



Office for Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Life

STUDENT AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Religious Holidays 2020-2021

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 2020

August 15: Paryushana Parva – Eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline (Jainism) **Fasting*

August 29: Ashura (Islam) – Commemoration of martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, and when Moses fasted in gratitude for the liberation of the Israelites **Begins at sundown August 28, fasting*

September 19-20: Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year and beginning of High Holy Days (Judaism) **Begins at sundown September 18, work restriction starts sundown September 18 and continues through both days*

September 21: Tzom Gedaliah – Fast of the Seventh Month (Judaism) **Minor fasting when sun is up*

September 28: Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement (Judaism) **Begins at sundown September 27, fasting and work restriction start sundown September 27 and continues through September 28*

October 3-9: Sukkot – Feast of Tabernacles (Judaism) **Begins at sundown October 2, work restriction starts sundown October 2 and continues through first two days (October 3-4)*

October 10: Shmini Atzeret – Eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Judaism) **Begins at sundown October 9, work restriction starts sundown October 9 and continues through October 10*

October 11: Simchat Torah – Celebration of the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle (Judaism) **Begins at sundown October 10, work restriction starts sundown October 10 and continues through October 11*

October 17-24: Navratri – Festival of the divine mother in all her forms (Hinduism)

October 19: Birth of Baha'u'llah – Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith (Bahá'í Faith) **Work restriction*

October 25: Dussehra – Commemoration of the last of the days of judgement (Hinduism) **Work restriction*

November 1: All Saints' Day – Honors all saints known and unknown (Christianity)

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

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

November 14: Diwali – Festival of Lights (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism) **Work restriction*

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

December 11-18: Hanukkah – Festival of Lights (Judaism) **Begins at sundown December 10*

December 25: 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 2021

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

February 12: Lunar New Year – Celebration of a start of the new lunar cycle (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism)

February 17: Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent (Christianity) **Fasting*

February 25: Ta'anit Esther – Fast of Esther (Judaism) **Minor fasting when sun up*

February 26: Purim – Festival of Lots (Judaism) **Begins at sundown February 25*

March 2: Clean Monday/Ash Monday – Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians (Orthodox Christianity)

March 2-20: Nineteen Day Fast – Fast observed by Bahá'í adults (Bahá'í Faith) **Fasting*

March 11: Lailat al Miraj – Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's ascent to heaven (Islam) **Begins at sundown on March 10*

March 20: Nowruz – Persian New Year (Zoroastrianism and Bahá'í Faith)

March 28: Magha Puja Day – Celebration of Lord Buddha's teaching to an assembly of men (Buddhism)

March 28: Palm Sunday – Celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem (Christianity)

March 28-29: Holi – Festival of Colors (Hinduism) **Fasting*

March 28 – April 3: Holy Week – The week of Holy Days before Easter (Christianity)

March 28 – April 4: Passover – Festival of Freedom (Judaism) **Begins sundown on March 27, food restrictions all days, work restrictions on following set of days: 3/27 sundown - 3/29 sundown and 4/2 sundown - 4/4 sundown*

April 1: Holy Thursday – Commemoration of Jesus’ Last Supper (Christianity)

April 2: Good Friday – Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus (Christianity) **Fasting*

April 4: Easter – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus (Christianity)

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

April 13 – May 12: Ramadan – Commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad receiving divine revelation as recorded in the Qur’an (Islam) **Begins evening of April 12, fasting dawn until dusk or sundown*

April 20 – May 1: Ridvan – Commemoration of when the founder of the Bahá’í Faith declared his mission (Bahá’í Faith)

April 25: Mahavir Jayanti – Celebration of the birth of the founder of Jainism (Jainism)

April 25: Palm Sunday – Celebration of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem (Orthodox Christianity)

April 25 – May 1: Holy Week – The week of Holy Days before Easter (Orthodox Christianity)

April 29: Holy Thursday – Commemoration of Jesus’ Last Supper (Orthodox Christianity)

April 30: Good Friday – Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus (Orthodox Christianity) **Fasting*

April 30: Lag B’Omer - 33rd day of counting the Omer (Judaism) **Begins at sundown April 29*

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

May 2: Easter – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus (Orthodox Christianity)

May 13: Ascension – Remembrance of Jesus’ departure from earth after his resurrection (Christianity)

May 13: Eid al-Fitr – Festival that marks the ending of Ramadan (Islam) **Begins evening of May 12*

May 17-18: Shavuot – Festival of Weeks and commemoration of receiving Torah (Judaism) **Begins at sundown May 16, work restriction begins sundown May 16 and continues through May 18*

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