Holy Days 2022-23
Below are many of the religious holidays observed by members of the WashU 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) – Festival of Booths *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 Festival of Booths *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*

**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

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

**December 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

March 2-20: Nineteen Day Fast (Bahá’í Faith) – Fast observed by Bahá’í adults *Fasting
March 6: Magha Puja Day (Buddhism) – Celebration of Lord Buddha’s teaching to an assembly
March 6: Ta’anit Esther (Judaism) – Fast of Esther *Minor fasting when sun up
March 7-8: Holi (Hinduism) – Festival of Colors *Fasting
March 7: Purim (Judaism) – Festival of Lots *Begins sundown March 6
March 22: Nowruz (Zoroastrianism and Bahá’í Faith) – Persian New Year *Begins 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 4/11 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