

Chaplaincy Services

Holy Days, Celebrations and Observances of July 2024

July 6 Islamic New Year

The Islamic New Year is the first day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar. The first year of this calendar began in Gregorian CE 622 when the Prophet Muhammad emigrated from Mecca to Medina with his companions. In the Islamic calendar, days begin at sunset. The event falls on a different day every year because the Islamic year is 11 to 12 days shorter. As rituals and prayers mark the occasion, Muharram is known as the month of remembrance and is sacred to Muslims across the world.



In Mecca and other areas, Muslims of the 7th century CE faced religious persecution for their beliefs. Therefore, the exodus of Muhammed and his followers to the city that would later be called Medina – a movement called the Hijra – where Muhammad would set forth a Constitution that delineated Muslim's

rights and responsibilities.

The entire month is of holy significance. For example, it is also in Muharram – second only in importance as a solemn occasion to Ramadan – that the 10th day, Ashura takes place, marking Noah's leaving the Ark and also Moses crossing the Red Sea.

For Shia Muslims, it's also the death anniversary of Muhammad's grandson Hussein. They mark the occasion with mourning ceremonies. Shias, particularly those in Afghanistan, Bahrain, India, Lebanon and Pakistan, take part in remembrance parades called "matam", where men gather in the street to take part in ritual chest-beating. For Sunnis, Muharram is a time of ushering in the new, with solemn prayer and reflection.

July 8/9 Martyrdom of the Bab Baha'i

This holiday commemorates the 1850 execution of the co-founder of the Baha'i faith, the Báb, in Persia. It is one of nine holy days during which work and school is suspended.

On July 9, 1850 the Báb, who was thirty years old at the



time, was charged with apostasy and shot by order of the Prime Minister of the Persian Empire. Apostasy is the abandonment or rejection of a religious belief. There is much speculation and mystery surrounding the execution. Some accounts state that the Báb and one of his companions were suspended on a wall where they were shot by a large firing squad. But, when the smoke cleared after the first firing of bullets, the Báb was missing. It is said that he was found back in his prison room finishing dictation to his secretary. There are several other interpretations of this miracle story. Even so, they all agree that the Báb survived the first firing squad, and was killed by the second.



For many years after the Báb's death, his followers secretly transported his body from place to place to avoid the desecration of his remains. The Báb was finally laid to rest at the Shrine of the Báb in Haifa on the middle terrace of the Bahá'í Gardens.

Bahá'ís commemorate the Martyrdom of the Báb with prayers and scripture. Specifically, the Bahá'í scripture called Tablets of Visitation. This scripture signifies the passing of an important figure.

July 11 Feast of Saint Benedict Catholic Christian

On July 11, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of Saint Benedict of Nursia, the sixth-century abbot who gave Christian monasticism its lasting foundation in Western Europe.

For his historic role as the "Father of Western Monasticism," St. Benedict was declared a co-patron of Europe (along with Saints Cyril and Methodius). St. Benedict is also the patron saint of Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate.

Born to upper-class parents in modern-day Italy during the year 480, Benedict was sent to Rome to study the humanities. However, he soon became disgusted with the loose morals that prevailed among

the students. Withdrawing from the city, he lived briefly with a group of monks, then as a hermit.

The young man spent three years in solitude, facing and overcoming severe temptations through prayer and asceticism. Only after doing so, did he have the confidence to emerge as an organizer of monastic communities. His first monasteries were established in



the Anio valley outside Subiaco, Italy.

Benedict's monasteries in Subiaco became centers of education for children, a tradition which would continue in the order during his lifetime and beyond.

During 529, Benedict left Subiaco for Monte Cassino, 80 miles south of Rome. The move was geographically and spiritually significant, marking a more public emergence of the Western monastic movement.

It was most likely at Monte Cassino that the abbot drew up a rule of life, the famous "Rule of St. Benedict," which emphasized prayer, work, simplicity, and hospitality. Though known as a rule for monks, it is addressed to all those who seek "to do battle for Christ the Lord, the true King."

Benedict's life was marked by various intrigues and miraculous incidents, which are described in his biography written by Pope St. Gregory the Great. One of the most remarkable was his meeting in 543 with Totila, King of the Goths, in which the abbot rebuked the king's lifestyle and prophesied his death.

Around the age of 63, Benedict suffered his final illness. He was carried into the church by his fellow monks, where he received the Eucharist for the last time. Held up by his disciples, he raised his hands in prayer for the last time, before dying in their arms.

Although his influence was primarily felt in Western Europe, St. Benedict is also celebrated by the Eastern Catholic churches, and by Eastern Orthodox Christians, on March 14.

July 15 Feast of Saint Vladimir the Great Orthodox Christian

St. Vladimir I, 956–1015, Grandson of St. Olga and illegitimate son of Sviatoslav, grand duke of Kiev, and his mistress, Malushka, he was given Novgorod to rule by his father. Civil war broke out between his half-brothers Yaropolk and Oleg; Yaropolk made himself ruler by defeating and killing Oleg, and when he captured Novgorod, Vladimir was forced to flee to Scandinavia in 977. Vladimir returned with an army and captured Novgorod and defeated and slew Yaropolk at Rodno in 980; Vladimir was now sole ruler of Russia, notorious for his barbarism and immorality. After his conquest of Kherson in the Crimea in 988, he became impressed by the progress of Christianity and approached Eastern Emperor Basil II about marrying the emperor's daughter Ann. He was converted, reformed his life and married Anne. On his return to Kiev, he invited Greek missionaries to Russia, let his people to Christianity, borrowed canonical features



from the West and built schools and churches. His later years were troubled by rebellions led by the sons of his first marriages, although two sons by Anne, SS Romanus and David became martyrs. In 1014 he was obliged to march against his rebellious son Yaroslav in Novgorod, fell ill on the way and died at Beresyx, Russia. He is patron of the Russian Catholics.

(You can read a longer history at www.newadvent.org.)

July 24 Pioneer Day Latter Day Saints

Pioneer Day is a state holiday in Utah so county offices (except emergency services), educational institutions, and many businesses are closed

This day commemorates the entry of Brigham Young and the first group of Mormon pioneers into Utah's Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847. The Mormon pioneers

viewed their arrival as the founding of a Mormon homeland, hence Pioneer Day. The Mormons, as they were commonly known, left their settlement in Nauvoo, Illinois, and journeyed west seeking refuge from religious persecution.

Determined to settle in an isolated region, the pioneers made their way across the plains and over the Rocky Mountains to Utah. They lost many of their party to disease during the winter months. By the time that they reached Utah, the desolate valley was a welcome sight. Potatoes and turnips were soon planted, and a dam was built. With solemn ceremonies, the settlers consecrated the two-square-mile city, and sent back word that the "promised land" was found. By the end of 1847, nearly 2000 Mormons settled in the Salt Lake Valley. The first Pioneer Day was celebrated in 1849 with a parade, band music and speeches.

Pioneer Day activities include fireworks, parades, picnics, rodeos and other festivities throughout the state. Children take part in essay contests and projects about pioneers, while families enjoy the day with concerts and festivals. For the parades, some people may wear costumes that resemble clothes worn during the 19th century when Salt Lake Valley was founded.



July 25 Feast of Saint James the Great Christian

The Feast of St. James the Apostle is celebrated yearly on July 25. Saint James alongside his brother, John were sons of Zebedee and part of the first four Apostles chosen by Jesus. James the Great or James the Greater (due to his greater size or the age difference between him and James The Lesser). Saint James is the patron saint of Galicia and Spain. It is believed his remains are in the Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. The day is set aside to celebrate one of the most important saints in Spain.

Apostle James was one of the first of the 12 apostles to be recruited by Jesus. He was recruited by Jesus while fishing on the sea of Galilee with his younger brother, John. He was called to help spread the gospel and together with Peter, Andrew and John. James formed the inner circle of Jesus. He was also one of the three people to witness the transfiguration of Jesus, the agony at Gethsemane, and the raising to life of the daughter of Jairus.

After Jesus was put to death and ascended into heaven, his apostles moved far and wide to spread the gospel and James' travels took him to Spain. Unfortunately, his preaching was not received with open arms, and he was arrested in Grenada. He was soon released, and he took his message to Galicia.

In January 40 CE, James was preaching the gospel on the bank of the Ebro river, a river of the north and northeast of the Iberian Peninsula in Spain that flows into the Mediterranean Sea. While he was there, Mary the mother of Jesus, appeared to him on a pillar and advised him to return to Jerusalem once the Church had been built. The pillar remains today and is placed at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar in Zaragoza, Spain.



James returned to Jerusalem in 44 CE and was taken prisoner upon his arrival under the rule of King Herod Agrippa I. The king put James to death, making him a martyr, and his body was taken by his devotees and was buried at the Santiago de Compostela in Galicia.

July 26 Feast of Saint Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church celebrates colorfully the Feast of St. Gabriel on 19th day of each month of which two are great annual feasts – on Tahisas 19 (December 28) and Hamle 19 (July 26). Tahisas 19, in the Church, is dedicated to commemorate the deliverance of the three youths

(Sidraq, Misaq and Abdenago) from the burning fire of Nebuchadnezzar through the help of St Gabriel (Daniel 3).

St. Gabriel is an angel who serves as a messenger for God to certain people. He is one of the three archangels. Gabriel is mentioned in both the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible. First, in the Old Testament, Gabriel appears to the prophet Daniel to explain his visions. Gabriel is described as, "one who looked like man," as he interprets Daniel's visions. He speaks to Daniel while he is sleeping. After Gabriel's first visit, Daniel becomes tired and sick for days. Gabriel later visits Daniel again providing him with more insight and understanding in an answered prayer.

In the New Testament, Gabriel, described as "an angel of the Lord," first appears to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. He tells him, "Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth." Luke 1:13.

After Elizabeth conceived and was six months pregnant, Gabriel appears again. The Book of Luke states he was sent from God to Nazareth to visit the virgin married to a man named Joseph. Gabriel said to Mary, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." Luke 1:28.

Gabriel told Mary she would conceive from The Holy Ghost and the baby will be the Son of God. After the Annunciation of Mary, Gabriel is not spoken of again.



Gabriel's attributes are the Archangel; he is clothed in blue or white; and is seen carrying a lily, a trumpet, a shining lantern, a branch from Paradise, a scroll or a scepter. In art, Gabriel is most commonly represented in the scene of the Annunciation. In art, Gabriel is often represented in the scene of the Annunciation.

He is occasionally cited as the one who blows God's trumpet to indicate the Lord's return to Earth. However, the person designated with this task varies; different passages cite different people. The earliest known identification of Gabriel as the trumpet holder comes in 1455 represented in Byzantine art.

OTHER CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

Apache Girls' Sunrise Ceremony

The Apache people have a sophisticated spiritual repertory of myths, ceremonies, and ways of life associated with their homelands in the Southwest. Along with the Navajos, the Apaches came to the lands of the American Southwest from the north and are related to other communities in the Alaskan interior and Canadian Northwest Territories who speak tongues of the Athabaskan language family. They are said to have arrived in the American Southwest between about 800–1000 CE. The Apaches settled among the agricultural Hopi and other Pueblo peoples of what are today Arizona, New Mexico, and Northern Mexico. One community of Apaches, the Mescalero Apaches, settled the high country in what is today southern New Mexico.

One Mescalero Apache ceremonial tradition which brings the tribe's larger way of life into focus is that of initiating girls into womanhood. The initiation is an elaborate four-day ceremony and feast, for which a girl and her extended family have saved resources and prepared spiritually all year—and in a larger sense, all their lives. Through the ceremony, the young girl is transformed into a woman and blessed with the prospects of a long and healthy life. Though the rite of passage is ostensibly just the girl's, the ceremony is fully a community event. All members of the community are invited and fed as guests for several days by the girl's family. Moreover the girl's passage to womanhood is made sacred through a ritual transformation that casts blessings upon the community as a whole—indeed on the whole cosmos. Under the auspices of a ritualist known as a "singer" and with the guidance of an elder woman who is her "sponsor," the young girl actually becomes the principal Apache deity, a female spirit who embodies the cyclical life forces of earth. This process of transformation includes singing, dancing, running, and other ritual enactments.

As the days of ceremony conclude, the community gathers around the girl-become-deity to receive her



blowing of yellow cattail pollen, to share an elaborate meal of traditional food, to laugh and tell stories, and to learn the wisdom of their tradition. In a reciprocal process, the girl has become woman, but through this ceremony, the aging deity has also taken on the girl's youth, to live on until the next ceremony, when another girl becomes woman and the renewal can once again take place. Photo: nationalgeographic.com

Niman Katchina Ceremony Hopi

Niman takes place shortly after Summer Solstice as we move from Katsina season to Non-Katsina season. Also called "The Going Home of the Katsina," Niman is a ceremony to say goodbye to the winter and spring Katsinam. During this beautiful last ceremony of the Katsina season, Katsinam bring the first harvest of the season to the villagers as well as presents for the children.

Niman is a time for Hopi families to reunite with family members who live away from the villages and who are returning to take part in the ceremonies. This 16-day festival includes feasting and a ceremonial performance by masked dancers representing the Katsinam who are now leaving the village to return to the spirit world in the San Francisco Peaks for the rest of the year. Dancers carry musical instruments, the first green cornstalks of the harvest, and sacred meal, which is sprinkled on the Katsinam as a thank you for the summer harvest to come.



Priests carry a water bowl and a ceremonial pipe. Smoke from the pipe symbolizes clouds, and water from the bowl is flung with a feather, symbolizing the rain that will nourish the crops.

During this final Katsina ceremony, women who have been married during the year are presented to the people of the Pueblo and given their robes by their husbands.

There are over 400 Katsinam in Hopi culture, representing the many different elements of the natural world. Katsina dolls are given to Hopi children to teach them about the specific deities and the lessons they teach during their visits to the village.

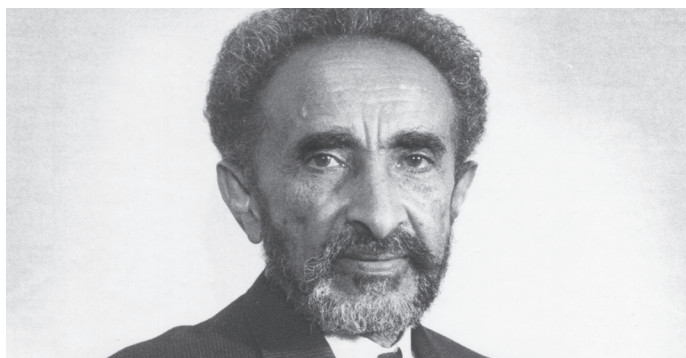
Photo: adobegallery.com

The Birthday of Haile Selassie Rastafarian

Rastafari around the world—estimated to number 700,000 to 1 million—hold Nyabingi drumming sessions and celebrate the birthday anniversary of their God incarnate, Haile Selassie I. (Note: The belief that Selassie is God incarnate is not universally held; some Rastas regard Selassie as a messenger of God.) Born Ras Tafari Makonnen, Haile Selassie served as Ethiopia's regent from 1916 to 1930 and emperor from 1930 to 1974.

Beginnings were meager for this emperor-to-be, born in a mud hut in Ethiopia in 1892. Selassie—originally named Tafari Makonnen—was a governor's son, assuming the throne of Ethiopia in a complex struggle for succession. The nation's leaders favored Tafari for the role of emperor—and, in 1930, he was crowned. Selassie would become Ethiopia's last emperor.

Years prior to Haile Selassie's enthronement, American black-nationalist leader Marcus Garvey began preaching of a coming messiah who would lead the peoples of Africa, and the African diaspora, into freedom. When news of Selassie's coronation reached Jamaica, it became evident to some that Selassie was



this foretold of messiah. Beyond the prophecies in the book of Revelation and New Testament that Rastafari point to as proof of Selassie's status, the emperor also could trace his lineage back to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Rastafari pointed to Selassie as the Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David and the King of Kings.

The Rastafari receive their name from the combination of Ras—an honorific title, meaning "head"—and Tafari, part of Selassie's birth name.

Selassie remained a lifelong Christian, but never reproached the Rastafari for their beliefs in him as the returned messiah. To this day, Rastafari rejoice on July 23, the anniversary of his birth. Photo: biography.com

OTHER IMPORTANT OBSERVANCES IN HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride initially started as a day of celebration in 1990 and was held in Boston. This is the same year that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed.

As time has gone on, the celebration of pride has progressed to a month, rather than just a day. The first celebration of Disability Pride Month was in 2015, which marked the 25th anniversary of the ADA being signed.

Some people may see the month as a time to celebrate their individual success and accomplishments, whereas others may celebrate the feeling of pride about being disabled.

No matter what the month means to individuals, the main focus is to be proud of being disabled and for people to be unapologetically themselves without having to fear making others uncomfortable or hiding for the comfort of others.



The photo above is of the Disability Pride Month flag. The charcoal background represents those in the community who have been subjected to ableist violence, as well as representing protest in the community.

The "band/road" shape – represents how disabled people face barriers and have to navigate their life according to them. The different colors in the shape represent the creativity in navigating life, and how the community is breaking free from authority.

The colors – the colors represent the various experiences and needs (mental illness, developmental disability, invisible disabilities, physical disabilities and sensory disabilities) in the disabled community.

Bereaved Parents Awareness Month



Bereaved Parents Awareness Month is recognized every year in July. It is dedicated to raising awareness about the grief parents go through after the unfortunate loss of a child and the kind of support needed to overcome this unimaginable grief.

It exists to provide support to parents who have lost their children, but its other aim is to raise awareness about how many parents have suffered the loss of a child. Not only does it enable bereaved parents to find resources and support to overcome their grief, but it also seeks to provide information to others, including family, friends, and relatives, on how they can help parents overcome their loss. Social support becomes more important than ever during times of grief.

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

Founded by the Arthritis Foundation, this campaign aims to raise awareness about this condition and share resources to help those affected by it. Did you know, with kids, arthritis affects not just joints, but other organs too? Their immune system attacks their joints,

causing swelling, stiffness, and sometimes permanent damage, which can get worse if left untreated.

Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness Month

Each year in the United States, approximately 2,600 babies are born with a cleft palate and 4,400 babies are born with a cleft lip, with or without a cleft palate (1). Other craniofacial birth defects include craniosynostosis (skull sutures fusing prematurely), anotia/microtia (ear is missing or underdeveloped), and anophthalmia/microphthalmia (missing or abnormally small eye).

Children with orofacial clefts and other craniofacial conditions often have impaired ability to feed and impaired language development, and might be at increased risk for a greater number of ear infections, hearing issues, and problems with their teeth. Because of the high prevalence of orofacial clefts and health care use and costs associated with treatment, improving the health of these children is an important public health goal. Photo: weillcornell.org



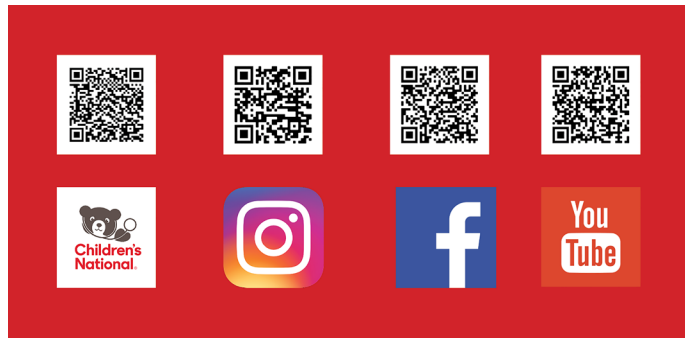
Sarcoma Awareness Month

A sarcoma is a rare kind of cancer. Sarcomas are different from the much more common carcinomas because they happen in a different kind of tissue. Sarcomas grow in connective tissue – cells that connect or support other kinds of tissue in your body. These tumors are most common in the bones, muscles, tendons, cartilage, nerves, fat, and blood vessels of your arms and legs, but they can also happen in other areas of your body. Children and young adults get osteosarcoma more often than adults. And because healthy, active children and teens often have pain and swelling in their arms and legs, osteosarcoma might be mistaken for growing pains or a sports injury.

iChaplain

Contact a chaplain or access spiritual/religious resources

Many resources for Staff and for families and patients can be found at the sites listed above as well as on our GetWell Network.



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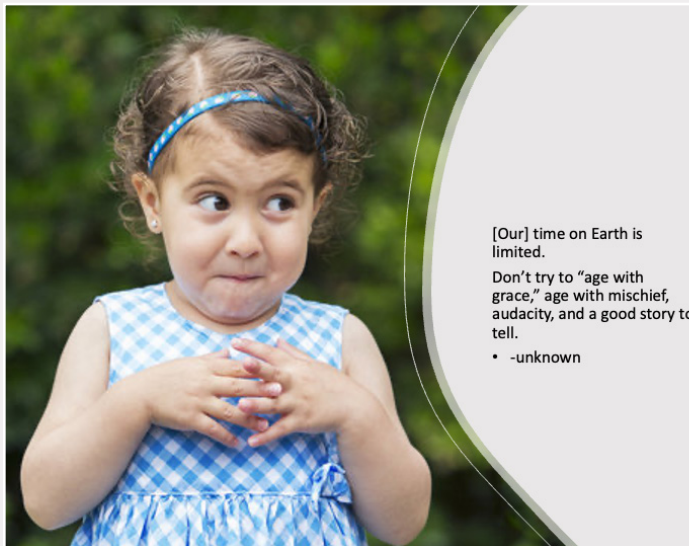
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We hope you will join our Grace Notes Community!

Grace Notes is a daily (weekday) email inspirational message sent only to a subscription list. If you would like to participate please email Kathleen Ennis Durstine and ask to be added. Below are two recent example of a Grace Note:



I always love it when people say "baby steps" to imply they're being tentative, when actually baby steps are a great unbalanced, wholehearted, enthusiastic lurch into the unknown.

- Olivia Smith

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