



Office for Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Life

STUDENT AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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, fasting*

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 Bahá'í Faith (Bahá'í 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 Bahá'í adults (Bahá'í 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 Bahá'í 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 receiving divine revelation as recorded in the Qur'an (Islam) **Begins evening of April 1, fasting dawn 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 Bahá’í Faith declared his mission (Bahá’í 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 (Bahá’í Faith) **Work restriction*

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