Religious Holidays 2021-2022

Below are many of the religious holidays observed by members of the Washington University in St. Louis community. Please note that individual practices may vary.

Fall 2021

August 19: Ashura – Commemoration of martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, and when Moses fasted in gratitude for the liberation of the Israelites (Islam) *Begins at sundown
August 18, food restriction

August 30: Krishna Janmashtami (Hinduism) – Commemoration of the birth of Krishna *Fasting

September 3: Paryushana Parva – Eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline (Jainism) *Fasting

September 7-8: Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year and beginning of High Holy Days (Judaism) *Begins at sundown September 6, work restriction starts sundown September 6 and continues through both days

September 9: Tzom Gedaliah – Fast of the Seventh Month (Judaism) *Minor fasting

September 16: Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement (Judaism) *Begins sundown September 15, fasting and work restriction start September 15 and continue through September 16

September 21-27: Sukkot – Feast of Tabernacles (Judaism) *Begins at sundown September 20, work restriction starts sundown September 20 and continues through first two days (September 21-22)

September 28: Shmini Atzeret – Eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Judaism) *Begins at sundown September 27, work restriction starts sundown September 27 and continues through September 28

September 29: Simchat Torah – Celebration the Beginning of the Annual Torah reading cycle (Judaism) *Begins at sundown September 28, work restriction begins sundown September 28 and continues through September 29

October 6-14: Navratri – Festival of the divine mother in all her forms (Hinduism)

October 14: Dussehra (Hinduism) – Commemoration of the last of the days of judgement *Work restriction
November 1: All Saints' Day – Honors all saints known and unknown (Christianity)

November 1: Samhain – Festival honoring endings, beginnings, and the dead (Wiccan, Pagan) *Begins sundown on October 31

November 2: All Souls’ Day – Commemoration of the souls of those who have died (Christianity)

November 4: Diwali – Festival of Lights (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism) *Work restriction

November 7: Birth of Baha’u’llah – Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Baha’i Faith (Baha’i Faith) *Work restriction

November 29 – December 6: Hanukkah – Festival of Lights (Judaism) *Begins at sundown November 28

December 8: Bodhi Day – Celebration of Buddha’s attainment of enlightenment (Buddhism)

December 14: Asara B’Tevet – The Tenth of Tevet (Judaism) *Minor fasting when sun up

December 25: Christmas – Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ (Christianity)

Spring 2022

January 7: Christmas – Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ (Orthodox Christianity)

February 1: Lunar New Year – Celebration of a start of the new lunar cycle (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism)

March 1: Lailat al-Miraj (Islam) – Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad’s ascent to heaven *Begins at sundown on February 28

March 2: Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent (Christianity) *Fasting

March 2-20: Nineteen Day Fast – Fast observed by Baha’i adults (Baha’i Faith) *Fasting

March 7: Clean Monday/Ash Monday – Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians (Orthodox Christianity)

March 16: Ta’anit Esther – Fast of Esther (Judaism) *Minor fasting when sun up

March 17: Purim – Festival of Lots (Judaism) *Begins sundown March 16

March 17-18: Holi – Festival of Colors (Hinduism) *Fasting

March 21: Nowruz – Persian New Year (Zoroastrianism and Baha’i Faith)

March 30: Magha Puja Day – Celebration of Lord Buddha’s teaching to an assembly of men (Buddhism)

April 2 – May 1: Ramadan – Commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad’s divine revelation as recorded in the Qur’an (Islam) *Begins evening of April 1, fasting down until dusk or sundown
April 10: Palm Sunday – Celebration of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem (Christianity)

April 10-16: Holy Week – The week of Holy Days before Easter (Christianity)

April 13: Vaisakhi – Celebration of the formation of the religious community of Sikhs by Guru Gobind Singh (Sikhism)

April 14: Mahavir Jayanti – Celebration of the birth of the founder of Jainism (Jainism)

April 14: Holy Thursday – Commemoration of Jesus’ Last Supper (Christianity)

April 15: Good Friday – Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus (Christianity) *Fasting

April 16-23: Passover – Festival of Freedom (Judaism) *Begins sundown on April 15, food restrictions all days, work restrictions 4/15 sundown - 4/17 sundown and 4/21 sundown - 4/23 sundown

April 17: Easter – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus (Christianity)

April 17: Palm Sunday – Celebration of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem (Orthodox Christianity)

April 17-23: Holy Week – The week of Holy Days before Easter (Orthodox Christianity)

April 21: Holy Thursday – Commemoration of Jesus’ Last Supper (Orthodox Christianity)

April 21 – May 2: Ridvan – Commemoration of when the founder of the Baha’i Faith declared his mission (Baha’i Faith)

April 22: Good Friday – Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus (Orthodox Christianity) *Fasting

April 24: Easter – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus (Orthodox Christianity)

May 1: Beltane – Festival of Light honoring fertility and creation (Wicca, Paganism) *Begins at sundown April 30

May 3: Eid al-Fitr – Festival that marks the ending of Ramadan (Islam) *Begins evening of May 2

May 19: Lag B’Omer - 33rd day of counting the Omer (Judaism) *Begins at sundown May 18

May 23: Declaration of the Bab – Celebration of Ali Muhammad’s announcement that he was the “gate” to the promised coming of all religions (Baha’i Faith) *Work restriction

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