

Peace and Justice Calendar
June 2026

National Indigenous History Month: May we honor the gifts & talents of our indigenous brothers & sisters.

Italian, Filipino, and Portuguese Heritage Month: Let us give thanks for our ancestors who have come from across the world, enriching us with their unique ways of celebrating life.

Pride Month: May we support and defend the rights and freedoms of each person throughout this month.

Men's Health Month: May God bless all men, especially young men with good physical and spiritual health

National Safety Month: Life seems to be moving at a very fast pace. Let us pray for the safety for one another

PTSD Awareness Month: Trauma affects almost everyone. May those who suffer from post-traumatic stress be given all they need to heal.

1 Today is the UN's Global Day of Parents. May all parents find the support they need to raise their children in peace and safety. Today is also the Feastday of St. Justin who did not abandon philosophy upon conversion but taught that Christianity was the culmination of all truth, combining Christian theology with Greek philosophical thought. He was denounced to the authorities and beheaded in Rome along with six companions around 165 AD. Let us give thanks for those who speak for true theology and thought.

2 Remembering Helen Keller, Reformer: 1880-1968. As an infant, a fever left her blind and deaf. Yet she learned that the principle of universal love and the existence of a spiritual dimension beyond our physical senses is pure gift to be cherished. She advocated all over the world for people with disabilities and wrote many books. May we see that every one of us is differently abled and loved for who we are, not what we can do!

3 Today is the Feastday of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs of Uganda in 1886. They were canonized in 1964 by Pope Paul VI. Let us give thanks for the grace to proclaim our faith no matter the cost.

4 Today is the feast of Corpus Christi and the UN's International Day recognizing the Innocent Children who are Victims of Aggression. Let us remember that we are to be the Body of Christ, especially to the children, shielding them from aggression and fear.

5 Today is the UN's World Environment Day and International Day for the Fight against Illegal, unreported and unregulated Fishing. May we do all we can to protect our environment, especially our rivers, lakes and oceans.

6 Today is the D-Day Anniversary, celebrating the end of World War II. May we be peace-makers today and every day. Today is also the Feastday of St. Norbert, archbishop and Founder of the Norbertines in France. Let us honor all those, like St. Norbert, to "turn away from evil, and do good. Seek peace and pursue it."

7 Today, Sunday, is the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi. Let us follow our call to be Christ to one another. Today is also the Philadelphia Pride Festival and World Food Safety Day. May all those celebrating at the Pride Festival and around the world rejoice and enjoy rich and tasty foods.

8 Today is World Oceans Day. Let us do our part to protect all waterways that flow into our oceans by our efforts to recycle, reuse and repurpose whatever and wherever we can.

9 May this quote of our Founder, Bishop Ketteler, renew in us our efforts to address the needs of immigrants today. "We share a common belief in the Son of God, ...and this common belief provides us with an opportunity to join hands in a common effort to help alleviate the plight of the working poor." Ketteler

10 “There is a Jewish proverb, ‘before every person there marches an angel proclaiming, ‘Behold, the image of God.’...To love your neighbor is to relate to them as someone made in the image of the God. And it is to relate to *yourself* as someone made in the image of the God. It’s God, up, down, and all around, and God is love.” Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry. Let us truly love our neighbor as ourselves, thus loving God.

11 Today is the Feastday of St. Barnabas who was called and set apart with Paul in the Church at Antioch to be prophets and teachers of the Good News. May we follow our call to be messengers of good news.

12 Today is the UN’s World Day against Child Labour, which is celebrated every year on this day, and is intended to foster worldwide awareness and a movement to stop child labour. Today is also the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. May we continue to grow closer to Christ Jesus in all we do and say.

13 Today is the feast of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us pray to Mary to guide us to her son, Jesus. Today is also the Feastday St. Anthony of Padua, Doctor of the Church. He was sent by St. Francis on a preaching mission that covered all of Italy. May we turn to him for his help in finding lost objects.

14 Today is Flag Day which commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by a resolution of the Second Continental Congress. Let us honor our flag by speaking up for the rights of all peoples who come to our country, looking for freedom, peace and security.

15 Today is the UN’s World Elder Abuse Awareness of Day. May all women and men experience support and care, especially in their senior years.

16 Today is the Islamic New Year which marks the start of the new Hijri year: 1448, with the first month, Muharram. It commemorates the Hijrah (migration) of Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Madinah in 622. It is a time for reflection and prayer, rather than extravagant celebrations. Let us support our Muslim brothers and sisters with our prayers and good wishes.

17 Today we recognize the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. Let us support all those organizations that work hard to protect the areas affected by climate change, especially our farm lands and forests from drought and misuse.

18 “In a certain sense, my own life experience, which has spanned North America, South America and Europe, has been marked by this aspiration to transcend borders in order to encounter different peoples and cultures.” May this quote of Pope Leo XIV in May of 2025 inspire us as we continue to understand our call as an intercultural congregation, to spread the Good News of Christ Jesus.

19 Today is Juneteenth. This celebration recognizes the freedom for enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865, by Union Troops in Galveston Bay which was for them the official announcement that the Civil War ended. This led to the celebration, called “Juneteenth” with a series of parades, family reunions, speeches, and consuming specific foods with a red color including barbeque, watermelon (an African fruit), and red soda water.

20 Today is UN’s World Refugee Day. It is held annually on **June 20** to honor the strength and courage of people forced to flee their home countries due to conflict or persecution. Designated by the UN in 2000, it aims to build empathy and support for refugees rebuilding their lives, highlighting their contributions and resilience. Let our actions and prayers continually support those refugee families we know and love as well as all refugees throughout the world.

21 Today is Father's Day. It has been a nationwide holiday in the United States since 1972, with roots in honoring dads following a 1908 sermon in West Virginia. On July 5, 1908, the first-ever Father's Day service was held at the Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South in Fairmont, West Virginia, driven by Grace Golden Clayton to honor local fathers following the devastating Monongahela mine disaster. Reverend Dr. Robert Thomas Webb delivered the sermon, which paid tribute to over 360 men lost in the December 1907 mining tragedy. Let us give thanks for our fathers and all men who sacrifice for the good of their families. Today begins the Summer Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. It is the longest day and shortest night of the year, with the sun reaching its most northerly point in the sky directly over the Tropic of Cancer. May we give thanks and treasure this longest day with joy in our hearts.

22 Today we remember Cardinal Yves Cong, Dominican Theologian (1904-1995). After being a prisoner of war, he made a commitment to ecumenism and to the need for greater openness to the world. Pope John XXIII asked him to serve on the preparatory committee for Vatican II. Let us further his definition of the Church as the "People of God, holy and always in need of reformation."

23 Today is the UN's National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism. This day honors victims and survivors, promotes their rights, and coincides with the inaugural UK National Day for Victims and Survivors of Terrorism on the same date. Today is also the UN's Public Service Day. May we speak up for all victims of violence and find ways to contribute and serve others in need today.

24 Today is known as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day. He is primarily known as the forerunner and prophet who paved the way for Jesus Christ, preaching repentance and baptizing people in the Jordan River, including baptizing Jesus himself. He is revered as an ascetic figure that lived in the wilderness and is considered the final Old Testament prophet. Let us give thanks for John the Baptist and reflect on how we are called to proclaim and follow Christ Jesus.

25 Today we recall that back on this day in 1530, the Augsburg Confession was presented as a foundational Lutheran statement of faith designed to defend Protestant theology against what Lutherans believed was the Roman Catholic misrepresentations, thus restoring unity during the Reformation. Authored primarily by Philipp Melanchthon for the Diet of Augsburg, it sought reconciliation while clearly articulating Lutheran principles. May we do all we can to promote inter-faith dialogue and reconciliation especially between the Lutheran and Catholic faithful.

26 Today is the UN's International Day for Support of Victims of Torture. May we never forget to pray for those victims of torture throughout the world, past and present and do our part to work for the end any form of torture.

27 Today is also the Feastday of St. Cyril of Alexandria. He wrote extensively and was a major player in the Christological controversies of the late 4th and 5th centuries. He was a central figure in the Council of Ephesus in 431. May we give thanks for all those who speak up for the Gospel message of Jesus. Today is also PTSD Awareness Day. Post Traumatic Syndrome affects thousands each year. Let us pray for all those we know and don't know who suffer from PTSD.

28 Today is the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time It is a Sunday with a Waxing Gibbous moon (97.8% illumination). Today is also **Ukraine's Constitution Day**. Let us pray that the people of Ukraine are safe as they celebrate this very important day.

29 Feastday of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles of the First Century. May we, like Peter and Paul be willing to speak out as we answer the question, "Who do you say I am?" With the conviction "You are the Christ."

30 Today is Asteroid Day. It is an annual global event which is held on June 30, the anniversary of the Tunguska event in 1908 when a meteor air burst levelled about 2,150 km of forest in Siberia, Russia. May we look to the sky to view asteroids and pray for all those affected by future meteor air bursts around the world.