



## 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 15: Feast of the Assumption of Mary (Catholic Christianity) - holy day marking the assumption of Mary's body and soul into heaven

August 19: 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 18, fasting*

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

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

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

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

September 10: Ganesh Chaturthi / Vinayaka Chaturthi (Hinduism) – commemorates the birth of Ganesh

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

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

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

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

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

October 14: Dussehra (Hinduism) – Commemoration of the last of the days of judgement  
*\*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

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

November 7: Birth of Baha'u'llah (Bahá'í Faith) – Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith *\*Work restriction*

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

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

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

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

## **Spring 2022**

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

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

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

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

March 1: Maha Shivrathri (Hinduism) – Festival celebrated in honor of the god Shiva *\*Fasting*

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 21: Nowruz (Zoroastrianism and Bahá’í Faith) – Persian New Year

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

April 2 – May 1: Ramadan (Islam) – Commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad receiving divine revelation as recorded in the Qur’an *\*Begins evening of April 1, fasting dawn until dusk or sundown*

April 10: Palm Sunday (Christianity) – Celebration of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem

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

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

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

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

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

April 16-23: Passover (Judaism) – Festival of Freedom *\*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 (Christianity) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 23: 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*

**For more information,** contact The Reverend Callista Isabelle,  
Director for [Religious, Spiritual & Ethical Life](#):  
[callista.isabelle@wustl.edu](mailto:callista.isabelle@wustl.edu) (314) 935-5257