



## 2024-2025 Religious Holiday Calendar

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 2024

**August 1:** Lughnasadh (Pagan/Wiccan) – Festival marking the beginning of the harvest season

**August 13:** Tisha B'Av (Judaism) – Fast marking the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem *\*Fasting starts August 12 at sundown and continues through August 13.*

**August 15:** Feast of the Assumption of Mary (Catholic Christianity) – Holy day marking the assumption of Mary's body and soul into heaven

**August 15-16:** Krishna Janmashtami (Hinduism) – Commemoration of the birth of Krishna *\*Fasting*

**August 19:** Raksha Bandhan (Hinduism) – A festival to symbolize the love between a brother and a sister

**August 31-September 7:** Paryushan Parva (Jainism) – Eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline *\*Fasting*

**September 7:** Ganesh Chaturthi / Vinayaka Chaturthi (Hinduism) – Commemorates the birth of Ganesh

**September 16:** Mawlid al-Nabi (Islam) – Celebrates the birth of Prophet Muhammad *\*Begins sundown September 15*

**September 21-29:** Mabon (Pagan/Wiccan) – Celebrates the autumnal equinox

**October 3-4:** Rosh Hashanah (Judaism) – Jewish New Year and beginning of High Holy Days *\*Begins at sundown October 2, work restriction sundown October 2 and continues through October 4.*

**October 3-12:** Navaratri (Hinduism) – Festival of the divine mother in all her forms

**October 6:** Tzom Gedaliah (Judaism) – Fast of the Seventh Month *\*Minor fasting*

**October 12:** Yom Kippur (Judaism) – Day of Atonement *\*Begins sundown October 11, fasting and work restriction start October 11 and continue through October 12*

**October 12:** Dussehra (Hinduism) – Commemoration of the last of the days of judgment *\*Work restriction*

**October 17-23:** Sukkot (Judaism) – Feast of Tabernacles *\*Begins at sundown October 16, work restriction starts sundown October 16 and continues through October 18*

**October 24:** Shemini Atzeret (Judaism) – Eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles *\*Begins at sundown October 23, work restriction starts sundown October 23 and continues through October 24*

**October 25:** Simchat Torah (Judaism) – Celebration the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle *\*Begins at sundown October 24, work restriction begins sundown October 24 and continues through October 25*

**October 31:** Diwali (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism) – Festival of Lights *\*Work restriction*

**October 22-23:** Twin Holy Days (Bahá'í Faith) – Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith *\*Begins sundown the October 21, work restriction*

**October 31:** Reformation Day (Protestant Christianity) – Celebration in remembrance of the onset of the Reformation

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

**November 1:** Samhain (Wiccan, Pagan) – Festival honoring endings, beginnings, and the dead. Is the start of the Pagan New Year. *\*Begins sundown on October 31*

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

**November 15:** Guru Nanak Jayanti (Sikh) – Celebrates the birth and founder of Sikhism

**November 26:** Day of the Covenant (Bahá'í) – Celebrates the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant *\*Begins sundown November 25*

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

**December 8th:** 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 21:** Yule (Pagan/Wiccan) – Winter solstice in the northern hemisphere

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

**December 26:** Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian) – Commemorates death of Zarathustra

**December 26 – January 2:** Hanukkah (Judaism) – Festival of Lights *\*Begins at sundown December 25*

## **Spring 2025**

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

**January 1:** Oshogatsu (Shinto) – Celebration of New Year, thanking the kami, and asking for good fortune

**January 10:** Asara B'Tevet (Judaism) – The Tenth of Tevet *\*Minor fasting*

**January 6:** Epiphany (Christianity) – Feast day celebrating the revelation of God the Son as a human in Jesus Christ

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

**January 14:** Makar Sankranti (Hinduism) – Celebration of the Sun god

**January 14:** Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)

**January 27:** Lailat al-Miraj (Islam) – Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's ascent to heaven *\*Begins at sundown on January 26*

**January 29:** Lunar New Year (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism) – Celebration of a start of the new lunar cycle *\*Celebration may begin the evening before*

**February 2:** Imbolc (Pagan/Wiccan) – Marks the beginning of Spring *\*Begins sundown of February 1*

**February 2:** Vasant Panchami (Hinduism) – Holy day dedicated to Goddess Saraswati

**February 26:** Maha Shivratri (Hinduism) – Festival celebrated in honor of the god Shiva *\*Fasting*

**March 1–30:** Ramadan (Islam) – Commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad receiving divine revelation as recorded in the Qur'an *\*Begins evening of February 28, fasting dawn until sundown. \*While these are the calculated expected dates of Ramadan, dates may vary based on regional practice.*

**March 1-19:** Nineteen Day Fast (Bahá'í Faith) – Fast observed by Bahá'í adults *\*Fasting*

**March 3:** Clean Monday/Ash Monday (Orthodox Christianity) – Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians

**March 5:** Ash Wednesday (Protestant & Roman Catholic Christianity) – Beginning of Lent *\*Fasting*

**March 13:** Ta'anit Esther (Judaism) – Fast of Esther *\*Minor fasting when sun up*

**March 14:** Purim (Judaism) – Festival of Lots *\*Begins sundown March 13*

**March 14:** Holi (Hinduism) – Festival of Colors *\*Fasting*

**March 19th:** Ostara (Pagan, Wiccan) – Honors the awakening of the Earth, balance, renewal, and rebirth.

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

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

**March 31:** Eid al-Fitr (Islam) – Festival that marks the ending of Ramadan *\*Begins evening of March 30. \*While this is the calculated expected date for Eid al-Fitr, the date may vary based on regional practice.*

**April 10:** Mahavir Jayanti (Jainism) – Celebration of the birth of the founder of Jainism

**April 10:** Ta'anit Bechorot (Judaism) – Fast of the First Born *\*Fasting*

**April 13:** Palm Sunday (Christianity) – Celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem

**April 13-20:** Passover (Judaism) – Festival of Freedom *\*Begins sundown on April 12, food restrictions all days, work restrictions 4/12 sundown - 4/14 sundown & 4/18 sundown - 4/20 sundown*

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

**April 17:** Holy Thursday (Christianity) – Commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper

**April 18:** Good Friday (Christianity) – Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus *\*Fasting*

**April 20:** Easter (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 *\*Begins evening April 20, work restrictions 4/20 sundown - 4/21 sundown, 4/28 sundown - 4/29 sundown, 5/1 sundown - 5/2 sundown*

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

**May 5:** Buddha's Birthday (Buddhism) – *\*This holiday is celebrated on different dates by different cultures and regions (usually in April or May)*

**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 *\*Begins evening May 22, work restrictions*

**May 29:** Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í Faith) – Commemoration of the death of Bahá'u'lláh the founder of the Bahá'í Faith *\*Begins evening May 28, work restrictions*

**May 29:** Ascension (Christianity) – Commemoration of the ascension of Jesus into heaven

**June 2-3:** Shavuot (Judaism) – Festival of Receiving the Torah *\*Begins sundown on June 1, work restrictions*

**June 7:** Eid al-Adha (Islam) – the Festival of Sacrifice, honoring Abraham's willingness to offer his son to God *\*Begins sundown of June 6, work restrictions. \*While this is the calculated expected date for Eid al-Adha, the date may vary based on regional practice.*

**June 8:** Pentecost (Christianity) – 50 days after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit

**June 20:** Litha Sabbat (Pagan, Wiccan) – Celebration honoring the Summer Solstice and the peak of light.

**June 27:** Muharram (Islam) – Islamic calendar new year *\*Begins evening of June 26*

**July 5:** 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 July 4, fasting*

**July 9:** Martyrdom of The Báb (Bahá'í Faith) – The memorial of the execution of The Báb *\*Work restriction*

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