fish sauce
 1 tablespoon curry powder
 pinch turmeric powder (as only a colorant, so very little!)
 8 tablespoons coconut milk
 3 tablespoons palm sugar
Method: The chicken is beaten flat, using a meat tenderizing mallet. You can also use a rolling pin.

The coriander and cumin are toasted and then crushed in a mortar and pestle. The ingredients are then combined to form a marinade, and the chicken is marinated overnight. The pieces of chicken are then threaded on the 12" satay sticks. Grill, turning regularly and brush liberally with the remaining marinade.

Cooking should take between 5 and 10 minutes.

Nam jim satay (Peanut Sauce)

Ingredients

4 ounces of roasted (unsalted) peanuts; 3-4 cloves garlic, chopped, 1 ounce chopped onion, 1-2 tablespoon red or massaman curry paste, 1 teaspoon fish sauce, 8 tablespoons coconut milk, 4-6 teaspoons lime juice (to taste). 2-3 teaspoons palm sugar.

First grind or crush the peanuts to a fairly fine powder. Then combine them with the remaining ingredients (except the lime juice), to form a smooth sauce. If the sauce is too thick, you can thin it with a little chicken stock. Now add the lime juice, tasting as you progress to check the balance of flavors is correct.

Many observe a strict fast on this day. Otherwise, it is an extremely colorful ceremony, highly inspiring and instructive too. Temples are decorated and the image of Lord Rama is richly adorned. The holy 'Ramayana' is read in the temples. In *Ayodhya*, the birthplace of Sri Rama, a big fair is held on this day. In the south of India the "*Sri Ramnavami Utsavam*" is celebrated for nine days with great fervor and devotion. In temples and at pious gatherings the learned narrate the thrilling episodes of the 'Ramayana'. The *Kirtanists* chant the holy name of Rama and celebrate the wedding of Rama with Sita on this day.

April 13 Song Kran Buddhist/Thailand The *Songkran* festival is celebrated in Thailand as the traditional New Year's Day from 13 to 15 April. It coincides with the New Year of many calendars of South and Southeast Asia. The date of the festival was originally set by astrological calculation, but it is now fixed.



The most obvious celebration of *Songkran* is the throwing of water. Thais roam the streets with containers of water or post themselves at the side of roads with a garden hose and drench each other and passersby. This, however, was not always the main activity of this festival. *Songkran* was traditionally a time to visit and pay respects to elders, including family members, friends and neighbors.

Besides the throwing of water, people celebrating *Songkran* may also go to a *wat* (Buddhist monastery) to pray and give food to monks. They may also cleanse Buddha images from household shrines as well as Buddha images at monasteries by gently pouring water mixed with a Thai fragrance over them. It is believed that doing this will bring good luck and prosperity for the New Year. In many cities, such as Chiang Mai, the Buddha images from all of the city's important monasteries are paraded through the streets so that people can toss water at them, ritually 'bathing' the images, as they pass by on ornately decorated floats. The throwing of water originated as a way to pay respect to people, by capturing the water after it had been poured over the Buddhas for cleansing and then using this "blessed" water to give good fortune to elders and family by gently pouring it on the shoulder. The water is meant as a symbol of washing all of the bad away and is sometimes filled with fragrant herbs when celebrated in the traditional manner.

In northern Thailand, people may carry handfuls of sand to their neighborhood monastery in order to recompense the dirt that they have carried away on their feet during the rest of the year. The sand is then sculpted into *stupa*-shaped piles (a mound-like structure containing Buddhist relics) and decorated with colorful flags. Some people make New Year resolutions - to refrain from bad behavior, or to do good things. *Songkran* is a time for cleaning and renewal. Besides washing household Buddha images, many Thais also take this opportunity to give their home a thorough cleaning.

April 14 Baisakhi Sikh After harvesting the winter crop, the farmers of the northern states of Punjab and Haryana celebrate the beginning of another year. The day coincides with the solar equinox. There is boisterous dancing and loud joyous singing as the traditional folk dances of Punjab, called the *Gidda* and *Bhangra*, are performed. It is also the anniversary of the creation of the *Khalsa Pantha*. Guru Govind Singh selected the auspicious day of *Baisakhi* to form the order of the Khalsa. On the 13th of April in 1699, at a meeting in a town named Anandpur in Punjab, the guru called upon his people to come forward to sacrifice themselves for the good of the clan. He repeated the call, with the same response. The third time, a thirty-year-old man named Daya Ram Khatri stood up and volunteered. The guru took Daya Ram to a tent near by and returned alone after some time, his sword dripping blood. He repeated his call for volunteers four more times. Each of them went with him to the tent and every time here turned alone with his bloodied sword. (continued on page 6)



Yaqui cosmology and religion

The Yaqui conception of the world (in Yaqui, *anía*) is composed of five separate worlds: the desert wilderness world, the mystical world, the flower world, the dream world, and the night world. Much Yaqui ritual is centered upon perfecting these worlds and eliminating the harm that has been done to them, especially by people.

The Yaqui religion, which is a syncretic religion of old Yaqui beliefs and practices and the teachings of Jesuit and later Franciscan missionaries, relies upon song, music, prayer, and dancing, all performed by designated members of the community. There are also other, Roman Catholic, practices that are woven into the old ways.

Flowers are very important in the Yaqui culture. According to Yaqui teachings, flowers sprang up from the drops of blood that were shed at the Crucifixion. Flowers are viewed as the manifestation of souls, to the point that occasionally Yaqui men may greet a close male friend with the phrase "Haisa sewa?" ("How is the flower?")

The Yaqui were never conquered militarily by the Spanish, defeating successive expeditions of conquistadores in battle. However, they were successfully converted to Christianity by the Jesuits.

For many years, the Yaqui lived peacefully in a relationship with the Jesuit missionaries. In the 1730s the Spanish colonial government began to alter this relationship, and eventually ordered all Jesuits out of Sonora. This created considerable unrest amongst the Yaqui and led to several rebellions. Further, the Franciscan priests never arrived to be their religious leaders, leaving the Yaqui with no western religious ties. Yaqui leader Juan Banderas (executed 1833) wished to unite the Mayo, Opatá, and Pima tribes, together with the Yaqui, to form an alliance separate from Mexico in the 1820s, but the effort failed and the Yaqui remained within the scope of Mexican legal authority. The nation suffered a succession of brutalities by the Mexican authorities

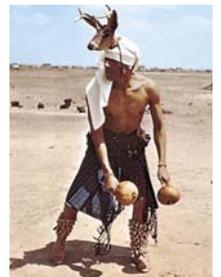
The guru went to the tent yet again, this time for a long time. Here appeared followed by the five men, clad in saffron-colored garments. The crowd was astonished for it had assumed them to be dead. They sat on the dais made for the occasion, while the guru prepared water to bless them while verses from their scriptures were recited by the congregation.

The water was first given to the five volunteers, then drunk by the guru and later distributed to the crowd. All those present, irrespective of caste or creed, became members of the *Khalsa Pantha*. Those who had offered their lives were christened the *Panch Pyare*. They were directed by the guru to wear five K's: *Kesh* or long hair, *Kangha* or comb, *Kripan* or dagger, *Kachha* or shorts and a *Kara* or bracelet. He discontinued the tradition of Gurus and asked all Sikhs to accept the *Grantha Sahib* as their eternal guide. He urged them to come to him with their hair and beard shorn to get baptized by the sword. To pay tribute to this event, prayer meetings are organized in *gurdwaras* across the country.

April 16 Yaqui Deer Dance Yaqui Indians of Arizona and Mexico The Deer Dance is a part of the Easter Festival which goes on for seven weeks. During the 17th Century Jesuit missionaries arrived in the area and began teaching Christianity to the Yaqui. They continued to hold to many of their cultural beliefs, while also accepting some Roman Catholic practices. This mixing of tribal and Christian customs is complete in the Easter Festival. It begins before Ash Wednesday when ceremonial masks are made and areas prepared with crosses for a reenactment of the Passion of Christ. Throughout Lent public ceremonies and tribal dances such as the Deer Dance occur.

On Holy Thursday/Friday there is a complete reenactment of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Christ. On Saturday there is a confrontation between the *Fariseos* (Pharisees) and the *chapayekas* (soldiers who have been searching for Christ throughout Lent) with a group who is defending the church and have armed themselves with flowers. The *Fariseos* and *chapayekas* advance toward the church three times. Each time they are stopped and have to turn back because of dancers and the throwing of real and crepe paper flowers. Eventually they are defeated. To represent their defeat they throw their ceremonial masks and the straw effigy of Judas into a fire. When the news of the resurrection reaches the church on Sunday morning all join in a final procession of happiness and joy.

The Deer Dance pays homage to the longstanding relationship between the Yaqui and the deer, an animal they both fear and admire. It was a very crucial source of food, clothing and other instruments to sustain life. Dancers wear deer heads with antlers and carry gourd rattles. Their movements represent the deer – silent, skittish, and aloof. Three singers and rasping sticks accompany them to represent the deer's breathing. A water drum represents the deer's beating heart.



April 16 Mahavir Jayanti Jain In Jainism, *Mahavir Janma Kalyanak* is the most important religious holiday. It celebrates the birth of Mahavira, the last *Tirthankara* (a human being who achieves enlightenment (perfect knowledge) through asceticism and who then becomes a role-model teacher for those seeking spiritual guidance). He was born on the 13th day of the rising moon of Chaitra, in either 599 BC or 615 BC (depending on religious tradition).

On Mahavir Jayanthi, Jain temples are decorated with flags. In the morning the statue of Mahavira is given a ceremonial bath called the 'abhishek'. Lord Mahavira is an ideal in Jainism who taught the world the essence of life. He taught the right way of living. The day of his birth is celebrated in a massive procession around the cities. The jains make offerings of milk, rice, fruit, incense, lamps and water to the poor people that day. All sections of the community participate in a grand procession. Lectures are held to preach the path of virtue. People meditate and offer prayers. Donations are collected to save the cows from slaughter and to help poor people by (continued page 7)



Jainism

Jainism is an Indian religion that prescribes pacifism and a path of non-violence towards all living beings. Its philosophy and practice emphasize the necessity of self-effort to move the soul towards divine consciousness and liberation. Any soul that has conquered its own inner enemies and achieved the state of supreme being is called Jina (Conqueror or Victor).

Jain doctrine teaches that Jainism has always existed and will always exist. Historians date the foundation of organized Jainism to sometime between the 9th and the 6th centuries BCE. Some have speculated that the religion may have its roots in much earlier times, reflecting native spirituality prior to the Indo-Aryan migration into India. In the modern world, it is a small but influential religious minority with as many as 4.2 million followers in India.

Jains have successfully sustained this longstanding religion to the present day and have significantly influenced and contributed to ethical, political and economic spheres in India. Jains have an ancient tradition of scholarship and have the highest degree of literacy for a religious community in India. Jain libraries are the oldest in the country

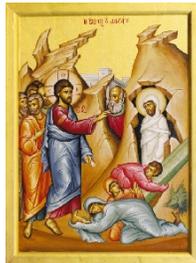


An interesting article on the Jain symbol can be found at: <http://www.jainworld.com/education/jainsymbol.htm>

providing them food. Pilgrims from all parts of the country visit the ancient Jain Temples at Pawapuri, Kundalpur and Parsvanath on this day. Lord Mahavir was a great teacher who taught humanity the true path of happiness. His teachings on complete nonviolence and the importance of austerity showed the path to achieving salvation and spirituality.

April 16 Lazarus Saturday Orthodox Christian Lazarus Saturday, in the Orthodox Church and those Eastern Catholic Churches which follow the Byzantine Rite, is the day before Palm Sunday, and is liturgically linked to it. The feast celebrates the resurrection of Lazarus of Bethany, the narrative of which is found in the New Testament Gospel of John (John 11:1-45). Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday together hold a unique position in the church year, as days of joy and triumph interposed between the penitence of Great Lent and the mourning of Holy Week.

During the preceding week, which is the last week of Great Lent, the hymns in the Lenten *Triodion* track the sickness and then the death of Lazarus, and Christ's journey from beyond Jordan to Bethany. The scripture readings and hymns for Lazarus Saturday focus on the resurrection of Lazarus as a foreshadowing of the Resurrection of Christ, and a promise of the General Resurrection.



Lazarus Saturday is the day when, traditionally, hermits would leave their retreats in the wilderness to return to the monastery for the Holy Week services. In many places in the Russian Church, the vestments and church hangings on this day and on Palm Sunday are green, denoting the renewal of life. In the Greek Church, it is customary on Lazarus Saturday to plait elaborate crosses out of palm leaves which will be used on Palm Sunday.

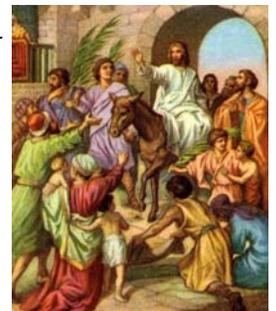
Although the forty days of Great Lent end on the day before Lazarus Saturday, the day is still observed as a fast day, with no meat or dairy products permitted. However, the fast is somewhat mitigated, and wine and oil are permitted. In Russia, it is traditional to eat caviar on Lazarus Saturday. In the Greek Orthodox Church, spice breads called *Lazarakia* are made and eaten on this day.

The antiquity of this commemoration is demonstrated by the homilies of St. John Chrysostom (349 - 407), St Augustine of Hippo Regia (354 - 430), and others. In the 7th and 8th centuries, special hymns and canons for the feast were written by St. Andrew of Crete, St. Cosmas of Maium and St. John Damascene, which are still sung to this day.

April 16/17 Palm Sunday (sundown on 16 for Orthodox Church), Anglican, Protestant, Catholic Palm Sunday is a Christian moveable feast that always falls on the Sunday before Easter Sunday. The feast commemorates an event mentioned by all four Canonical Gospels (Mark 11:1-11, Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19): the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before his Passion.

In many Christian churches, Palm Sunday is marked by the distribution of palm leaves (often tied into crosses) to the assembled worshipers. According to the Gospels, before entering Jerusalem, Jesus was staying at Bethany and Bethphage, and the Gospel of John adds that he had dinner with Lazarus. While there, Jesus sent two disciples to the village over against them, in order to retrieve a donkey that had been tied up but never been ridden, and to say, if questioned, that the donkey was needed by the Lord but would be returned.

Jesus then rode the donkey into Jerusalem, with the Synoptic gospels adding that the disciples had first put their cloaks on it, so as to make it more comfortable. The Gospels go on to recount how Jesus rode into Jerusalem, and how the people there lay down their cloaks in front of him, and also lay down small branches of trees. The people sang part of Psalm 118 - ...Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. In many lands in the ancient Near East it was the custom to cover in some way the path of someone thought worthy of the highest honors.





Passover Onion Pudding

Ingredients

6 egg yolks

4 onions, finely chopped

1/3 cup matzo meal

1-1/2 tsp. Salt

1/4 tsp. Black pepper

1/3 cup melted shortening

6 egg whites

Directions

Beat the egg yolks in a bowl. Add the onions, matzo meal, salt, pepper and shortening. Mix well. Preheat the oven to 350 f. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry. Fold them into the onion mixture. Pour into a greased 2-quart casserole or baking dish. Bake for 40 minutes.

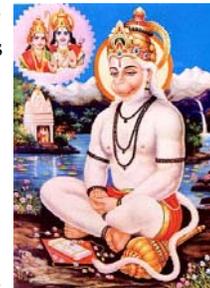
VARIATIONS: can be made by adding sliced eggplant, green peppers or shredded cabbage between layers of matzos.



April 18 Lord's Evening Meal Jehovah's Witness The Lord's Evening Meal, also called The Memorial and the Last Supper, is celebrated by Jehovah's Witnesses around the world on Nisan 14 in the Jewish calendar each year. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the Memorial is the only annual celebration sanctioned by Jesus. The Last Supper was the Passover meal which Jesus attended with his disciples just before his arrest and eventual. In other religions who take Jesus Christ as their head, the Last Supper is usually commemorated more than once during the year, frequently weekly. Although the high churches believe that there is a miraculous transformation of the bread and wine into Jesus' actual flesh and blood, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that this does not take place, but that the bread and wine function as symbols of his body. Who should partake of these Memorial emblems? Logically, only those in the new covenant – that is, those who have the hope of going to heaven – should partake of the bread and the wine. God's holy spirit convinces such ones that they have been selected to be heavenly kings. (Romans 8:16) They are also in the Kingdom covenant with Jesus. – Luke 22:29. Those who have the hope of living forever in Paradise on earth obey Jesus' command and attend the Lord's Evening Meal, but they come as respectful observers, not partakers.

April 18 Hanuman Jayanti Hindu Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman, the Vanara god, widely venerated throughout India especially in North India. Hanuman is an ardent devotee of god Rama, and is worshipped for his unflinching devotion to the God. From early morning, devotees flock Hanuman temples to worship him. Hanuman Jayanti is an important festival of Hindus. Hanuman is the symbol of strength and energy. Hanuman is said to be able to assume any form at will, wield rocks, move mountains, dart through the air, seize the clouds and be swift of flight. He is worshipped in folk tradition as a deity with magical powers and the ability to conquer evil spirits.

The devotees will visit temples and apply *tilak* (mark worn on the forehead) of *sindhūr* (red powder) to their foreheads from Hanuman's body as this is considered to be good luck. According to the legend Sita was applying *sindhūr* to her head, Hanuman Ji questioned why and she replied that this would ensure a long life for her husband. Hanuman then smeared his entire body with *sindhūr*, in an effort to ensure Rama's immortality. On this day, in a Hanuman temple spiritual discourses are started at dawn. Hanuman was born at sunrise. At that time the spiritual discourse is stopped and the offering of food (Prasad) is distributed to everyone.



April 18/19 Pesach/Passover (sundown on the 18th) Passover begins on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nissan. It is the first of the three major festivals with both historical and agricultural significance (the other two are Shavu'ot and Sukkot). Agriculturally, it represents the beginning of the harvest season in Israel, but little attention is paid to this aspect of the holiday. The primary observances of Passover are related to the Exodus from Egypt after 400 years of slavery. This story is told in Exodus, Ch. 1-15. Many of the Passover observances are instituted in Chs. 12-15.

The name "Passover" refers to the fact that G-d "passed over" the houses of the Jews when he was slaying the firstborn of Egypt. In Hebrew, it is known as *Pesach*, which is based on the Hebrew root meaning "pass over". Probably the most significant observance related to Passover involves the removal of chametz (five major grains) from homes. This commemorates the fact that the Jews leaving Egypt were in a hurry, and did not have time to let their bread rise. It is also a symbolic way of removing the "puffiness" (arrogance, pride) from souls.

The grain product eaten during Passover is called matzah. Matzah is unleavened bread, made simply from flour and water and cooked very quickly. This is the bread that the Jews made for their flight from Egypt. The day before Passover is the fast of the firstborn, a minor fast for all firstborn males, (continued on page 9)



April 23

Holy Saturday (Anglican, Catholic), The Great vigil of Easter (Protestant), The Great Sabbath (Orthodox – sundown on the 22nd)

Holy Saturday (Latin: *Sabbatum Sanctum*) is the day after Good Friday. It is the day before Easter and the last day of Holy Week, in which Christians prepare for Easter. This day commemorates the day that Jesus Christ's body laid in the tomb.

In Eastern Orthodoxy this day, known as Holy and Great Saturday, is also called The Great Sabbath since it is on this day that Christ "rested" physically in the tomb. But it is also believed that it was on this day he performed in spirit the Harrowing of Hades and raised up to Paradise those who had been held captive there.

The Easter Vigil, also called the Paschal Vigil or the Great Vigil of Easter, is a service held in many Christian churches as the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Historically, it is during this service that people are baptized and that adult catechumens are received into full communion with the Church. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day – most commonly in the evening of Holy Saturday.



commemorating the fact that the firstborn Jewish males in Egypt were not killed during the final plague.

On the first night of Passover there is a special family meal filled with ritual as a reminder of the significance of the holiday. This meal is called a seder, from a Hebrew root word meaning "order." It is the same root from which is derived the word "siddur" (prayer book). There is a specific set of information that must be covered in a specific order. Passover lasts for seven days (eight days outside of Israel). The first and last days of the holiday (first two and last two outside of Israel) are days on which no work is permitted.

April 20/21 Festival of Ridván Bahá'í (sundown on the 20th) a twelve-day festival in the Bahá'í Faith, commemorating the commencement of Bahá'u'lláh's prophethood. It begins at sunset on April 20 and continues until sunset, May 2. On the first (April 21), ninth (April 29) and twelfth days of Ridván (May 2), work and schooling may be suspended. "Ridván" means paradise, and is named for the Garden of Ridván, outside Baghdad where Bahá'u'lláh stayed for twelve days after the Ottoman Empire exiled him from Baghdad and before commencing his journey to Constantinople. It is the most holy Bahá'í festival, and is also referred to as the "Most Great Festival" and the "King of Festivals".



The festival is significant because of Bahá'u'lláh's public declaration that he was "Him Whom God shall make manifest" and a Manifestation of God, and thus it forms the beginning of the Bahá'í Faith. It is also significant because Bahá'u'lláh left his house in Baghdad, which he designated the "Most Great House", to enter the Garden of Ridván. Bahá'u'lláh compares this move from the Most Great House to the Garden of Ridván to Muhammad's travel from Mecca to Medina. Furthermore, during Bahá'u'lláh's first day in the garden, he made three further announcements: (1) abrogating religious war which was permitted under certain conditions in Islam and the Bábi faith. (2) that there would not be another Manifestation of God for another 1000 years (3) that all the names of God were fully manifest in all things.

April 21 Maundy Thursday (Anglican, Protestant), Holy Thursday (Catholic) Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, Covenant Thursday, Great & Holy Thursday, and Thursday of Mysteries, is the Christian feast or holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles as described in the Canonical gospels. It is the fifth day of Holy Week, and is preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday.

Most scholars agree that the English word Maundy in that name for the day is derived through Middle English, and Old French *mandé*, from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase "*Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexisti vos*" ("A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you"), the statement by Jesus in the Gospel of John (13:34) by which Jesus explained to the Apostles the significance of his action of washing their feet. A nice article appears at <http://www.fisheaters.com/customslent13.html>.

April 22 Good Friday (Anglican, Catholic, Protestant), Great and Holy Friday (Orthodox – begins at sundown on the 21st) Good Friday also known as Holy Friday, Great Friday, is a religious holiday observed by Christians commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. The holiday is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum on the Friday preceding Easter Sunday, and may coincide with the Jewish observance of Passover. Based on the details of the Canonical gospels, the Crucifixion of Jesus was most probably on a Friday (John 19:42).[3] The estimated year of Good Friday is C.E. 33. [Wikipedia actually has a rather good article at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_Friday.]

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April 23 St. George's Day

St. George's Day is celebrated by the several nations, kingdoms, countries, and cities of which Saint George is the patron saint. Most countries which observe St George's Day celebrate it on 23 April, the traditionally accepted date of Saint George's death in 303 AD. It is likely that Saint George was born to a Christian noble family during the late third century, and he died in Nicomedia. His father, Gerontius, was a Roman army official from Cappadocia and his mother was from Palestine. They were both Christians and from noble families of Anici, so by this the child was raised with Christian beliefs. They decided to call him Georgius (Latin) or Geōrgios (Greek), meaning "worker of the land".

George decided to go to Nicomedia, the imperial city of that time, and present himself to Emperor Diocletian to apply for a career as a soldier. Diocletian welcomed him with open arms, as he had known his father, Gerontius — one of his finest soldiers. By his late 20s, George was promoted to the rank of Tribune and stationed as an imperial guard of the Emperor at Nicomedia. In the year AD 302, Diocletian issued an edict that every Christian soldier in the army should be arrested and

every other soldier should offer a sacrifice to the Pagan gods. But George objected and with the courage of his faith approached the Emperor and ruler. Diocletian was upset, not wanting to lose his best Tribune and the son of his best official, Gerontius. George loudly renounced the Emperor's edict, and in front of his fellow soldiers and Tribunes he claimed himself to be a Christian and declared his worship of Jesus Christ. Diocletian attempted to convert George, even offering gifts of land, money and slaves if he made a sacrifice to the Roman gods. The Emperor made many offers, but George never accepted. Recognizing the futility of his efforts, Diocletian was left with no choice but to have him executed for his refusal. Before the execution George gave his wealth to the poor and prepared himself. George was executed by decapitation before Nicomedia's city wall, on April 23, 303. His body was returned to Lydda in Palestine for burial, where Christians soon came to honor him as a martyr.

April 24 Easter Day (Anglican, Catholic, Protestant), Holy Pascha (Orthodox—sundown on the 23rd), Easter (Latter Day Saints) Easter is the central feast in the Christian liturgical year. According to the Canonical gospels, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. Some Christians celebrate this resurrection on Easter Day or Easter Sunday (also Resurrection Day or Resurrection Sunday), two days after Good Friday and three days after Maundy Thursday. The chronology of his death and resurrection is variously interpreted to be between C.E. 26 and 36, traditionally 33.

Easter is linked to the Passover and Exodus from Egypt recorded in the Old Testament through the Last Supper and crucifixion that preceded the resurrection. According to the New Testament, Jesus gave the Passover meal a new meaning, as he prepared himself and his disciples for his death in the upper room during the Last Supper. He identified the loaf of bread and cup of wine as symbolizing his body soon to be sacrificed and his blood soon to be shed. 1 Corinthians 5:7 states, "Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed"; this refers to the Passover requirement to have no yeast in the house and to the allegory of Jesus as the Paschal lamb.

There are several ways that Mormons celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints focus on Jesus Christ at Easter by celebrating His Atonement and resurrection. Here are some of the ways Mormons celebrate Easter. Easter Pageant: Every Easter the Church of Jesus Christ holds a huge pageant in Mesa, Arizona about Christ's life, ministry, death, and resurrection. This Easter pageant is "the world's largest annual outdoor Easter pageant, with a cast of over 400" who celebrate Easter through music, dance, and drama.



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