



The Holy Days of June

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

**Office of InterFaith
Pastoral and Spiritual Care**
Senior Chaplain
Rev. Kathleen Ennis-Durstine
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Margarita Roque
extension 2626/ room 4115

Catholic Chaplain
Fr. Olusola Adewole
extension 2626/room 4115

Catholic Mass: Thursday at 12:00 noon
(East Chapel, room 3033, third floor East
Tower) and **Saturday at 4:00 pm** (Main
Chapel, room 3201, 3rd Floor Main Hospi-
tal)

Prayer and Meditation Tuesday 12:45 pm
East Chapel, room 3033, third floor East
Tower—please listen for the
announcement**

Friday: Jumah Prayer R-114, floor 3.5
Main Hospital at 1:15

**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

June offers opportunities for many monthly, weekly, and daily celebrations and observances. Among them are: Child Vision Month, National Aphasia Awareness Month, National Migraine Awareness Month, National Smile Month, Professional Wellness Month, Skyscraper Month, National Iced Tea Month. Weekly observances include: National Headache Awareness Week (3-9), Nursing Assistants Week (14-21), Duct Tape Days (15-17), Old Time Fiddlers Week (18025), National Prevention of Eye Injuries Awareness Week (27-7/4). You can find something to celebrate (or learn about) almost every day: Heimlich Maneuver Day (1), Stand For Children Day (1) <http://stand.org/national>, National Cancer Survivors Day (2), International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression Day (4), Hot Air Balloon Day (5), World Ocean Day (8), World Blood Donor Day (14), Recess at Work Day (16), World Sickle Cell Day (19) <http://aablooddriveandmarrowregistry4sicklecellawareness.webs.com/worldsicklecellday.htm>, Take Your Dog to Work Day (22), Baby Boomer's Recognition Day (23), *Please Take My Children to Work Day* (25), International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26), National HIV Testing Day (27), National Hand Shake Day (28), NOW (National Organization for Women) Day (30).



Holy Days with no fixed date

Sun Dance Native American/ Plains Tribes predominantly Different tribes have differing traditions associated with the Sun Dance; it occurs over several days or weeks and is a very holy time of celebration and purification/healing. Some \ symbols associated with the Sun Dance are the Buffalo, Sage, and Willow. Again, these symbols mean different things to different peoples. For the Lakota, the people who have perhaps performed the Sun Dance for the longest period of time, the Buffalo represents a Brother—one who gives his life so that others may live; he symbolizes life. Sage is a medicinal herb and used in many daily aspects of life—it is sacred because of its purifying properties. For the Lakota Willow is primarily used to make tobacco—for the Cheyenne and Ute Willow symbolizes water and growing things. The Lakota do not talk about water during the Sun Dance. It is important to remember that there are many differences between the Native American peoples and to honor and respect those differences. Since 2003 no non-Native people have been permitted to attend the Sun Dance in any of the tribes.



I arise today
Through a mighty strength,
the invocation of the Trinity,
Through the belief in the
threeness,
Through the confession of the
oneness
Of the Creator of Creation.

from St. Patrick's
Breastplate



"These are plenty complicated enough
for now — why don't we save the
Trinity stuff for later?"

Holy Days with Fixed Date

June 3 Trinity Sunday Christian Trinity Sunday, officially "The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity," is one of the few feasts of the Christian Year that celebrates a reality and doctrine rather than an event or person. On Trinity Sunday Christians remember and honor the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday is celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost, and lasts only one day, which is symbolic of the unity of the Trinity. The Eastern Churches have no tradition of Trinity Sunday, arguing that they celebrate the Trinity every Sunday. Westerners do as well, although they set aside a special feast day for the purpose.

The Trinity is one of the most fascinating - and controversial - Christian dogmas. The Trinity is a mystery. By mystery the Church does not mean a riddle, but rather the Trinity is a reality above our human comprehension that we may begin to grasp, but ultimately must know through worship, symbol, and faith. It has been said that mystery is not a wall to run up against, but an ocean in which to swim. The common wisdom is that if you talk about the Trinity for longer than a few minutes you will slip into heresy because you are probing the depths of God too deeply. The Trinity is best described in the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, commonly called the Nicene Creed. Essentially the Trinity is the belief that God is one in essence (Greek *ousia*), but distinct in person (Greek *hypostasis*). Don't let the word "person" fool you. The Greek word for person means "that which stands on its own," or "individual reality," and does not mean the persons of the Trinity are three human persons. Therefore Christians believe that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are somehow distinct from one another (not divided though), yet completely united in will and essence. How can this be? Well, think of the sight of two eyes. The eyes are distinct, yet one and undivided in their sight. Another illustration to explain the Trinity is the musical chord. Think of a C-chord. The C, E, and G notes are all distinct notes, but joined together as one chord the sound is richer and more dynamic than had the notes been played individually. The notes are all equally important in producing the rich sound, and the sound is lacking and thin if one of the notes is left out.

June 3 Pentecost Orthodox Christian Because the Orthodox Christian Easter is slightly later in the calendar than the western Easter, Pentecost also falls later. Pentecost comes from the Greek word meaning fiftieth—the fiftieth day following Easter. It is the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles of Jesus as they were preaching and teaching. The account can be found in the Book of Acts 2: 1-4 — “When the day of Pentecost has come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”



June 7 Corpus Christi *Christian/Roman Catholic* Corpus Christi is also celebrated in some Anglican, Lutheran and Old Catholic Churches. Like Trinity Sunday and the Solemnity of Christ the King, it does not commemorate a particular event in Jesus' life. Instead it celebrates the Body and Blood of Christ really present in the Eucharist.

June 9 Saint Columba of Iona (*Celtic Christianity*) Columba's was born at Gartan, County Donegal, in 521. It was the custom for the children of ruling families to be fostered, but unusually Columba was put into the care of a priest. The boy's daily practice of reading the psalms led his young contemporaries to call him Columcille (Colum of the church) and he is more usually known by that name in Ireland. He went on to study under Saint Finnian of Moville, County Down, where his prayers are said to have turned spring water into communion wine. He later became a pupil of Saint Finnian of Clonard and was destined to become the most famous of the latter's "twelve apostles of Ireland".

Columba established his first monastery at Derry in 548. Others followed, notably Durrow in County Offaly, which became famous for the Celtic artistry of its illuminated manuscripts. In 563 Columba sailed with twelve followers to found a monastery on the Scottish island of Iona.

The extent of Columba's missionary work has probably been exaggerated by his early biographers, but there is no doubting the profound influence of Iona on the Celtic Church as a whole, and on the spread of Christianity in Scotland and northern England. Columba was also a political figure of consequence. His early conversion of Brude, king of the Picts, reduced the threat of attacks on Christians. In 575, returning to Ulster for a convention held at Drum Ceatt, he negotiated the Scottish kingdom's independence from the Irish.

Columba died on Iona in 597. Chronicles of his life appeared in the following century, most notably from Saint Adomnán, who attributed to him many prophecies, visions and miracles, not least of which was warding off the Loch Ness monster with the sign of the cross.

From the Appletree Press title: A Little Book of Celtic Saints.

June 10 All Saints Day *Orthodox Christian* There are some days set aside to remember specific martyrs and saints, but because there were significant numbers of those who became martyrs/saints follow some periods of persecution a day was set aside to remember all those saints of the church who have remained anonymous. [The Western Church celebrates this day November 1]

June 10 Corpus Christi (the Catholic Church in England and Wales) [see description above—June 7th]



St. Columba's Abbey at Iona



June 15 Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Christian Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus goes back at least to the 11th century, but through the 16th century, it remained a private devotion, often tied to devotion to the Five Wounds of Christ. The first feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated on August 31, 1670, in Rennes, France, through the efforts of Fr. Jean Eudes (1602-1680). From Rennes, the devotion spread, but it took the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690) for the devotion to become universal.

In all of these visions, in which Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus played a central role. The “great apparition,” which took place on June 16, 1675, during the octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi, is the source of the modern Feast of the Sacred Heart. In that vision, Christ asked St. Margaret Mary to request that the Feast of the Sacred Heart be celebrated on the Friday after the octave (or eighth day) of the Feast of Corpus Christi, in reparation for the ingratitude of men for the sacrifice that Christ had made for them. The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents not simply His physical heart but His love for all.

The devotion became quite popular after St. Margaret Mary’s death in 1690, but, because the Church initially had doubts about the validity of St. Margaret Mary’s visions, it wasn’t until 1765 that the feast was celebrated officially in France. Almost 100 years later, in 1856, Pope Pius IX, at the request of the French bishops, extended the feast to the universal Church. It is celebrated on the day requested by the Lord—the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi, or 19 days after Pentecost Sunday.

June 16 Lailat al Miraj Islam

Lailat al Miraj is a Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily.

The story of Lailat al Miraj consists of two major parts. The first part of the story begins with the Prophet Muhammad at the Kabaa in Mecca. He is visited by two archangels who provide him with a mythical winged steed called Buraq. Buraq carries the Prophet to the 'Farthest Mosque,' believed by Muslims to be the **Al Aqsa** mosque in Jerusalem, where Muhammad joins past prophets in prayer.

The Prophet then ascends to heaven where he is told by God of the duty for Muslims to pray five times daily (Salat). This second part of the journey is commonly referred to as the Miraj, an Arabic word meaning "ladder."

The events of Lailat al Miraj are described briefly in chapter 17 of the Quran, which is named "Sura Al-Isra" after the Prophet's ascension to heaven. Many of the details of the story are filled in by *hadith*, supplemental writings about the life of the Prophet Muhammad.

Today Lailat al Miraj is observed by Muslims as one of the most important events in the history of Islam. Muslims may attend special prayer services at a mosque, or they may commemorate the holiday privately at home by telling the story to children or reciting special nighttime prayers.

(From the Huffington Post)



June 16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sikh (Nanakshahi Calendar) 1563-1606
Guru Arjan was the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr: he gave up his life for the Sikh people.

The Guru laid the foundation of the Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) in Amritsar. He also designed the four doors in a Gurdwara (place of worship), proclaiming that "My faith is for the people of all castes and all creeds from whichever direction they come and to whichever direction they bow."

He also declared that all Sikhs should donate a tenth of their earnings to charity.

The greatest contribution he made to the Sikh faith was to compile all of the past Gurus' writings into one book, now the holy scripture: the Guru Granth Sahib. It was this holy book that made him a martyr. Guru Arjan Dev included the compositions of both Hindu and Muslim saints which he considered consistent with the teachings of Sikhism and the Gurus.

In 1606, the Muslim Emperor Jahangir ordered that he be tortured and sentenced to death after he refused to remove all Islamic and Hindu references from the Holy book. He was made to sit on a burning hot sheet while boiling hot sand was poured over his burnt body. After enduring five days of unrelenting torture Guru Arjan Dev was taken for a bath in the river. As thousands watched he entered the river never to be seen again.

June 19 Juneteenth African American This day is one of the oldest African American celebrations in the United States. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation declaring that those people held as slaves in the southern states which had seceded from the Union were henceforth free. On January 31, 1865 Congress passed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery throughout the entire United States. On June 19, 1965 General Gordon Granger with federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to force slave owners to release their slaves. This was the first word those who were held as slaves had about the abolition of slavery. The celebration today includes picnics, parades, games, contests, singing and dancing. It is connected symbolically to the "Watch Night" celebrations which originated with the waiting and worship services of black churches on the night on January 31, 1865.

June 19 New Church Day Swedenborgian Christianity The New Church (or Swedenborgianism) is the name for a new religious movement developed from the writings of the Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772). Swedenborg claimed to have received a new revelation from Jesus Christ through continuous heavenly visions which he experienced over a period of at least twenty-five years. In his writings he predicted that God would replace the traditional Christian Church, establishing a 'New Church', which would worship God in one person, Jesus Christ. The New Church doctrine is that each person must actively cooperate in repentance, reformation and regeneration of one's life. The movement was founded on the belief that God explained the spiritual meaning of the Scriptures to Swedenborg as a means of revealing the truth of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Followers believe that Swedenborg witnessed the Last Judgment in the spiritual world, along with the inauguration of the New Church.

The New Church is seen by members of New Church organizations as something which the Lord is establishing with all those who believe that the Lord, Jesus Christ, is the one God of heaven and Earth and that obeying his commandments is necessary for salvation. Therefore, it is thought that any Christian holding these beliefs is part of this New Church movement. New Church organizations also acknowledge the universal nature of the Lord's church: all who do good from the truth of their religion (continued)



will be accepted by the Lord into heaven, as God is goodness itself, and doing good conjoins one to God. Adherents believe that the doctrine of the New Church is derived from scripture and provides the benefit of further enlightenment concerning the truth, and that this leads to diminished doubt, a recognition of personal faults, and thus a more directed and happier life.

Other names for the movement include Swedenborgian, New Christians, Neo-Christians, Church of the New Jerusalem and The Lord's New Church. Those outside the church may refer to the movement as Swedenborgianism; however, some adherents seek to distance themselves from this title, since it implies a following of Swedenborg rather than Jesus Christ. Swedenborg published his works anonymously, and his writings promoted one Church based on love and charity, rather than multiple churches named after their founders based on belief or doctrine.

June 20 Solstice Pagan (Litha in the Northern Hemisphere) Nearly every agricultural society has marked the high point of summer in some way, shape or form. On this date – usually around June 20 to 22 – the sun reaches its zenith in the sky. It is the longest day of the year, and the point at which the sun seems to just hang there without moving – in fact, the word “solstice” is from the Latin word *solstitium*, which literally translates to “sun stands still.” Stone circles such as Stonehenge were oriented to highlight the rising of the sun on the day of the summer solstice.

Although few primary sources are available detailing the practices of the ancient Celts, some information can be found in the chronicles kept by early Christian monks. Some of these writings, combined with surviving folklore, indicate that Midsummer was celebrated with hilltop bonfires and that it was a time to honor the space between earth and the heavens.

In addition to the polarity between land and sky, Litha is a time to find a balance between fire and water. According to Ceisiwr Serith, in his book *The Pagan Family*, European traditions celebrated this time of year by setting large wheels on fire and then rolling them down a hill into a body of water. He suggests that this may be because this is when the sun is at its strongest yet also the day at which it begins to weaken. Another possibility is that the water mitigates the heat of the sun, and subordinating the sun wheel to water may prevent drought.

Litha has often been a source of contention among modern Pagan and Wiccan groups, because there's always been a question about whether or not Midsummer was truly celebrated by the ancients. While there's scholarly evidence to indicate that it was indeed observed, there were suggestions made by Gerald Gardner, the founder of modern Wicca, that the solar festivals (the solstices and equinoxes) were actually added later and imported from the Middle East. Regardless of the origins, many modern Wiccans and Pagans do choose to celebrate Litha every year in June.

In some traditions, Litha is a time at which there is a battle between light and dark. The Oak King is seen as the ruler of the year between winter solstice and summer solstice, and the Holly King from summer to winter. At each solstice they battle for power, and while the Oak King may be in charge of things at the beginning of June, by the end of Midsummer he is defeated by the Holly King.

This is a time of year of brightness and warmth. Crops are growing in their fields with the heat of the sun, but may require water to keep them alive. The power of the sun at Midsummer is at its most potent, and the earth is fertile with the bounty of growing life.

For contemporary Wiccans and Pagans, this is a day of inner power and brightness.



June 21 First Nations Day Canadian Native People This day marks the diverse and unique cultures of Canadian Native Peoples. First Nation is a term that refers to a specific band of Canadian Natives, therefore the day is sometimes referred to as Canada's National Aboriginal Day to include the Inuit and Métis people. National Aboriginal Day events are held in every region across Canada. Activities and events include (but are not limited to):

- Summer solstice festivals.
- Barbecue fundraisers.
- Social networking gatherings with traditional and contemporary music, dance and singing.
- Sacred fire extinguishing ceremonies.
- Traditional feasts, which may include fry bread and moose stew.

The cutting of a cake to honor National Aboriginal Day.

National Aboriginal Day in Canada gives people of all walks of life the opportunity to celebrate and share knowledge about the Aboriginal peoples' values, customs, languages, and culture.

The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal peoples: Indians (First Nations), Inuit and Métis. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Many people have pushed for a national day to recognize and celebrate Canada's Aboriginal peoples and cultures prior to 1996. For example, in 1982 the National Indian Brotherhood (now the Assembly of First Nations) called for June 21 to be National Aboriginal Solidarity Day. In 1995 the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended for a National First Peoples Day to be designated. The Sacred Assembly, a national conference of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, called for a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal peoples.

Canada's governor general proclaimed the first National Aboriginal Day in 1996. In cooperation with Aboriginal organizations, the Canadian government chose June 21 for National Aboriginal Day because it was on or near the June solstice. Many of Canada's Aboriginal peoples celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day for many generations. National Aboriginal Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the unique achievements of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in fields as diverse as agriculture, the environment, business and the arts.

June 23 Kupalo Festival Ukraine The Kupalo Festival is a traditional observance. Young women make a wreath of flowers and toss it into a nearby river. Wherever the wreath touches the shore indicates that this is the family into which the woman will marry. Another custom is for girls to make an effigy of the goddess of cold, death and winter—Marena—which they burn or drown to reduce the goddess's power over the coming winter. Young men look for a particular type of fern in the woods which is said to bloom only on Midsummer Day. If they find the fern they draw a circle around it with white powder and sit in the middle waiting for the fern to bloom. When it does, they cut the flower with a knife, wrap it in a cloth and hide it. They are not to tell anyone or they will not have the luck and power the fern's blossom symbolizes. The primary symbol of Kupalo is a young sapling decorated with flowers, seeds and fruit. It represents the god Kupalo—god of summer and fertility. He sleeps under a tree all winter according to legend, and when he wakes he shakes the tree so that its seeds fall and regenerate.



June 23 Wianki Festival Washington, DC This festival can be traced to pagan times in Poland. The word “wianki” means “wreaths” in Polish. Girls make wreaths of fresh greens, place a lighted candle in the middle, and float them in the reflecting pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Young men gather around the pool looking for wreath of their “special girl” and hoping the wind will blow it toward them. Originally the wreaths would have been tossed into a river or moving stream: if the wreath drifted to shore it indicated the girl would not marry, if it sank she would die within the year; if it floated downstream, she will marry. The boys would hide along the shore to catch the wreath of their sweetheart. The wreath is a symbol of immortality, victory, and of mourning and a myrtle wreath is a traditional symbol of the bride. Therefore these wreaths symbolize the different paths a young woman’s life may take.

June 24 Nativity of John the Baptist Christian John was a Jewish preacher who called upon people to repent, amend their lives and renew their relationship with God. He was a strong believer that the coming of the Kingdom of God was imminent. John baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, which is said to mark the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. When Jesus arrived to be baptized by John, John told his followers “this is the man I spoke of,” and that his mission was to proclaim the coming of Christ. John lost his life after he was arrested and beheaded by King Herod Antipas because he criticized the king for divorcing his wife and taking a new wife.



Baptism of Jesus by He Qi

June 29 Ghambar Maidyoshem Zoroastrian This is the second of six Ghambar festivals during the Zoroastrian year. This particular seasonal festival celebrates the creation of water, the harvest of grain, and the sowing of summer crops. Gahambars / gahanbars are six seasonal festivals or high feasts when Zoroastrians assemble to eat and share food communally. They are joyous occasions at which rich and poor met together, new friendships are formed and old disputes resolved. Each gahambar lasts for five days. The Gahambars are the only festivals mentioned in the Avesta. Some believe that the Gahambars were instituted by Zarathushtra himself.

Gahambars are a demonstration of beliefs, principle and values in action and are an expression of piety in thought, word and deed. Next to Nowruz, gahambars are festivals of special significance for Zoroastrians.

The food stuffs are contributed anonymously according to a person or family's means. Many community members volunteer to prepare the food, prepare for the occasion and serve the meals - without regard to status. During the meal, everyone sits together and partakes of the same food. The customs are an expression of egalitarian communal togetherness. The free and equal sharing of food with everyone, the environment of togetherness, goodwill and sharing - all serve to help build and strengthen the community.

The gahambars are seen as a manifestation of seven acts of piety and goodness: generosity of the spirit (including speaking well of others), material generosity & sharing, selfless help towards those in need (without desire for recognition or reward), community participation and inclusion (including supporting the Gahambars), honesty, piety, remembrance of the souls of the righteous, and one's ancestors.

The number seven plays a significant role in all Zoroastrian and Zoroastrian-based customs and rituals. Seven stands for the divine seven, God and God's six archangels. There are also seven aspects to the corporeal creation (gaiety): fire, air, water, earth, plants, animals and human beings.

Much information can be found at the follow site: <http://www.heritageinstitute.com/zoroastrianism/gahambar/index.htm>

June 29 Festival of Peter and Paul Catholic Christian This feast day for two of Jesus’ apostles was established as early as 258 C.E. According to Christian legend both saints went to Rome following the death of Jesus. This date was chosen partly because it marks the anniversary of the date that their remains were moved to the catacombs near the Roman church San Sebastiano fuori le mura stands today. At a still later date, Peter’s remains were moved to the Vatican Basilica and Paul’s to the church on the Via Ostensis. The day is celebrated with liturgy and prayer.