



Office for Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Life

STUDENT AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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 2022

August 8: 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 7, fasting*

Aug. 15th: Feast of the Assumption of Mary (Catholic Christianity) – holy day marking the assumption of Mary's body and soul into heaven

August 18: Krishna Janmashtami (Hinduism) – Commemoration of the birth of Krishna **Fasting*

August 23: Paryushana Parva (Jainism) – Eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline **Fasting*

August 31: Ganesh Chaturthi / Vinayaka Chaturthi (Hinduism) – commemorates the birth of Ganesh

September 26-27: Rosh Hashanah (Judaism) – Jewish New Year and beginning of High Holy Days **Begins at sundown September 25, work restriction starts sundown September 25 and continues through both days*

September 26- October 4: Navratri (Hinduism) – Festival of the divine mother in all her forms

September 28: Tzom Gedaliah (Judaism) – Fast of the Seventh Month **Minor fasting*

October 5: Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement (Judaism) **Begins sundown October 4, fasting and work restriction start October 4 and continue through October 5*

October 5: Dussehra (Hinduism) – Commemoration of the last of the days of judgement **Work restriction*

October 10-16: Sukkot (Judaism) – Feast of Tabernacles **Begins at sundown October 9, work restriction starts sundown October 9 and continues through first two days (October 10-11)*

October 17: Shemini Atzeret (Judaism) – Eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles **Begins at sundown October 16, work restriction starts sundown October 16 and continues through October 17*

October 18: Simchat Torah (Judaism) – Celebration the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle **Begins at sundown October 17, work restriction begins sundown October 17 and continues through October 18*

October 24- 28: Diwali (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism) – Festival of Lights **Work restriction*

October 26-27: Twin Holy Days (Bahá'í Faith) – Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith **Work restriction*

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

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

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

Dec. 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (Catholic Christianity) – Observes the immaculate conception of Mary by Joachim and Anne

Dec. 12 : Our Lady of Guadalupe (Catholic Christianity) – Celebration of the apparitions of Mary to St. Juan Diego in Tepeyac in 1531

December 19 – 26 Hanukkah (Judaism) – Festival of Lights **Begins at sundown December 18*

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

Spring 2023

January 1: Feast of Mary Mother of God (Catholic Christianity) – Celebration of the motherhood of Mary

January 3: Asara B'Tevet (Judaism) – The Tenth of Tevet **Minor fasting when sun up December*

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

January 10: Bodhi Day (Buddhism) – Celebration of Buddha's attainment of enlightenment

January 22: Lunar New Year (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism) – Celebration of a start of the new lunar cycle

February 18: Lailat al-Miraj (Islam) – Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad’s ascent to heaven **Begins at sundown on February 17*

Feb 18: Maha Shivrathri (Hinduism) – Festival celebrated in honor of the god Shiva **Fasting*

February 22: Ash Wednesday (Christianity) – Beginning of Lent **Fasting*

February 27: Clean Monday/Ash Monday (Orthodox Christianity) – Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians

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

March 6: Ta’anit Esther (Judaism) – Fast of Esther **Minor fasting when sun up*

March 6: Magha Puja Day (Buddhism) – Celebration of Lord Buddha’s teaching to an assembly

March 7: Purim (Judaism) – Festival of Lots **Begins sundown March 6*

March 7-8: Holi (Hinduism) – Festival of Colors **Fasting*

March 22: Nowruz (Zoroastrianism and Bahá’í Faith) – Persian New Year **Begins in the evening of March 21*

March 23 – April 20: Ramadan (Islam) – Commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad receiving divine revelation as recorded in the Qur’an **Begins evening of March 22, fasting dawn until dusk or sundown*

April 2: Palm Sunday (Christianity) – Celebration of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem

April 2-8: Holy Week (Christianity) – The week of Holy Days before Easter

April 4: Mahavir Jayanti (Jainism) – Celebration of the birth of the founder of Jainism

April 6: Holy Thursday (Christianity) – Commemoration of Jesus’ Last Supper

April 7: Good Friday (Christianity) – Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus **Fasting*

April 5: Ta’anit Bechorot (Judaism) – Fast of the First Born **Fasting*

April 6-13: Passover (Judaism) – Festival of Freedom **Begins sundown on April 5, food restrictions all days, work restrictions 4/5 sundown - 4/7 sundown and 4/10 sundown - 4/13 sundown*

April 9: Easter (Christianity) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus

April 9: Palm Sunday (Orthodox Christianity) – Celebration of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem

April 9-15: Holy Week (Orthodox Christianity) – The week of Holy Days before Easter

April 13: Holy Thursday (Orthodox Christianity) – Commemoration of Jesus’ Last Supper

April 14: Good Friday (Orthodox Christianity) – Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus **Fasting*

April 14: Vaisakhi (Sikhism) – Celebration of the formation of the religious community of Sikhs by Guru Gobind Singh

April 16: Easter (Orthodox Christianity) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus

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

April 22: Eid al-Fitr (Islam) – Festival that marks the ending of Ramadan **Begins evening of April 21*

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

May 18: Ascension (Christianity) – Commemoration of the ascension of Jesus into heaven

May 24: Declaration of the Bab (Bahá’í Faith) – Celebration of Ali Muhammad’s announcement that he was the “gate” to the promised coming of all religions **Work restriction*

May 26-27: Shavuot (Judaism) – commemorates the revelation of the Torah at Mount Sinai **Begins sundown on May 25, work restriction*

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