

DECEMBER 2015

- December 1** **WORLD AIDS DAY**
International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
- December 3** **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS**
Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
- December 6–14** **CHANUKAH • Jewish**
Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, celebrating 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.
- December 8** **BODHI DAY • Buddhist**
Also known as *Rohatsu*, it observes the spiritual awakening (bodhi) of founder Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, ca. 596 BCE. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
- December 10** **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**
On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- December 12** **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian**
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 of Tepeyac in 1531.
- December 15** **BILL OF RIGHTS DAY**
Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.
- December 21** **WINTER SOLSTICE**
In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of winter.
- December 25** **CHRISTMAS • Western Christian**
Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
- December 26–January 1, 2016** **KWANZAA**
A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.
- December 29** **WOUNDED KNEE DAY**
On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.