

# January 2026

**Monthly Observances:** National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- As you turn your heart toward Epiphany, consider this [reflection on light](#) from Sri Lanka.
- Consider providing a healthy snack or other treat near the staff's coffee station as a thank you following the long holidays. Make sure to include building staff in the invitation.
- Provide your communications team with a concise report of your goals for the past year - met/exceeded/ tabled - and what to watch for this year.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Finalize plans for Theological Education Sunday, Superbowl of Caring Sunday, [Valentine's Day](#), Transfiguration Sunday, President's Day, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, [Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday](#), Black History Month, Absalom Jones Day

## Planning Ahead

- Do detailed scheduling of communications for your Lent and Easter observances. It is helpful to have a complete schedule of every activity in one central place, like on your website. You can then use social media to share targeted invitations weekly (e.g., evening services for adults, family friendly events, etc.) with new information on them as the season progresses.
- Consider expanding your Shrove Tuesday meal to include teaching about [Fastnacht](#), or a [liturgy](#) for the burning of the palms.
- Subscribe to Episcopal Relief & Development's [Lenten Mediations](#).
- Make plans to attend the [Episcopal Parish Network Conference](#) March 3-6 in Charlotte.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10
11 Baptism of the Lord Human Trafficking Awareness Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24 International Day of Education
25	26 Forma Conference	27	28	28	30	31



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# February 2026

**Monthly Observances:** Black History Month

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- The Lenten calendar can be overwhelming. Encourage parishioners to find just one new practice to engage this season; a devotion, class, speaker series or any local or regional offerings.
- Download Episcopal Relief & Development's free [Lenten Meditations](#) for your congregation.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Make final arrangements for Holy Week and Easter, including meals, fellowship, egg hunts, parish-wide art responses and service projects.
- Women's History Month, World Day of Prayer, St. Patrick's Day, World Water Day, Palm Sunday
- Host a kitchen fellowship event where people come together to make and share their favorite winter soups.

## Planning Ahead

- Share resources and invitations to parish and regional summer camping and mission projects for all ages.
- Finalize plans for [World Water Day](#).
- Make plans for observing Earth Day.
- Finalize plans for, and issue invitations to, teacher and ministry team recognitions during worship in March.
- Begin reserving booth and parade slots and building a team for [outreach and evangelism](#) opportunities at local Pride events.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <a href="#">Theological Education Sunday</a>	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8 <a href="#">Superbowl of Caring Sunday</a>	9	10	11	12	13 <a href="#">The Feast of Absalom Jones</a>	14 <a href="#">Valentine's Day</a>
15 <a href="#">Transfiguration Sunday</a>	16 President's Day	17 <a href="#">Shrove Tuesday</a>  <a href="#">Lunar New Year</a>	18 <a href="#">Ash Wednesday</a>	19	20 <a href="#">World Day of Social Justice</a>	21
22 <a href="#">Episcopal Relief &amp; Development Sunday</a>	23	24	25	25	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



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# March 2026

**Monthly Observances:** Women's History Month

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- Plan for teacher/leader recognition and gratitude in worship the final Sunday of April. This avoids the May clog of graduations, proms, moms and end-of-program-year plans. Make these invitational as well, with information about how others can get involved. Consider giving your teachers [Gifts for Life](#) as a thank you, possibly letting the children choose their favorites.
- Make sure you have invited your entire neighborhood to join you at your Holy Week and Easter observances, not using "insider language" and including meals, fellowship, egg hunts, parish-wide art responses and service projects.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Earth Day, Arbor Day, Faith Climate Action Week, [World Malaria Day](#), Holy Week/Easter, Teacher Recognition.

## Planning Ahead

- Make plans to attend the spring [Episcopal Communicators](#) Conference.
- Preview Materials for All Ages Summer Ministries, including VBS, using the [Abundant Life Garden Project® Resources](#).
- Begin staff wide conversations about observing the Season of Creation this year (Sep 1- Oct 4) through worship, service and formation

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 National Read Across America Day	3 <a href="#">EPN Conference</a> World Wildlife Day	4 National Sons Day	5	6 World Day of Prayer	7
8 International Women's Day Daylight Saving Time Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 International Day of Happiness	21 World Poetry Day
22 World Water Day	23	24	25 Annunciation	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30 International Day of Zero Waste	31	1	2	3	4



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# April 2026

**Monthly Observances:** Faith Climate Action Week (April 21–25)

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- Look for registration information for Kanuga's Annual Formation Conference.
- Prepare next Fall's leader and teacher recruiting letters and follow-up.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Pentecost Sunday, Ascension Day, Mother's Day, Graduations, Memorial Day, Asian American & Pacific Islander Month
- Identify community and family members currently serving in the Armed Forces for prayers.

## Planning Ahead

- Set a date for a ministry planning meeting for the next program year. Consider using the [Global Goals](#) structure for outreach ideas in your community.
- Do you observe the June Summer Solstice? Consider a bonfire celebrating St. John.
- Share resources for Gun Violence Awareness Month including [Bishops United against Gun Violence](#).
- Make a full sweep of all of your communications (signs, website, social media, voicemails, etc.) to ensure they are updated regarding any scheduling changes you make over the summer, including worship, formation, music, office hours and midweek events.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 Passover April Fools Day	2 Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 National Gardening Day	15 Tax Day	16	17	18
19	20 <a href="#">Faith Climate Action Week</a>	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25 World Malaria Day
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



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# May 2026

**Monthly Observances:** Mental Health Awareness Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- Lock-in plans for a summer picnic(s) or other fellowship events.
- Make notes of your high school graduates attending colleges, and begin making connections for them to campus ministries.
- Schedule a day(s) at your local seasonal farm and art market to distribute parishioner-made/grown products and swag with invitational literature about your church.
- In honor of those who nurture young children—not just mothers—consider hosting a conversation about Episcopal Relief & Development's evidence-based approach to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through efforts like [Moments That Matter®](#).

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Baptisms, Father's Day, Juneteenth, Summer Solstice, Pride Month, [World Environment Day](#), [Gun Violence Awareness Month](#)

## Planning Ahead

- Communicate with the parish about summer staff vacations and expectations.
- Stay connected with youth over the summer: Ask parents for the mailing addresses for youth parishioners going away to camp this summer, and those who aren't, and send them mail.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 World Laughter Day	4	5 Cinco de Mayo Teacher Appreciation Day	6	7	9	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 Ascension Day	15 International Day of Families	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19	20 World Bee Day	21	22	23 National Scavenger Hunt Day
24 Pentecost Memorial Day 31	25	26	27	28	29	20



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# June 2026

**Monthly Observances:** LGBTQIA Pride Month, Gun Violence Awareness Month

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- Cover a basket of stones, tokens or a small laminated something with a connection to your parish (a sheep, or bookmark with a favorite stained glass image or the cutout of a saint) with prayers for guidance and protection and send them off with parishioners on vacations over the summer. Invite them to share photos of themselves on their travels with their token.
- Send teacher thank you cards.
- Pentecost is a long season of stories. Share reflections from around the globe on the call of Moses and the feeding of the multitudes.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Independence Day, vacation bible school

## Planning Ahead

- Will your back-to-school event in August include an invitation to the community? Will you do a homecoming for “alumni” of the parish?
- Plan [Invite Welcome Connect](#) training (or re-training) for your parish.
- Consider inviting a panel to speak to older adults this fall. Create a series about aging, end of life, and planning funerals, bequests and wills. Use [this resource](#) for examples of legacy giving.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3 World Bicycle Day	4	5 World Environment Day	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day International Children's Day	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 World Refugee Day
21 Father's Day Summer Solstice	22 World Rainforest Day	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



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# July 2026

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- Host a luncheon for your teacher recruits for next fall. Hand out schedules and class rosters, talk about expectations, communications and available training opportunities.
- Participate in a neighborhood "Check on your Elders" safety check in the heat. Consider a fan drive or being on the rotation for opening your parish hall as a cooling center once a week.
- Consider personalizing small stones, friendship bracelets, bookmarks or small leather crosses with the names of the youth of your parish. Distribute them with prayer cards and ask parishioners to commit to praying for this child, and their family, throughout the school year.
- Consider hosting a toddler-friendly splash party at a nearby park, town square or parking lot (with shade). Rent slides, fountains or mats and distribute cooling swag with a QR code inviting your community to the excellent worship, fellowship, learning and service opportunities you have coming up this fall!

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Back to School - Backpack tags and prayers, Homecoming, Fall Program Year Kick Off
- Litanies for commissioning teachers can be found [here](#), and in the Forma Facebook group files.

## Planning Ahead

- International Day of [Disaster Risk Reduction](#).
- Season of Creation: Care of Creation, (Sept 1 - Oct 4) including for use in liturgies, can be found [here](#).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1 Feast of the Rev. Pauli Murray	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 World Population Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Nelson Mandela International Day
19 National Ice Cream Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 National Parents Day	27	28	29	30	31	1



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# August 2026

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- August is a heavy-on-planning but light-on-events month. Take a slow walking tour of your buildings and grounds. How can you clear-out and freshen up your paths, entryways and classrooms to make them more welcoming? Move passively accumulated boxes, tubs, literature, coat racks and furnishings to storage or donate them to local re-use collections.
- Update targeted mailing lists to send information and invitation to the upcoming program year. Focus your message to appeal directly to senior adults, families with kids, empty nesters and young adults, including opportunities for worship, formation, fellowship and outreach.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- The Season of Creation (Sept 1 - Oct 4), Hispanic Heritage, Recovery Ministries, Labor Day, Autumnal Equinox
- September is light on liturgical observances. Consider using those Sundays to highlight various local ministries, including music, fellowship volunteers, the altar guild and others.

## Planning Ahead

- Invite people to consider confirmations and reaffirmation/renewals. Announce plans for preparation for both adults and youth.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 <u>National Coloring Book Day</u>
2 <u>International Day of Friendship</u> National Family Day	3	4	5	6 Feast of the Transfiguration	7	8
9 National Women's Day	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13	14 National Financial Awareness Day	15
16	17 <u>National Nonprofit Day</u>	18	19 World Humanitarian Day	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26 National Women's Equality Day	27	28	29



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# September 2026

**Monthly Observances:** Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15–Oct 15), Season of Creation (Sept 1–Oct 4)

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- Plan an “Open House” for your Christian Formation rooms. Use children and youth as ushers and greeters and relocate coffee hour to encourage folks to visit.
- Check-in with teachers and other ministry leaders to mitigate start-of-year blips and say thank you.
- If you do not have parishioners with Hispanic heritage, consider organizations in your community to partner with to plan a Dios de los Muertos observation in November.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- The Season of Creation (Sept 1–Oct 4), Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15–Oct 15), Feast of St. Francis, Pet Blessings, Indigenous People’s Day, Halloween, International Day of [Disaster Risk Reduction](#), Children’s Sabbath using [Prayer for Children & Caregivers](#), the [Children’s Litany](#), and the Connecting with Children [Coloring Book](#)

## Planning Ahead

- Download free [Advent resources](#), including calendars, activities and devotions.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	31	1	2	3	4	5 International Day of Charity
6	7 Labor Day	8 International Literacy Day	9 Emergency Services Day	10	11	12
13	14	15 International Day of Democracy	16	17	18 HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	19
20	21 World Gratitude Day International Day of Peace	22 Autumnal Equinox	23	24	25	26 National Daughter’s Day
27	28 National Good Neighbor Day	29	30	1	2	3



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# October 2026

**Monthly Observances:** Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15–Oct 15), Season of Creation (Sept 1–Oct 4)

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- Rather than hosting your own Trunk-Or-Treat, consider sponsoring cool entries in community events or providing parishioners with Saints cards with information about, and invitations to your All Saints & All Souls services to hand out with their candy at home.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Native American Heritage Month, World Children's Day, All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day and Baptisms, Dios de los Muertos, St. Margaret of Scotland, Election Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, [16 Days of Activism \(Nov 25–Dec 10\)](#)

## Planning Ahead

- Look for registration information for next year's [Forma Conference](#).
- Download the popular [DIY Nativity Set](#) for parishioners to create leading up to Christmas Eve.
- Decide on format and rehearsal needs for Nativity Epiphany Pageant.
- Distribute [Alternative Gift Market](#) materials for early holiday shoppers.
- Download and select resource for [Advent activities](#) and reflections for all ages.
- Secure materials for Advent wreath-building with parishioners, including prayer cards.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2 International Day of Non-Violence	3
4 Feast of St. Francis	5	6	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day
11 International Day of the Girl Child	12 Indigenous People's Day	13 International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction	14	15	16 World Food Day	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween



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# November 2026

**Monthly Observances:** Native American Heritage Month, [16 Days of Activism \(Nov 25–Dec 10\)](#)

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- When reflecting on gratitude, consider sharing this [joyful reflection](#) from Myanmar.
- Consider planning to observe the [Feast of St. Nicholas](#) and partner with a local preschool or children's hospital to leave gifts and story cards in children's shoes.
- Consider [practices](#) to help you ready your spirit for a less hurried Advent.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- [Advent plans continue](#), World Aids Day, [Feast of St. Nicholas](#), [16 Days of Activism \(Nov 25–Dec 10\)](#), Winter Solstice/Longest Night/Blue Christmas service and fellowship, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

## Planning Ahead

- Create packets of ["Conversations Cards"](#) to gift to families—maybe tie with a pretty bow—for use in the extended time they have together over the upcoming holidays.
- Plan on celebrating St. Lucy (Dec 13) by sharing her story, building crowns and having a kitchen fellowship event together baking bread to share with a local feeding ministry.
- Make final arrangements for giving trees and other holiday outreach plans.
- Register for the 2027 [Forma Conference](#).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>All Saints' Day</b> Día de los Muertos Daylight Savings Time Ends	2 <b>All Souls' Day</b>	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 <a href="#">Day of Love</a>	14
15	16 <b>St. Margaret of Scotland</b>	17	18	19	20 <b>World Children's Day</b>	21
22	23	24	25 <b>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</b>	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 <a href="#">First Sunday of Advent</a>	30	1	2	3	4	5



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# December 2026

Monthly Observances: [16 Days of Activism \(Nov 25–Dec 10\)](#)

Global Observance Days

National Holidays

## Notes & Ideas

- Don't say yes to anything else this month. You're already enough. Make time for the silence and darkness of this season and watch for God coming anew in our world.

## Finalize Plans for Next Month

- Epiphany - make final arrangements for your Epiphany observances, including information about chalking doors, Epiphany Pageants, House Blessings and bonfires.
- Annual Meeting - invite at least one Sunday School Teacher or Program Ministry Team Chair to give an engaging and possibly interactive report of their work over the past year.
- Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Baptism of our Lord - Baptisms, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Ecumenical Sunday, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Finalize plans for the 2027 [Forma](#) Conference.

## Planning Ahead

- Order materials and make plans for [Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday](#).
- Make final arrangements for your Annual Meeting and Epiphany observances, including information about chalking doors, Epiphany Pageants, House Blessings and bonfires.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1 <a href="#">Giving Tuesday</a>  World AIDS Day	2	3	4	5
6 <a href="#">Second Sunday of Advent</a> <a href="#">Episcopal Relief &amp; Development Anniversary</a> <a href="#">St. Nicholas Day</a>	7	8	9	10 Human Rights Day	11	12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 <a href="#">Third Sunday of Advent</a>  Feast of St. Lucy	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <a href="#">Fourth Sunday of Advent</a>	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1	2



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