Celebrations, Holidays, & Traditions for March 2008

*Women’s History Month (US)*
*Irish- American Heritage Month (US)*

**March 1:**

**Independence Day:** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)- In 1992, gained independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

**Memorial Day:** (Marshall Islands)-

**Yap Day:** (Micronesia)- a way of celebrating dance and is a form of competition between Yapese villages

**March 2:**

**Adwa Victory Day:** (Ethiopia)- a holiday to celebrate the Ethiopian defeat over the Italians in 1896, which made Ethiopia the “only” African country not to be colonized by Europe

**Meatfare Sunday:** (Orthodox Christia)- observed two weeks before the start of Lent to prepare the faithful for the resurrection of Christ and the last day for the eating of meat before Lent

**March 3:**

**Liberation Day (National Day):** (Bulgaria)- a day to celebrate the signing of the Peace Treaty of San Stefano (a tiny town near Istanbul) between Russia and the Ottoman Empire which brought Bulgaria back to the political map

**Mother’s Day:** (Georgia)- day honoring mothers in the Eurasian country

**Martyr’s Day:** (Malawi)- During an uprising against the Federation in 1959 forty people lost their lives. These people are remembered on 3 March every year on Martyr's Day

**March 6:**

**Independence Day:** (Ghana)- In 1957, Ghana was the first black African country to become independent
**March 8:**

*Women’s Day:* (Angola, Armenia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Laos, Madagascar, Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia) - a day honoring women and observing the multi-faith tradition since 1887, celebrated on the first Friday in March

**March 9:**

*Passion Sunday:* (Christian) - the 5th Sunday in Lent

**March 10:**

*Commonwealth Day:* (British Virgin Islands, and many others) - annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations marked by a multi-faith service in Westminster Abbey, normally attended by Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen delivers an address to the Commonwealth, broadcast throughout the world

*Ash Monday:* (Cyprus, Greece) - a public holiday in Greece and Cyprus, also known as Clean Monday. It is celebrated with outdoor excursions, the consumption of shellfish and other fasting food, and the widespread custom of flying kites

*Lent Begins:* (Orthodox Christian) - a time of forgiveness for pain and offenses

**March 11:**

*Independence Restoration Day:* (Lithuania) - In 1918, gained independence from Russia & Germany

**March 14:**

*Constitution Day:* (Andorra) - the day the Constitution of this country was drafted and signed in 1993
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Country/Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 15:</td>
<td><em>Revolution Day</em> (Hungary)</td>
<td>Hungary to commemorate the Revolution and the following War of Independence against the Austrian-Habsburg rule in 1848-49</td>
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<td>March 16:</td>
<td><em>Palm Sunday</em> (Christian)</td>
<td>the Sunday before Easter</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Orthodox Sunday</em> (Orthodox Christian)</td>
<td>the Sunday before Easter</td>
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<td>March 17:</td>
<td><em>St. Patrick’s Day</em> (Ireland, Montserrat, United Kingdom, United States)</td>
<td>an annual feast day which celebrates Saint Patrick, one of the patron saints of Ireland</td>
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<td><em>Benito Juarez Day</em> (Mexico)</td>
<td>regarded as Mexico's greatest and most beloved leader. He was also the first Mexican leader who did not have a military background, and the first full-blooded indigenous national to serve as President of Mexico, and the first to lead an American country in more than 300 years</td>
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<td>March 18:</td>
<td><em>St. Joseph’s Day</em> (Vatican City, Liechtenstein, Malta, Spain, Switzerland)</td>
<td>a day to honor Joseph, spouse of Mary and father of Jesus, by having a feast without meat since it is during Lent</td>
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<td>March 20:</td>
<td><em>Noruz (Persian New Year)</em> (Afghanistan, Iran, and many others)</td>
<td>the traditional Persian/Iranian new year holiday celebrating the first day of spring and the beginning of the Persian/Iranian Calendar</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Maundy Thursday</em> (Argentina, Mexico, Spain, and many others)</td>
<td>the feast or holy day on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Independence Day</em> (Tunisia)</td>
<td>In 1956, gained independence from France</td>
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March 21:

**Independence Day**: (Namibia)- In 1990, gained independence from South African mandate

**Human Right’s Day**: (South Africa)- a day to recognize and ensure that citizens of South Africa are aware of their human rights. Many of their rights were abused during the Apartheid era, particularly the carnage in Sharpeville in 1960

**Mother’s Day**: (Syria)- a national holiday to honor mothers

**Good Friday**: the Friday before Easter commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus at Calvary

March 23:

**Pakistan Day**: (Pakistan)- a day to commemorate the passage of the famous resolution of the All India Muslim League in Lahore in 1940. It is an occasion to educate Pakistanis and non-Pakistanis about the country and share their heritage to promote better understanding and communication between different communities.

**Easter Sunday**: (Christian)- a sacred holiday, one of the most important religious feast in the Christian liturgical year. In modern times, this day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which Christians believe occurred on the third day after his crucifixion

March 25:

**Greek Independence Day**: (Cyprus, Greece)- In 1821, gained independence from Ottoman Empire

March 26:

**Independence Day**: (Bangladesh)- Declared independence from Pakistan which led to a nine month war ending in December, 1971.

March 31:

**Islamic Republic Day**: (Iran)- a public holiday to commemorate the day when Iran first became a republic in 1956

**Freedom Day**: (Malta)- the anniversary of the withdrawal of British troops and the Royal Navy from Malta in 1979