

# December 2023

## Calendar of Observances

1

### World AIDS Day

A day to remember the important fight against HIV and AIDS and to remember the many millions of its victims worldwide.

3

### International Day of Disabled Persons

Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

7

### Hanukkah Begins

Eight-day "Festival of Lights", celebrated the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.

8

### Bodhi Day

Celebrates the day the "Historic Buddha", aka Siddhartha Gautama, Sakyamuni Buddha, achieved enlightenment.

### Immaculate Conception of Mary

Celebrates the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life.

10

### International Human Rights Day

On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

12

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill Tepeyac in 1531.

21

### Winter Solstice

In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of Winter.

24

### Christmas Eve

Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.

25

### Christmas

Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.

26

### Kwanza

A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" means first fruits of the harvest in Swahili.

### Zarathosht Diso Zoroastrian

Commemorates the death of the Prophet Zarathushtra.

31

### New Years Eve

New Year's Eve is the last day of the year and the day before New Year's Day, which marks the start of a new year according to the Gregorian calendar. Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian calendar in 1582.

**Maryland University**  
*of* **Integrative Health**

Calendar of Observances brought to you by the MUIH Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee. Calendars are available at [www.muoh.edu/diversity-equity-and-inclusion](http://www.muoh.edu/diversity-equity-and-inclusion).