

# February 2022

Diversity Holidays



**Black History Month** in the United States and Canada. Since 1976, the month has been designated to remember the contributions of people of the African diaspora.

**1 Lunar New Year**, one of the most sacred of all traditional Chinese holidays, a time of family reunion and celebration. The Lunar New Year is also celebrated at this time in Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Mongolia.

**1 National Freedom Day**, which celebrates the signing of the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States in 1865

**1-2 Imbolc**, a Gaelic traditional festival marking the beginning of spring

**1 St. Brigid of Kildare**, feast day for St. Brigid celebrated by some Christian denominations

**2 Candlemas**, a Christian holiday that celebrates three occasions according to Christian belief the presentation of the child Jesus, Jesus' first entry into the temple, and Virgin Mary's purification

**3 St. Blaise Day (The Blessing of the Throats)**, the feast day of St. Blaise of Sebaste celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church and some Eastern Catholic Churches

**3 Setsubun-Sai (Beginning of Spring)**, the day before the beginning of spring in Japan, celebrated annually as part of the Spring Festival

**3 Four Chaplains Day** commemorates the fifty-fifth anniversary of the sinking of the US Army transport *Dorchester* and the heroism of the four chaplains aboard.

**5 Vasant Panchami**, the Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring. On this day, Hindus worship Saraswati Devi, the goddess of wisdom, knowledge, music, art, and culture.

**14 St. Valentine's Day**, a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus. This holiday

is typically associated with romantic love and celebrated by people expressing their love with gifts.

**15 Lantern Festival**, the first significant feast after the Chinese New Year; partic-

ipants enjoy watching paper lanterns illuminate the sky on the night of the event

**15 Parinirvana Day (or Nirvana Day)**, the com-

memoration of Buddha's death at the age of 80, when he reached the zenith of Nirvana; February 8 is an alternative date of observance

**16 Maghi-Purnima**, a Hindu festival especially for worshippers of Lord Vishnu. Devotees take a holy bath on this day and also carry out charity work.

**16 Magha Puja Day (also known as Maka Bucha)**, a Buddhist holiday that marks an event early in the Buddha's teaching life when a group of 1,250 enlightened saints ordained by the Buddha



gathered to pay their respect to him. It is celebrated on various dates in different countries.

**21 Presidents Day**, a federally recognized celebration in the United States that honors the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln birthday, as well as those of every US president

**25-March 1 Intercalary Days or Ayyám-i-Há**, celebrated by people of the Bahá'í faith. At this time, days are added to the Bahá'í calendar to maintain their solar calendar. Intercalary days are observed with

gift-giving, special acts of charity, and preparation for the fasting that precedes the New Year.

**27 Meatfare Sunday (The Sunday of the Last Judgment)**, traditionally the last day of eating meat before Easter for Orthodox Christians

