

# 2008



The Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) is a civil society organization that believes in peace, harmony and prosperity of people in Macedonia and on the Balkans, integrated within the Euro-Atlantic institutions and international community. MCIC strives to stimulate and lead changes in resolving the societal challenges in innovative way and establishing alternative models to be incorporated in the mainstreams.

MCIC implements the programme on Bridging Religions in Macedonia (MSM) in cooperation with the Macedonian Orthodox Church (MOC), the Islamic Religious Community (IRC), the Catholic Church (CC), the Jewish Community (JC) and the United Methodist Church (UMC) as well as the other faith communities in Macedonia.

The members of the religious communities may play an important role in promoting peace and respect of

The Bridging Religions' Calendar is part of the campaign One Next to Another - Different, but Equal, implemented by MCIC in coalition with the civil society organizations.



differences as well as conveying these values to the believers.

Cooperation, dialogue and understanding are essential components in building a sound democratic society. We are all different, but we have to learn how to respect each other. Everyone deserves equal opportunities, dignity and respect regardless of the gender, age, ethnic, religious or racial belonging or convictions.

This calendar includes all major religious holidays, fasting and commemoration days of the faith communities, but also the holidays of ethnic communities in RM, the national holidays as well as the international celebrations, reminding us that we should always fight against discrimination, going one step further, being different but equal.

Happy holidays in 2008.

The programme is supported by the Danish and Norwegian Government, in cooperation with the DanChurchAid (DCA) and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA).



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID



The cooperation must come from the heart.  
The cooperation should start right here ... with US.



- 01.01.2008 Mary Mother of God - solemnity of Mary commemorating the divine motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the God-Bearer.
- 06.01.2008 Epiphany - celebrating the Three Kings: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, who followed a bright star to Bethlehem and found there the Christ child.
- 06.01.2008 Christmas Eve (Badnik) - last day of Nativity fasting. The name of the holiday derives from a traditional oak log (badnik) brought in every Orthodox home, symbolizing the presence of Lord Jesus Christ.
- 07.01.2008 Christmas (Christ's Birth) - celebration of the birth of our Savior, God incarnate, Jesus Christ. People greet each other with „Christ is born“ and respond with „Truly he is born“.
- 10.01.2008 Hijrah New Year - marks the emigration of Muhammad with his followers from his hometown Mecca to Medina. For the Muslims, the day of Muhammad's emigration is the beginning of Islamic New Year and the first month is named Muharram.

- 14.01.2008 Circumcision - celebration in commemoration of the circumcision of Lord Jesus Christ in a temple in Jerusalem on the eight day of His birth. This day is also dedicated to the Saint Basil the Great and is the beginning of the New Year according to the Julian calendar.
- 19.01.2008 Epiphany - (Baptism of Lord) - the feast is established in commemoration of the baptism of Christ. On this day the Lord Jesus Christ was baptized by the Saint John the Baptist in the Jordan River. At the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, the Father and the Holy Spirit revealed themselves along with the Son as the Holy Trinity. On this day a cross is tossed into the water and the blessed water is healing and kept throughout the year.
- 19.01.2008 The Fast of Ashura - celebrated on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram. According to the Sacred Qur'an, the month of Muharram is one of the four sanctified months, while the night of Ashura is the most sacred night in this month.
- 22.01.2008 Hamishah Asar B'Shevat - a New Year for Trees.
- 27.01.2008 Saint Sava - holiday of the Serbian ethnic community.

# JANUARY 2008

The cooperation must come from the heart. The cooperation should start right here ... with US.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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28	29	30	31			

Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International





Christian symbol, Cross

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:8)



- 02.02.2008 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - feast celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> day of the birth of Jesus Christ, when Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem and he was dedicated to God.
- 06.02.2008 The first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday).
- 15.02.2008 The Meeting of our Lord - celebrating the meeting of Lord with a very old man named Simeon and Anna the Prophetess in the temple on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- 15.02.2008 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - feast celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> day of the birth of Jesus Christ, when Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem and he was dedicated to God.



# FEBRUARY 2008

**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:8)**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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25	26	27	28	29		

Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International



Christian symbol, Cross



Let us follow those things which make for peace: and things wherewith one may edify another. (Romans 14:19)

- 07.03.2008 Women's World Day of Prayer - is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organized and led by Christian women who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.
- 08.03.2008 International Women's Day.
- 11.03.2008 Commemoration Day of Macedonian Jews - back in 1943, 7,230 Jews from Macedonia were killed or taken to the death camp - Treblinka.
- 16.03.2008 Palm Sunday - commemorating in the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, when palm branches were strewn before him.
- 19/20.03.2008 Al-Mawlid - the birth of Prophet Muhammad, according to the Islamic calendar. (Islamic)
- 20.03.2008 The Fast of Esther - marks the beginning of Purim feast.
- 21.03.2008 Purim - commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination, plotted by Haman.
- 23.03.2008 Shushan Purim.
- 23.03.2008 Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Easter) - the Day of rising of Christ from the dead is the biggest Christian Feast. The resurrection of Christ is the essence of Christianity and the basis of the faith, as Paul the Apostle said: „If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” From resurrection to ascension people greet with „Christ is risen” and respond with „Truly He is risen”.
- 25.03.2008 The Annunciation - the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she was to give birth to Jesus.

# MARCH 2008

Let us follow those things which make for peace: and things wherewith one may edify another. (Romans 14:19)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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31						

Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International





Don't hate one another, don't envy one another and don't back-bite one another.  
The servants of Allah are brethren to one another. (Muhammad s.a.w.s)





07.04.2008 The Annunciation - is the revelation to Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus by the archangel Gabriel that she would conceive a child to be born the Son of God. The Christian churches celebrate this with the feast of Annunciation nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Jesus, or Christmas.

08.04.2008 International Roma Day.

20.04.2008 Palm Sunday - celebrated on the last Sunday before Easter, commemorating in the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, when palm branches were strewn before him.

20-27.04.2008 Pesach (Passover) - commemorates the Exodus, the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian slavery 3,320 years ago.

25.04.2008 Good Friday (Strict Fast) - commemorates the

crucifixion and death of Lord Jesus Christ and His descent in the Hades. This is the central point in the Passionate week, then the Godman, Who innocent suffered for the salvation of mankind, acquired the grace of redemption from the ancestral sin, by which the reign of death and hell (demons) over human nature was bereft of power.

27.04.2008 Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Easter) - The Day of rising of Christ from the dead is the greatest Christian Feast. The resurrection of Christ is the essence of Christianity and the basis of the faith, as Paul the Apostle said: „If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” From resurrection to ascension people greet with „Christ is risen” and respond with „Truly He is risen”.

# APRIL 2008

**Don't hate one another, don't envy one another and don't back-bite one another.  
The servants of Allah are brethren to one another. (Muhammad s.a.w.s)**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International





All mankind belong to Allah, therefore the most favored by Allah is the one who is most useful to people. (Muhammad s.a.w.s)

- 02.05.2008 Yom HaShoah Ve'laGvura (Holocaust Remembrance Day) - is an international day set aside for remembering the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising in 1943.
- 07.05.2008 Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) - holiday honoring fallen fighters who died for the independence of Israel.
- 08.05.2008 Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) - commemorates the declaration of independence of Israel in 1948.
- 11.05.2008 Pentecost (Whitsunday) - celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.
- 11.05.2008 Mother's Day - celebrates motherhood generally and the contributions of mothers to society, particularly the sheltering of every abandoned child.
- 18.05.2008 Trinity Sunday - celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- 22.05.2008 Corpus Christie (Eucharist) - festival in honor of the Real Presence of the body (corpus) of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.
- 23.05.2008 Day of Vlachs.
- 23.05.2008 Lag Ba'omer - holiday of youth and joy celebrated on the thirty-third day of the counting of the Omer.
- 24.05.2008 Saints Cyril and Methodius "equal-to-apostles" - two brothers born in Thessaloniki in the 9th century, who became missionaries of Christianity. They are credited with devising and spreading the Glagolic alphabet, which was used for Slavic manuscripts. After their death their pupils became missionaries among other Slavic peoples, including Saints Clement and Naum of Ohrid who worked in Macedonia.
- 30.05.2008 The Sacred Heart of Jesus - is a religious devotion to Jesus' physical heart as the representation of the divine love for humanity.

# MAY 2008

**All mankind belong to Allah, therefore the most favored by Allah is the one who is most useful to people. (Muhammad s.a.w.s)**

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Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International



Jewish symbol, Menorah



The menorah is a seven branched candelabrum (big candelabrum) lit by olive oil in the Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem. The menorah is one of the oldest Jewish religious symbols as well as one of the most famous symbols of the Jewish people.



- 02.06.2008 Yom Yerushalayim - Jerusalem Day.
- 05.06.2008 Ascension Day - celebrated in commemoration of Christ's ascension. It is celebrated 40 days after Easter and is always on Thursday. This feast is also called Savior Day because it celebrates the day of the Savior of the world Lord Jesus Christ.
- 09-10.06.2008 Shavuot - the Feast of Weeks, marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer and the day the Torah was given to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai and celebrating the spring harvest.
- 14.06.2008 All Souls' Day - commemorates the faithful departed. This day is observed by visiting the graves of the deceased, lighting candles and lamps. The priest serves the short sermon (trisagion) spilling red wine over the specially prepared wheat and the grave.
- 15.06.2008 Holy Pentecost (Trinity Day) - is celebrated ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. On this day the Apostles of the Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles. The second and the third day of this feast are dedicated to the Trinity as the Holy Spirit that Christ had promised to his disciples came on the day of Pentecost.
- 16.06.2008 Holy Trinity - celebration in honor of the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

# JUNE 2008

The menorah is a seven branched candelabrum (big candelabrum) lit by olive oil in the Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem. The menorah is one of the oldest Jewish religious symbols as well as one of the most famous symbols of the Jewish people.

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Christian: ■ Orthodox ■ Catholic (Western Rite) ■ Catholic (Eastern Rite) ■ United Methodist

■ Islamic ■ Jewish ■ National ■ Ethnic Communities ■ International



Jewish symbol, Star of David

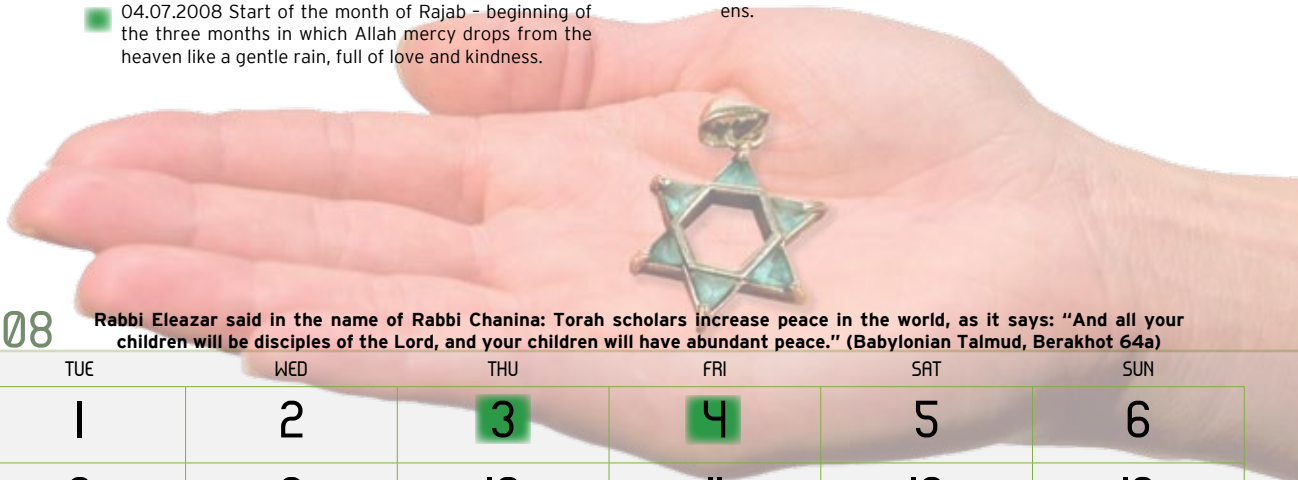


Rabbi Eleazar said in the name of Rabbi Chanina: Torah scholars increase peace in the world, as it says: "And all your children will be disciples of the Lord, and your children will have abundant peace." (Babylonian Talmud, Berakhot 64a)



- 03/04.07.2008 Laylat al-Raghaib - night when the Prophet Muhammad was conceived in the womb of his mother Amina.
- 04.07.2008 Start of the month of Rajab - beginning of the three months in which Allah mercy drops from the heaven like a gentle rain, full of love and kindness.

- 20.07.2008 Shiva Asar B'Tamuz (Fast Day).
- 29/30.07.2008 Laylat ul Isra and Mi'raj - the Night of the Journey and Ascension of Prophet Muhammad to the heavens.



# JULY 2008

**Rabbi Eleazar said in the name of Rabbi Chanina: Torah scholars increase peace in the world, as it says: "And all your children will be disciples of the Lord, and your children will have abundant peace." (Babylonian Talmud, Berakhot 64a)**

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Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International





We all live under the same sun.

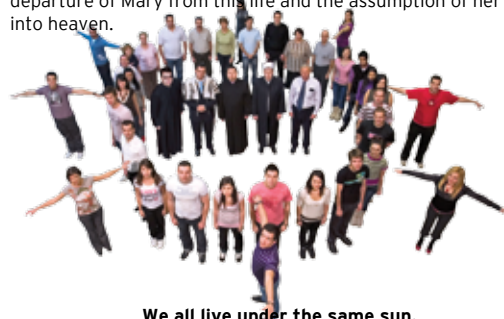




- 06.08.2008 Transfiguration of Christ - celebrates the revelation of Christ's divine glory on Mount Tabor.
- 10.08.2008 Tish'ah beAv (Fast Day) - in memory of the destruction of the First and the Second Temple in Jerusalem.
- 15.08.2008 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - the happy departure of Mary from this life and the assumption of her body into heaven.
- 16/17.08.2008 Night of Bara'ah - is the fifteenth night of Sha'ban and anniversary of the night in which the Qur'an is believed by Muslims to have first descended to the earthly heavens and then in the next 23 years revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel.
- 19.08.2008 Transfiguration of Christ - celebrates the revelation of Christ's divine glory on Mount Tabor.
- 28.08.2008 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - the departure of Mary from this life. The legend says that on the

third day after her funeral, Lord Jesus Christ has resurrected her, assuming her body into heaven.

28.08.2008 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - the happy departure of Mary from this life and the assumption of her body into heaven.



We all live under the same sun.

# AUGUST 2008

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International





A circle has no end...



A circle has no end...

- 01.09.2008 The first day of the holy month of fasting Ramadan.
- 08.09.2008 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - commemorating the birth of Virgin Mary, who was born to the righteous Joachim and Anna.
- 14.09.2008 Triumph of the Cross - commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- 17.09.2008 The Battle of Badr - a key battle in the early days of Islam and the first large-scale engagement between the two forces - Muslims and polytheists in which the Muslims won.
- 21.09.2008 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - commemorating the birth of Virgin Mary, who was born to the righteous Joachim and Anna.
- 26/27.09.2008 Laylat al-Qadr-commemorating first revelation of Qur'an to Muhammad in 610 CE after Isa's birth. The Qur'an regards

- the Night as better than one thousand months.
- 27.09.2008 The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross - commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD (Fast Day).
- 28.09.2008 Day of Boshniaks.
- 30.09.2008 Ramadan Bayram - the end of the month of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Ramadan or Id ul-Fitr. The celebration dates back from the time when Muhammed migrated from Mecca and Medina. After prayers Muslims visit friends and relatives.
- 30.09.2008 Rosh Hashanah 5769 - Jewish New Year - 1<sup>st</sup> Day.

# SEPTEMBER 2008

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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<span style="color: purple;">■</span> 8	9	10	11	12	13	<span style="color: purple;">■</span> 14
15	16	<span style="color: green;">■</span> 17	18	19	20	<span style="color: red;">■</span> 21 <span style="color: purple;">■</span>
22	23	24	25	<span style="color: green;">■</span> 26	<span style="color: red;">■</span> 27 <span style="color: purple;">■</span>	28
29	<span style="color: green;">■</span> 30 <span style="color: blue;">■</span>					

Christian: ■ Orthodox ■ Catholic (Western Rite) ■ Catholic (Eastern Rite) ■ United Methodist

■ Islamic ■ Jewish ■ National ■ Ethnic Communities ■ International





The peace depends upon me...



- 01.10.2008 Rosh Hashanah 5769 - Jewish New Year - 2<sup>nd</sup> Day.
- 02.10.2008 Tzom Gedaliah (Fast Day).
- 03.10.2008 International Children's Day.
- 09.10.2008 Yom Kippur (Fast Day) - also known as the Day of Atonement, as the central themes are atonement and repentance.
- 14.10.2008 Protection of the Mother of God - the Church has always glorified the Holy Mother of God as protector and guardian of everyone and the help provided to everyone that pray sincerely.
- 14.10-21.10.2008 Sukkot (Observance Holiday) lasts 8 days and is reminiscent of the type of huts in which the ancient Jews dwelt during their 40 years of wandering in the desert after

the Exodus from Egypt. It is also celebration of the fruit harvest.

- 17.10.2008 World Poverty Day.
- 22.10.2008 Simchat Torah (Rejoicing with the Torah) - is a Jewish holiday marking the end and beginning of the annual cycle of public Torah readings. Torah is the most important document in Judaism, traditionally said to have been revealed to Moses. It is also known as the Five Books of Moses.
- 26.10.2008 Solemnity of Christ the King - by celebrating this feast the Church reminds us that one day we will face the ultimate destiny of humankind.

# OCTOBER 2008

The peace depends upon me...

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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27	28	29	30	31		

Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International





...upon you...



- 01.11.2008 All Saints Day - is a feast celebrated on November 1 in Western Christianity in honor of all the saints, known and unknown, who have attained the beatific vision in heaven.
- 22.11.2008 Day of the Albanian Alphabet.
- 23.11.2008 Solemnity of Christ the King - by celebrating this feast the Church reminds us that one day we will face the ultimate destiny of humankind.
- 30.11.2008 Advent Sunday - is a start of the period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ, in other words, the period immediately preceding Christmas. The advent lasts four weeks.



# NOVEMBER 2008

...upon you...

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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Christian: Orthodox Catholic (Western Rite) Catholic (Eastern Rite) United Methodist

Islamic Jewish National Ethnic Communities International





...upon all of us.





...upon all of us.

# DECEMBER 2008

- 03.12.2008 International Day of Disabled Persons.
- 04.12.2008 The Presentation of Mary (in the West), or The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple (in the East), is a liturgical day commemorating the entry of the Virgin Mary into the Temple in Jerusalem as a small child. Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, were childless, but received a heavenly message that they would bear a child. In thanksgiving for this gift of heaven, they brought their daughter to the Temple to consecrate her to God.
- 07.12.2008 Day of Arife - preparation for the great holiday Kurban Bayram and a day when the pilgrims gather on the plain of Arafat to pray to Allah.
- 08.12.2008 Saint Clement of Ohrid was a disciple of Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius. He has established the First Slavic University in Ohrid. He lived in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and his wonder-working relics now rest in the church "St. Clement and St. Pantaleon" in Ohrid.
- 08.12.2008 Kurban Bayram - one of the two greatest Islamic holidays, the feast of sacrifice which is part of the Hajj. On this day, well-off Muslims may sacrifice an animal.
- 10.12.2008 International Day of Human Rights.
- 21.12.2008 Day of the first class held in Turkish.
- 21-29.12.2008 Hanukkah is the annual Jewish festival celebrated on eight successive days, commemorating the liberation struggle of Jews and rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem. It is also known as the Festival of Lights.
- 25.12.2008 Christmas (Nativity of Christ) - Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.
- 29.12.2008 Hijrah New Year - marks the emigration of Muhammad with his followers from his hometown Mecca to Medina. For the Muslims, the day of Muhammad's emigration is the beginning of Islamic New Year and the first month is named Muharram. This event happened 623 AS, after the birth of Isa.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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