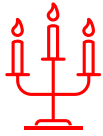


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# January 2024 Diversity Messaging

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## Orthodox Christmas January 7<sup>th</sup>



Orthodox Christmas is observed every year around January 7<sup>th</sup>, based on the Julian Calendar. This is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is believed to be the son the God.

Orthodox Christmas is different from Christmas celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Orthodox Christmas does not focus on the traditions of gifts, Christmas trees, etc. Much of the focus is on the Nativity of Christ.

### How is Orthodox Christmas celebrated?

- Attend church liturgy on Christmas Day, January 7<sup>th</sup>
- Many people fast in preparation of Christ's birth
- Increased prayer and caring for the less fortunate
- Light a small fire of blessed palms & frankincense to commemorate the 3 wise men's gifts to baby Jesus

For more information, visit: [Orthodox Christmas Day 2024](#)

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## Orthodox New Year January 14<sup>th</sup>



The Orthodox New Year is an informal holiday celebrated by orthodox churches in Eastern European countries and the United States. Although, the holiday is celebrated on January 14<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. it is celebrated on January 1<sup>st</sup> according to the Julian Calendar.

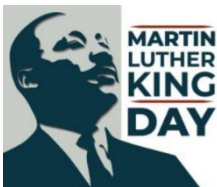
### How is Orthodox New Year celebrated?

- Festive dinners with music & dancing
- Spend time with family & meditate on personal New Year's Resolutions
- Pray in the New Year & toast to a year full of goodness

For more information, visit: [Orthodox New Year](#)

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## January 15<sup>th</sup>



The annual King Holiday Observance is a time that we celebrate, commemorate and honor the life, legacy and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This day is not just a day off from work, but a day to reflect on King's impact & sacrifice for civil rights for all Americans.

### Ways to observe King Day:

- Read the full history and narrative of Dr. King
- Support racial justice
- Attend a local march
- Listen to Dr. King's speeches
- Visit the National [Civil Rights Museum](#) at the Lorraine Motel

For more information, visit: [Martin Luther King Day 2024](#)

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## Tu Bishvat

January 24<sup>th</sup> – January 25<sup>th</sup>



For more information, visit:  
[Tu Bishvat](#)

Tu Bishvat, “The feast of Fruits, or The Birthday of Trees. Historically, Tu Bishvat was a time that Jewish farmers would present their fourth year produce of fruit from recently planted trees to the Temple as first-fruit offerings.

### How is Tu Bishvat observed?

- Celebrate tree planting efforts
- Plant a tree
- Pick fruits & vegetables at local farms, herb gardens, etc.

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## Mahayana New Year

January 25<sup>th</sup>



For more information, visit:  
[Mahayana New Year](#)

Mahayana New Year is observed on January 25, 2024 by Buddhists around the world. The term Mahayana encompasses Buddhist ideologies and philosophies. The belief of Mahayana Buddhists is that enlightenment or eternal Nirvana can be achieved during the course of an individual’s life. This state of enlightenment can be achieved by all people who practice the belief.

### How is Mahayana New Year Observed?

- Followers honor their gods & pray for good luck and blessings for the New Year
- Sing Buddhist songs in an expression of gratitude
- Have a feast of favorite food with family and friends

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## International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27<sup>th</sup>



For more information, visit:  
[Learn about the Holocaust](#)

The United Nations marked January 27<sup>th</sup>, which is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The United Nations urges everyone to remember and honor the more than six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The purpose of January 27<sup>th</sup> & other remembrances from many countries around the world is to never forget the Holocaust and the atrocities against human life.

### Ways to remember:

- Read the history of the holocaust
- Watch video testimonials
- Visit the [Nashville Holocaust Memorial](#)