



Following are topic suggestions that can be the basis for a variety of communication opportunities, including viewpoint articles placed with local and regional media, diocesan publications, sermons, videos, photos, blogs, social media, and presentations.

Be sure also to check *Holy Women Holy Men*.

Important dates for 2016 that change annually

National observance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: January 18

Ash Wednesday: February 10

Presidents Day: February 15

Palm Sunday: March 20

Holy Thursday: March 24

Good Friday: March 25

Easter: March 27

Ascension Day: May 5

Pentecost: May 15

Memorial Day: May 30

Labor Day: September 5

Election Day in the US: November 8

Thanksgiving: November 24

Important dates for 2016 that remain fixed

January 1 – New Year’s Day

New Year’s Day is the world’s most celebrated holiday – a time when people look forward to the coming year and to plans and resolutions for improving some aspect of their lives.

January 6 – Feast of the Epiphany

Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Three Kings. Also known as El Dia de los Reyes, Epiphany falls on January 6 and celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. We also commemorate the visitation of the Magi to the Baby Jesus and our own baptismal covenant by remembering Jesus’ baptism by St. John the Baptist.

January 12 – Anniversary of the Haiti Earthquake



In 2010, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, killing more than 100,000 people and leveling much of the nation's infrastructure, including the Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, which was among the nation's most revered and sacred landmarks. Relief efforts, including those led by Episcopal Relief & Development, and Church-led development work to begin restoring the cathedral and damaged Episcopal schools have made slow but steady progress. Much work, however, still remains to be done.

February Month-Long – Black History Month

Black History Month observes the important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora.

February 13 – Absalom Jones

Absalom Jones (1746-1818) was an African American abolitionist and clergyman. After founding a black congregation in 1794, he became the first African American ordained as a priest in The Episcopal Church.

March 17 – The Feast of St. Patrick

Each year, The Episcopal Church celebrates the Feast Day of St. Patrick, the fifth-century bishop and missionary of Ireland, by commemorating the day of his death in 461.

March 19 – The Feast of St. Joseph

Joseph was called to fill the role of Jesus' father on earth. He obeyed a message given to him by an angel of the Lord to take Mary as his wife. He is honored in Christian tradition for the love he showed to the boy, Jesus, and to Mary. He was a protector of Jesus and is remembered as a loving figure.

April 4 – The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American clergyman, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the Civil Rights Movement who modeled the use of nonviolent civil disobedience. While the nation celebrates the memory of Dr. King in January, The Episcopal Church also remembers him on April 4, the day he was assassinated.

April 22 – Earth Day

Millions of people from around the world will celebrate Earth Day – a day to demonstrate support for the protection of the Earth. The Episcopal Church recognizes this as an opportunity to reflect on and raise consciousness about our call to care for all God's creation. Our Church



works “to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth” as one of its Five Marks of Mission.

June 20 – UN World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day was established by the United Nations to honor the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children who are forced to flee their homes under threat of persecution, conflict, and violence.

July 4 – Independence Day

The Fourth of July is the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain in 1776, and the celebrations have deep roots in the American tradition of political independence.

July and August Month-Long – Summer Vacation

It may be time for summer vacation, but God still welcomes you. Children are out of school for summer vacation, and many families use these weeks to travel for fun and relaxing vacations together. Others, who are not so fortunate to have the opportunity to travel, seek outdoor or other recreational activities to share together.

August 14 – Jonathan Daniels

On August 14, 1965, while working in the Civil Rights Movement, Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Daniels pushed aside the intended victim of a shotgun blast fired by a racist. The young African American woman was saved, and Daniels was killed instantly. In 1994, The Episcopal Church recognized Daniels as a martyr.

August and September Month-Long – Back to School

As August comes to a close and September nears, many students – from preschool through college – return to start another school year.

September 29 – The Feast of St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel was the leader of the angels in victory over Satan, and he often is portrayed with a sword fighting or standing over a dragon. St. Michael is the powerful agent of God who wards off evil and delivers peace at the end of this life’s mortal struggle.

October 4 – The Feast of St. Francis



St. Francis of Assisi is known for his love of nature and animals. Many congregations celebrate blessings of pets on St. Francis Day, offering opportunities for columns, blogs, feature articles, photos, videos, social media, etc.

October 31 – Halloween

Halloween is a yearly celebration observed in a number of countries on October 31, the eve of All Saints' Day, and many children enjoy carving pumpkins or trick-or-treating. Episcopal churches across the country are planning to observe All Hallows' Eve. Use this traditionally fun holiday to plan activities and messages focusing on saints rather than goblins!

November 1 – All Saints' Day

As we remember all the saints today, we should also remember that we all are saints.

November 2 – All Faithful Departed

The day after All Saints' Day is the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, when prayers and remembrances are offered for loved ones who have died.

November 11 – Veterans Day

Veterans Day is an American federal holiday held on November 11 to honor men and women who have served in the armed services. It is "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace."

December 1 – World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is an annual commemoration of those who have lost their lives to the deadly pandemic, a time to stand with all persons living with HIV, and an opportunity to recommit to a future without AIDS.

December 6 – The Feast of St. Nicholas

Very little is known of Nicolas, Bishop of Myra, except that he was born in AD 260 and was a wealthy man of deep faith who lived his life in devotion to Christ. He embodied compassion and charity, dedicating his life to serving the poor. In the same way, we are called to respond to human need by loving service.

December 25 – Christmas Day

Christmas Day marks the observation and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus comes among us to remind us of a world living together in peace and to reclaim and make real the vision of creation for all humanity and all God's creatures.