



The Office of InterFaith Pastoral and Spiritual Care

What all is happening during September? ADHD Month, Atrial Fibrillation Month, [Baby Safety Month](#), Be Kind to Editors and Writers Month, [Childhood Cancer Awareness Month](#), Happy Cat Month, Library Card Sign-up Month, [Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month](#), Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, [Childhood Obesity Awareness Month](#), Childhood Injury Prevention Month, National DNA, Geonomics and Stem Cell Education Month, Sickle Cell Month, Piano Month, Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month, Subliminal Communications Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month; International Enthusiasm Week (4—10), Suicide Prevention Week (4—10), Deaf Awareness Week, Pollution Prevention Week (18—24), Keep Kids Creative Week (26—10/2), Oatmeal Day (4), International Literacy Day (8), Physical Therapy Day (8), Grandparent's Day (11), Celiac Awareness Day (13), [Train of Tears Commemoration Day](#) (16), Puppy Mill Awareness Day (17), Talk Like a Pirate Day (19), World Alzheimer's Day (21), Hobbit Day (22), R.E.A.D In America Day (24), Women's Health and Fitness Day (29), Ask a Stupid Question Day (30).



Holy Days with No Fixed Date

Moon Festival Full Moon/ Hong Kong This harvest festival is one of China's biggest. It originated from the ancient tradition of making offering sun the sun in spring and to the moon in autumn. Families gather for celebration. Streets are decorated with lanterns, reminiscent of the moon, and children are permitted to stay up later to accompany the family to a high place to watch the moon rise. Girls try to stay awake as long as possible, since one tradition is that the longer a girl stays awake this night, the longer her mother will live. A favorite food is "moon cakes". A simple Moon Cake Recipe can be found at this link: <http://www.moonfestival.org/mooncakes/yancancook.htm> [This holiday is known as Tet Trung Thu in Vietnam]



Onam Harvest Festival India/Hindu Onam is a four-day festival occasion at the end of the monsoon season and the time of the harvest. Sunny weather is welcomed by feasting and wearing new clothing. Vegetarian meals are served—often on plantain leaves instead of dishes, and Hindu women decorate the homes and courtyards with beautiful floral arrangements. Landlords distribute cloth and rice to their tenants and peasants offer their landlords gifts of produce from the fields. There are games, music, dancing. One of the days is set aside as a special celebration for the children. Trichur, the cultural capital of Kerala, marks the festival in its own beautiful style. Here, a procession of decorated elephants is carried out on the streets. It's a resplendent site to watch the bejeweled elephants walking on the streets in their full majesty and grandeur. Children particularly take great delight in watching the show of their favorite animal. Songs, dance and merry making are a part of this event.



Kathin Ceremony Buddhist This marks the end of the Buddhist monks' retreat during the rainy season. The ceremony is an opportunity for the people to present rewards to the monks for their time of seclusion and study. The traditional gift is *Kathin* robes, now clothing for the monks to wear now that they are free to travel and make pilgrimages. In Buddhism, giving is a spiritual exercise and giving to the monks at this time is not only an act of merit for the giver, but also an opportunity to uphold the faith by providing for the monks.



Yam Festival Ghana (and other African countries) In Ghana the Yam Festival (*Homowo*) lasts three days. The festival begins with a cleansing ceremony to honor family members who have died. Farmers give thanks to the gods who ensure a good harvest. Twins and triplets are honored during this time as a special gift from God.

A yam is large root vegetable that looks like a tube. People often confuse a yam with a sweet potato. Yams come from Africa while sweet potatoes are from Asia. Yams can be stored for 2 months in dark and cool areas. They can also be dried and turned into flour for longer storage. Interestingly, Yams are associated with Thanksgiving in the United States. When you have yams at your Thanksgiving dinner, think about the villagers in Ghana and Nigeria. They too are giving thanks ... especially for this special food

Yams are an important crop in Ghana. During *Homowo*, they are taken from the ground and are carried to the village. Then they are blessed by the chief. Special foods made from yams are served. Mashed yams with hard boiled eggs are an important part of the festival. People also eat *Kpekpele* which is made from corn meal and palm oil.

During *homowo* people wear a kind of toga made from *kente* cloth which is brightly colored. The festival ends with a big feast. People dance and sing to the sounds of drums. When a child is born into the society of Ghana, a meal of yam and other ingredients is prepared for relatives and the midwife who delivers the baby.

T'boli Tribal Festival Philippines This thanksgiving festival stems from the belief of the T'boli in a golden age which they call *Lem-lunay*, a sort of Camelot or paradise which they would like to rebuild for themselves. Each festival is a venue to reenergize the people and renew their vow to work for this coveted state of life.

Legend has it that T'boli are the descendants of the survivors of the great flood. *La Bebe and La Lomi*, and *Tamfeles and La Kagef*, two couples among many people who were warned by a man named *Dwata* for the impending flood, are the only ones who believed while the others refused to listen. They were told by *Dwata* to take shelter inside a huge bamboo in order to survive the flood. Of the survivors, one couple became the ancestors of the T'boli and the other ethnic groups in the highlands, while the second couple descended other Filipino indigenous groups.

T'nalak is made from abaca and the most known craft of the T'bolis. Legend tells a story about a goddess named *Fu Dalu* who taught people T'nalak weaving through dream, of which the patterns and designs are based. The art of unique patterns are centuries-old practice and passed from one generation to another, a vibrant picture of history, cultural heritage, and collective imaginations of indigenous T'bolis.

Weaving of the T'nalak is a tedious job that requires a huge amount of patience, creativity, and skills. It has been a tradition that T'boli men are not allowed to touch the chosen abaca fiber that is used in the weaving process while the weaving women are not allowed to mate with their husbands until such time the cloth is woven, for it may ruin the design.



Holy Days with Fixed Dates

September 1 Ganesh Chaturthi Hindu *Ganeseha Chaturthi*, the great *Ganeseha* festival, also known as '*Vinayak Chaturthi*' or '*Vinayaka Chavithi*' is celebrated by Hindus around the world as the birthday of Lord Ganesha. It is the grandest and most elaborate of festivals, especially in the western India state of Maharashtra, lasts for 10 days, ending on the day of '*Ananta Chaturdashi*'.

A life-like clay model of Lord *Ganeseha* is made 2-3 months prior to the day of *Ganesh Chaturthi*. The size of this idol may vary from 3/4th of an inch to over 25 feet. On the day of the festival, it is placed on raised platforms in homes or in elaborately decorated outdoor tents for people to view and pay their homage. The priest, usually clad in red silk dhoti and shawl, then invokes life into the idol amidst the chanting of mantras. This ritual is called '*pranaprathishtha*'. After this the '*shhodashopachara*' (16 ways of paying tribute) follows. Coconut, jaggery (unrefined cane sugar), 21 'modakas' (rice flour preparation), 21 '*durva*' (trefoil) blades and red flowers are offered. The idol is anointed with red unguent or sandal paste (*rakta chandan*). Throughout the ceremony, Vedic hymns from the Rig Veda and *Ganapati Atharva Shirsha Upanishad*, and *Ganeseha stotra* from the *Narada Purana* are chanted.

For 10 days, from *Ganeseha* is worshipped. On the 11th day, the image is taken through the streets in a procession accompanied with dancing, singing, to be immersed in a river or the sea symbolizing a ritual see-off of the Lord in his journey towards his abode in *Kailash* while taking away with him the misfortunes of all man. All join in this final procession shouting "*Ganapathi Bappa Morya, Purchya Varshi Laukariya*" (O father *Ganeseha*, come again early next year). After the final offering of coconuts, flowers and camphor is made, people carry the idol to the river to immerse it.



Ganeseha — the elephant-deity riding a mouse — has become one of the commonest mnemonics for anything associated with Hinduism. This not only suggests the importance of Ganesha, but also shows how popular and pervasive this deity is in the minds of the masses.

The son of Shiva and Parvati, *Ganeseha* has an elephantine countenance with a curved trunk and big ears, and a huge pot-bellied body of a human being. He is the Lord of success and destroyer of evils and obstacles. He is also worshipped as the god of education, knowledge, wisdom and wealth. In fact, *Ganeseha* is one of the five prime Hindu deities (Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva and Durga being the other four) whose idolatry is glorified as the *panchayatana puja* (system of worship).

Ganeseha's head symbolizes the Atman or the soul, which is the ultimate supreme reality of human existence, and his human body signifies Maya or the earthly existence of human beings. The elephant head denotes wisdom and its trunk represents Om, the sound symbol of cosmic reality. In his upper right hand *Ganeseha* holds a goad, which helps him propel mankind forward on the eternal path and remove obstacles from the way. The noose in *Ganeseha's* left hand is a gentle implement to capture all difficulties.

The broken tusk that *Ganeseha* holds like a pen in his lower right hand is a symbol of sacrifice, which he broke for writing the Mahabharata. The rosary in his other hand suggests that the pursuit of knowledge should be continuous. The *laddoo* (sweet) he holds in his trunk indicates that one must discover the sweetness of the Atman. His fan-like ears convey that he is all ears to our petition. The snake that runs round his waist represents energy in all forms. And he is humble enough to ride the lowest of creatures, a mouse. [READ HOW GANESHA GOT HIS HEAD AT: <http://www.sln.org.uk/storyboard/stories/h16.htm>]

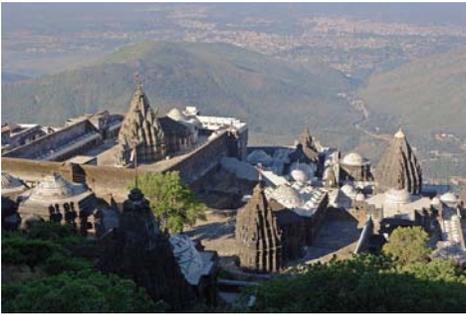
September 2 Paryusham Parva (ends on 2nd) Jain These eight days are set aside for extensive spiritual pursuit. Jains observe fasts and undertake religious activities such as going to temple, listening to spiritual discourses, and practice *Sāmāyik* (equanimity). The last day is observed as the sacred day of introspection and forgiveness. On this day Jains perform *Pratikraman* (a ritual of atonement) and beg to be forgiven for the faults indulged physically, verbally or mentally, knowingly or unknowingly.

Jainism believes that universe and all its substances or entities are eternal. It has no beginning or end with respect to time. Universe runs on its own accord by its own cosmic laws. All the substances change or modify their forms continuously. Nothing can be destroyed or created in the universe. There is no need of some one to create or manage the affairs of the universe. Hence, Jainism does not believe in God as a creator, survivor, and destroyer of the universe.

However, Jainism does believe in God, not as a creator, but as a perfect being. When a person destroys all his karmas, he becomes a liberated soul. He lives in a perfect blissful state in *Moksha* (liberation) forever. The liberated soul possesses infinite knowledge, infinite vision, infinite power, and infinite bliss. This living being is a God of Jain religion.

Every living being has a potential to become God. Hence Jains do not have one God, but Jain Gods are innumerable and their number is continuously increasing as more living beings attain liberation.

Jains believe that since the beginning of time, every living being (soul) is attached with karma and it is in delusion (ignorant) state of its true nature. The main purpose of the religion is to remove this delusion through self-knowledge and self-effort. This knowledge will remove karma which are associated with it from the beginning of time. When all karma gets removed, the soul becomes liberated soul.



To learn much more about Jain Religion try the site at:

http://www.jainuniversity.org/jainism_god.aspx

Much good and clear information.

Jain Temple, Girnar Hill, India. Junagadh in the background.

September 2 Das Laxanā Parva Jain *Das laxanā parva* (ten virtues) or the Festival of ten virtues is the *Paryushan* festival celebrated by the Digambar Jains annually for self-purification and uplift. This *parva* (occasion/festive occasion) ultimately leads to salvation. It is the festival for the observance of ten universal virtues which are:

Uttama Kshama (Supreme Forgiveness) - To observe tolerance whole-heartedly, shunning anger.

Uttama Mardava (Tenderness or Humility) - To observe the virtue of humility, subduing vanity and passions.

Uttama Aarjava (Straight-forwardness or Honesty) - To practice a deceit-free conduct in life by vanquishing the passion of deception.

Uttama Shaucha (Contentment or Purity) - To keep the body, mind and speech pure by discarding greed.

Uttama Satya (Truthfulness) - To speak affectionate and just words with a holy intention causing no injury to any living being.

Uttama Sanyam (Self-restraint) - To defend all living beings with utmost power in a cosmopolitan spirit abstaining from all the pleasures provided by the five senses - touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing; and the sixth - mind.

Uttama Tapa (Penance or Austerities) - To practice austerities, putting a check on all worldly allurements.

Uttama Tyaga (Renunciation) - To give four fold charities - *Ahara* (food), *Abhaya* (fearlessness), *Aushadha* (medicine), and *Shastra Dana* (distribution of Holy Scriptures), and to patronize social and religious institutions for self and others' good.

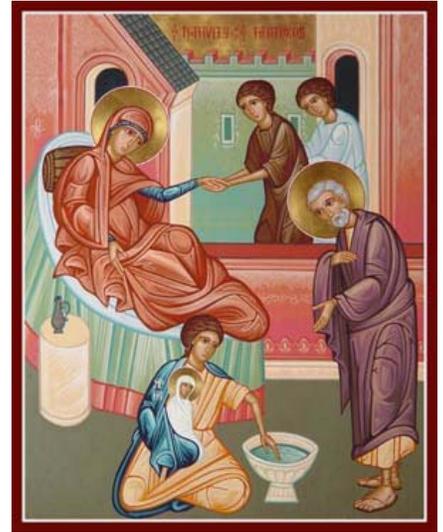
Uttama Akinchanya (Non-attachment) - To enhance faith in the real self as against non-self i.e., material objects; and to discard internal *Parigraha* (anger and pride); and external *Parigraha* (accumulation of gold, diamonds, and royal treasures).

Uttama Brahmacharya (Chastity or celibacy) - To observe the great vow of celibacy; to have devotion for the inner soul and the omniscient Lord; to discard the carnal desires, vulgar fashions, child and old-age marriages, dowry dominated marriages, polygamy, criminal assault of women, use of foul and vulgar language.

September 7/8 Nativity of the Mother of God (sundown on the 7th) Orthodox Christian /Anglican, Catholic In the festival of the Nativity of the Mother of God (September 8th), the Church celebrates the most holy human birth, whose "fruit most pure" was elect and sanctified from the moment of conception (Conception of St. Anna, celebrated December 9th). (continued)

Apocryphal sources document substantially the origins and childhood of the Holy Virgin. There is, above all, the *Proto-evangelium Jacobi* of Judaeo-Christian origin, a composite work, in which the part concerning the Virgin Mary goes back to the date 130—140 C.E. The festival of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin must be very ancient: It is known that Justinian erected at Constantinople a church dedicated to St Anna.

Like the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the birth of the Mother of God, promised by an angel after the parents had long been sterile, finds Old Testament antecedents considered as pre-figurations of the Resurrection. But the Nativity of the Mother of God is more than a figure; for in the person of St. Anna—a woman freed from her sterility to bring into the world a Virgin who would give birth to God incarnate—it is our nature which ceases to be sterile in order to start bearing the fruits of grace. The miraculous birth of the Holy Virgin is not due to an arbitrary action of God, entering in to break historic continuity: it is a stage of the Providence which watches over the safety of the world, arduously preparing the Incarnation of the Word, a stage which precedes the last decisive act—the Annunciation, when the chosen Virgin will assent to be “the King’s Palace, in which is accomplished the perfect mystery of the two natures reunited in Christ.” (Vladimir Lossky, *The Meaning of Icons*, pg. 145-146.)



September 9 Kite Festival China The exact date and origin of the kite is not known but it is believed that they were flown in China more than two thousand years ago. One legend suggests that when a Chinese farmer tied a string to his hat to keep it from blowing away in a strong wind, the first kite was born.



The earliest written account of kite flying was about 200 B.C. when the Chinese General Han Hsin of the Han Dynasty flew a kite over the walls of a city he was attacking to measure how far his army would have to tunnel to reach past the defenses. Knowing this distance his troops reached the inside of the city, surprised their enemy, and were victorious.

On this day kites fill the sky. In attempts to be as clever as Han Hsin, colorful and ingenious kites, some with moving parts, are made and flyers engage in contests trying to cut each other’s kite string and prove the superiority of their kite.

September 12—16 Paitishahem Gahambar Zoroastrian Gahambar is one of the most popular festivals celebrated by the Zoroastrians across the world with immense zeal and gusto. The name ‘Gahambar’ means proper season. Six different Gahambar festivals are celebrated in a year to pay a tribute to the six seasons. Each of these six festivals is celebrated across five days. The festival is also commemorated to honor the six material creations, namely, heaven, water, earth, flora, fauna and man. The celebrations are marked by reminding the Zoroastrians about the various good deeds to be performed by each and every person. Initiated by King Jamshed, the festival has now become a significant occasion of the Zoroastrian community. Associated with earth, the third Gahambar is known as Paitishahem which denotes the ‘harvest time’. It is generally observed from 176th day to 180th day, that is, from 12th September to 16th September. This Gahambar is related with the creation of the earth, when the universe further cooled down.

September 13/14 Elevation of the Holy Cross [Orthodox Christian]/Holy Cross Day [Anglican]/Exultation of the Holy Cross [Catholic] This feast is called in Greek "Raising Aloft of the Precious Cross". In Latin it is called *Exaltatio Sanctae Crucis* (literally, "Raising Aloft of the Holy Cross". (The word "*Exaltatio*" is sometimes translated as "Exaltation", at other times, as "Triumph".) In some parts of the Anglican Communion the feast is called Holy Cross Day, a name also used by Lutherans. The celebration is sometimes called Feast of the Glorious Cross. According to legends that spread widely throughout Western Europe, the True Cross was discovered in 326 C.E. by Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, during a pilgrimage she made to Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was then built at the site of the discovery, by order of Helena and Constantine. (continued)

The church was dedicated nine years later, with a portion of the cross placed inside it. Other legends explain that in 614 C.E., that portion of the cross was carried away from the church by the Persians, and remained missing until it was recaptured by the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius in 628 C.E.. Initially taken to Constantinople, the cross was returned to the church the following year.

The date of the feast marks the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in 335 C.E.. This was a two-day festival: although the actual consecration of the church was on September 13, the cross itself was brought outside the church on September 14 so that the clergy and faithful could pray before the True Cross, and all could come forward to venerate it.

September 21 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Anglican Christian Among the early followers and apostles of Jesus, a Matthew is mentioned in Mt 9:9 and Mt 10:3 as a former tax collector from Capernaum who was called into the circle of the Twelve by Jesus. He may have collected taxes from the Hebrew people for Herod Antipas

Matthew was a first century Galilean (presumably born in Galilee, which was not part of Judea or the Roman Judaea province) and the son of Alphaeus. During the Roman occupation (which began in 63 BCE with the conquest of Pompey), Matthew collected taxes from the Hebrew people for Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee. His Tax Office was located in Capernaum. Jews who became rich in such a fashion were despised and considered outcasts. However, as a tax collector he would have been literate in Aramaic and Greek.



It was in this setting, near what is today Almagor, that Jesus called Matthew to be one of the Twelve Disciples. After his call, Matthew invited Jesus home for a feast. On seeing this, the Scribes and the Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating with tax collectors and sinners. This prompted Jesus to answer, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17)

When Matthew is mentioned in the Christian Bible, he is sometimes found paired with Thomas. As a disciple, he followed Jesus, and was one of the witnesses of the Resurrection and the Ascension. Afterwards, the disciples withdrew to an upper room (Acts 1:10-14) in Jerusalem. The disciples remained in and about Jerusalem and proclaimed that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Matthew, for 15 years, preached the Gospel in Hebrew to the Jewish community in Judea. Later in his ministry, he would travel to Gentile nations (presumably following Jesus' Great Commission) and spread the Gospel to the Egyptian ancestry population by the Caucasus, Macedonians, Persians, and others.

St. Matthew and the Angel
Guido Reni, 1620-30

September 23 Autumn Feast Native People A day to honor the harvest end and the coming and going of the seasons. Celebrated with prayer, song, and storytelling

September 23 Mabon (Equinox) Wicca The Wheel of the Year is a *Neopagan* term for the annual cycle of the Earth's seasons. It consists of eight festivals, spaced at approximately even intervals throughout the year. The festivals have historical origins in Celtic and Germanic pre-Christian feasts, and the Wheel of the Year, as has developed in modern Paganism and Wicca, is really a combination of the two cultures' solstice and equinox celebrations. When melded together, the two European Festival Cycles merge to form eight festivals in modern renderings. In many forms of Paganism, natural processes are seen as following a continuous cycle. The passing of time is also seen as cyclical, and is represented by a circle or wheel. The progression of birth, life, decline and death, as experienced in human lives, is echoed in the progression of the seasons. This cycle is seen as an echo of life, death and rebirth of the God and the fertility of the Goddess. While most of these names derive from historical Celtic and Germanic festivals, the non-traditional names *Litha* and *Mabon*, which have become popular in North American Wicca, were introduced by Aidan Kelly in the 1970s. The holiday of Autumn Equinox, Harvest Home, Mabon, the Feast of the Ingathering, *Meán Fómhair* or *Alban Elfed* (in Neo-Druidic traditions), is a ritual of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth and a recognition of the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and the God during the winter months. The name *Mabon* is a reference to *Mabon ap Modron*, a character from Welsh mythology.

September 23 Fall O-Higan Buddhist Twice a year the time of the equinox comes around. The equinox is that time when the sun crosses the equator and the length of day and night is equalized. The first is the vernal equinox, usually around March 21. The second is the autumnal equinox usually around September 23. These are times of transition between the times when darkness and cold dominate and times when light and warmth dominate. Agrarian people all over the world held such times to be very significant because the cycles of planting and harvesting and storing up for winter depended upon being attentive to such transitions. In addition, because a time of transition is a time where one is neither here nor there, so to speak, it was also considered a time when the veil between the worlds became thinner. The equinoxes were therefore a time when the living and the dead, the sacred and the profane could cross over into each other.

The equinoxes, the spring and fall O-higan, are therefore times to remember our ancestors and those who have passed beyond the veil of this world. It is also a time for thinking about what "lies beyond." Moreover, in fact, the word "O-higan" means "the other shore." In Buddhism, however, "the other shore" does not actually refer to a realm of life after death. Rather, it refers to the transcendence of birth and death entirely. "This shore" is the shore where there is repeated birth and death. From the Buddhist point of view, "this shore" encompasses not only this world of the living but also the heavens, hells, and otherworldly places that we imagine the dead may go to. And of course Buddhism teaches that we can be reborn into this world. So from the Buddhist point of view, this life may in fact be the afterlife of a past "self" that is not remembered.

From the Buddhist point of view, the best possible rebirth would be one in which one could wake up from the delusion of birth and death. And so at this time of the equinox, the time of transition, Buddhists express faith that those who have passed on have not merely passed on to another round of "this shore" but have actually attained the awakening that is the "other shore."

September 24 Miwok Acorn Festival Miwok People of Northern California Many California Native Peoples relied on the acorn for nourishment, collecting them from the valley oaks and storing them in granaries (*cha'ka*). Processing the acorns into meal, however, is a special process of cracking, grinding, rinsing. Today, the grinding rocks can still be seen in places such as California Grinding Rock State Historic Park in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The biggest contains more the 1,000 mortar holes. →

Once made into acorn meal it could be used in soup, mush or bread. Each Miwok would need about 2,000 pounds of acorns a year for nutrition. The acorn harvest was celebrated at a tribal gathering where Miwok exchanged food and information and participated in ceremonial dances.

The 1848 Gold Rush disrupted the Miwok way of life considerably. However, the Acorn Festival is still celebrated today at Miwok Park in Novato, California and other spots. The largest takes place at the Grinding Rock State Park. The entire Miwok village, including granaries, ceremonial roundhouses, and bark homes have been reconstructed. Descendants of the original Miwok (approximately 3,400) come together on this day for traditional dances, hand games, and storytelling.



September 27 Meskel Ethiopian Orthodox *Meskel* is celebrated by dancing, feasting and lighting a massive bonfire known in Ethiopian tradition as "*Damera*". *Meskel* commemorates the finding of the True Cross in the fourth century when Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, discovered the True Cross on which Christ was crucified. According to tradition, Empress Helena lit incense and prayed for assistance to guide her. The smoke drifted towards the direction of the buried cross. She dug and found three crosses; one of them was the True Cross used to crucify Jesus Christ. Empress Helena then gave a piece of the True Cross to all churches, including the Ethiopian Church. This piece was then brought to Ethiopia. According to the Ethiopian legend, when people get close to the piece of the True Cross it made them naked by its powerful light. Because of this, a decision was made to bury it at the mountain of Gishen Mariam monastery in the Wollo region. The monastery of Gishen Mariam holds a volume of a book that records the story of the True Cross of Christ and how it was acquired.

September 28 Birth of Confucius Confucianism Confucius: (traditionally 28 September 551 BC – 479 BC)[2] was a Chinese thinker and social philosopher of the Spring and Autumn Period.

The philosophy of Confucius emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of social relationships, justice and sincerity. These values gained prominence in China over other doctrines, such as Legalism or Taoism during the Han Dynasty (206 BCE – CE 220). Confucius' thoughts have been developed into a system of philosophy known as Confucianism.

Because no texts survive that are demonstrably authored by Confucius, and the ideas most closely associated with him were elaborated in writings that accumulated over the period between his death and the foundation of the first Chinese empire in 221 BCE, many scholars are very cautious about attributing specific assertions to Confucius himself. His teachings may be found in the *Analects of Confucius*, a collection of aphorisms, which was compiled many years after his death. Confucius' principles had a basis in common Chinese tradition and belief. He championed strong familial loyalty, ancestor worship, respect of elders by their children (and, according to later interpreters, of husbands by their wives), and the family as a basis for an ideal government. He expressed the well-known principle, "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself", one of the earlier versions of the Golden Rule.

A portrait of Confucius, by Tang Dynasty artist Wu Daozi (680–740).



September 28–30 Rosh Hashanah: Jewish New Year Jewish The festival of Rosh Hashanah--the name means "Head of the Year"--is observed for two days. It is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, and their first actions toward the realization of humankind's role in G-d's world.

Rosh Hashanah thus emphasizes the special relationship between G-d and humanity: our dependence upon G-d as our creator and sustainer, and G-d's dependence upon us as the ones who make His presence known and felt in His world. Each year on Rosh Hashanah, "all inhabitants of the world pass before G-d like a flock of sheep," and it is decreed in the heavenly court, "who shall live, and who shall die... who shall be impoverished, and who shall be enriched; who shall fall and who shall rise." But this is also the day we proclaim G-d King of the Universe.

The central observance of Rosh Hashanah is the sounding of the shofar, the ram's horn, which also represents the trumpet blast of a people's coronation of their king. The cry of the shofar is also a call to repentance; for Rosh Hashanah is also the anniversary of man's first sin and his repentance, and serves as the first of the "Ten Days of Repentance" which culminate in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Another significance of the shofar is to recall the Binding of Isaac which also occurred on Rosh Hashanah, in which a ram took Isaac's place as an offering to G-d; Jews evoke Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son and plead that the merit of his deed should stand by us as we pray for a year of life, health and prosperity. Altogether, there are 100 shofar blasts over the course of the Rosh Hashanah service.

Additional Rosh Hashanah observances include: a) Eating a piece of apple dipped in honey to symbolize desire for a sweet year, and other special foods symbolic of the new year's blessings. b) Blessing one another with the words *Leshanah tovah tikateiv veteichateim*, "May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year." c) *Tashlich*, a special prayer said near a body of water (an ocean, river, pond, etc.) in evocation of the verse, "And You shall cast their sins into the depths of the sea." And as with every major Jewish holiday, after candle lighting and prayers Jews recite Kiddush and make a blessing on the *Challah*

September 29 St. Michael and All Angels/Anglican; St. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels/ Catholic The day commemorates the angels mentioned in the Christian Scriptures.