



Yale University Chaplain's Office

Multi-Religious Calendar

Academic Year 2024-2025

Below are many of the religious holidays observed by members of the Yale community.
Please note that individual practices may vary.

“*” denotes holidays that start sundown the day before

Fall 2024

August 26: Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu) – Birthday of Lord Krishna. An incarnation of the God Vishnu, Krishna represents love and bravery. Krishna reveals His true Self while counseling Prince Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita.

August 31: Paryushana Parva (Jain) – Eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline.

September 7: Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu) – Birthday of Lord Ganesha, god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune and the remover of obstacles.

September 8: Nativity of Mary (Roman Catholic) – Birthday of the Virgin Mary.

September 12-16: Ghambar Paitishem (Zoroastrian) – Celebrates the creation of the earth and the harvesting of the summer crop.

September 16*: **Mawlid al-Nabi** (Islam) – Commemorates birthday of Prophet Muhammad.

September 17: Autumn Moon Festival (Buddhist) – Celebrates the end of autumn and the full moon.

September 22: Mabon (Pagan/Wiccan) – Celebrates the autumnal equinox through a ritual of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth.

October 3*-4: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) – Beginning of the Jewish Year and High Holy Days. (*Work is prohibited*)

October 3-11: Navratri (Hindu) – Festival of 9 nights celebrating the Goddess in her various forms, most typically as Ma Durga.

October 12*: **Yom Kippur** (Jewish) – Day of Atonement. (*Fasting and work prohibited*)

October 12: Dussehra (Hindu) – Celebrates Lord Rama's triumph over evil King Ravana, also celebrates the conquest by the Goddess Chamundeshwari over demon King Mahishasura.

October 17*- October 23: Sukkot (Jewish) – The Feast of the Tabernacles and Harvest festival. (*Work is prohibited the first two days*)

October 20: Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh) – Celebrates the passing on of the Guruship to the Holy Scriptures (the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji) by the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

October 24*: Shemini Atzeret (Jewish) – marks the end of Sukkot. (*work prohibited*)

October 25*: Simchat Torah (Jewish) – Celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle. (*work is prohibited*)

October 29- November 3: Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Sikh) – Festival of Lights.

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

October 31: Samhain (Pagan/Wiccan) – Festival honoring endings, beginnings and the dead.

November 1: All Saint's Day (Christianity) – Honors all the saints known and unknown.

November 2: All Soul's Day (Christianity) – Day of prayer for the dead, particularly but not exclusively one's relatives.

November 2*: Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í) – Celebrates the birth of the Báb, one of the founders of the Bahá'í Faith.

November 3*: Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í) – Celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

November 15: Birth of Guru Nanak (Sikh) – Celebrates the birth of the founder of Sikhism and the first of the Sikh Gurus.

November 15: Shichi-go-san (Shinto) – Celebrates the growth and well-being of young children.

November 22: Buddha's Descent (Buddhist) – Lhabab Duchen is a festival observing the descent of Buddha from heaven to earth.

November 23: Niinameasai (Shinto) – Harvest festival that gives thanks for a good crop yield.

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

November 27: Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (Bahá'í) – marking the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921.

December 1: First Sunday of Advent (Christianity) – Season of expectant waiting and preparation of the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Roman Catholic) – Celebrates the solemn belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

December 8: Bodhi Day (Buddhist) – Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), attained enlightenment.

December 11: Srīmad Bhagavad Gītā Jayantī (Hindu) – Lord Krishna revealed the Bhagavad Gītā to Prince Arjuna while on the Kurukshetra battlefield.

December 12: Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Roman Catholic) – A feast day that commemorates when the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatz in 1531.

December 21: Yule (Pagan/Wiccan) – Winter solstice in the northern hemisphere, time to meditate on cycle of life, death and rebirth.

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

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

December 26- January 2*: Hanukkah (Jewish) – Festival of Lights commemorating rededication of Second Holy Temple in Jerusalem at time of Maccabean Revolt.

Spring 2025

January 1: Oshogatsu (Shinto) – Celebration of New Year, commemorated by going to shrine, thanking the kami (spirits), asking for good fortune and letting resolutions known in presence of kami.

January 6: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh) – Birthday of tenth and last Guru.

January 6: Epiphany (Christian) – Feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ.

January 7: Christmas (Orthodox Christian) – Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in Orthodox Churches.

January 13: Maghi (Sikh) – Commemorates the heroic fight of the Chali Mukte (the Pure Ones), who laid down their lives warding off an attack by an imperial army marching in pursuit of Guru Gobind Singh.

January 14: Makara Sankranti (Hindu) – Celebration of the Sun god.

January 27*: Lailat al Miraj (Islam) – Commemorates Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray 5 times daily.

February 1: Imbolc (Pagan/Wiccan) – Marks the beginning of Spring.

February 2: Vasant Panchami (Hindu) – Holy day dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, patron Goddess of knowledge, music, arts, science and technology.

February 3: Setsubun (Shinto) – Marks the end of winter and beginning of Spring.

February 12: Sangha Day (Buddhist) – Also known as Magha Puja. Celebration in honor of the Buddhist community, especially regarding monastics.

February 13*: Tu B'shevat (Jewish) – New Year of the Trees.

February 15: Buddha's Passing (Buddhist) – Also known as Nirvana Day. Mahayana festival commemorating the death of the Buddha at the age of 80 and his attainment of parinirvana.

February 25-28*: Ayyám-i-Há (Bahá'í) – days of preparation for the Fast, marked by hospitality and charity to poor and sick.

February 26: Maha Shivaratri (Hindu) – Celebration of the wedding night of Lord Shiva and his Consort Goddess Parvati.

February 28: Losar (Buddhism) – Tibetan New Year.

March 1- March 29*: Ramadan (Islam) – Month of fasting to commemorate first revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad.

March 1-19*: Nineteen Day Fast (Bahá'í) – Sunrise to sunset fast also marked with prayer to reinvigorate soul and bring closer to God. (*Fasting*)

March 2: Forgiveness Sunday (Orthodox Christian) – Last day before the start of Great Lent.

March 5: Ash Wednesday (Christian) – Day of fasting that commemorates first day of Lent.

March 14*: Purim (Jewish) – Commemorates the story of Esther.

March 14-15: Holi (Hindu) – Holiday associated with exuberant flinging of colored powders, celebrates the advent of spring and the enduring message that good will always be victorious over evil; light will always overcome darkness.

March 14-16: Hola Mohalla (Sikh) – A festival initiated by Guru Gobind Singh, originally as a day of mock battles and poetry contests.

March 20*: Ostara (Pagan/Wiccan) – Celebrates Spring, also known as the vernal equinox.

March 21*: Nowruz (Bahá'í, Zoroastrian) - Marks the first day of Spring.

March 27: Lailat al Qadr (Islam) – Night of Power.

March 30*: **Eid al-Fitr** (Islam) – Marks the end of Ramadan, holy month of fasting.

April 6: **Rama Navami** (Hindu) – Celebration of birth of Prince Rama, avatar of the Hindu God Vishnu, to King Dasharatha and Queen Kausalya in Ayodhya.

April 10: **Mahavir Jayanthi** (Jain) – Celebrates birth of Mahavira, the founder of Jainism.

April 12: **Hanuman Jayantī** (Hindu) – Celebration of birthday of Hanuman, foremost devotee of Sri Rama and Sita.

April 13: **Palm Sunday** (Christian) – Feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

April 13-20*: **Passover** (Jewish) – Commemorates liberation of Israelites by God from slavery in Egypt and their freedom as a nation under leadership of Moses. (*Work is prohibited on first and last two days*)

April 14: **Vaisakhi** (Sikh) – Marks the establishment of the Khalsa (religious community of Sikhs) by Guru Gobind Singh.

April 17: **Holy Thursday** (Christian) – Commemorates the Maundy and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. Washing of feet is a traditional component.

April 18: **Good Friday** (Christian) – Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.

April 20: **Easter** (Christian) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

April 20: **Pascha** (Orthodox Christianity) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

April 21-May 2*: **Ridván** (Bahá'í) – Twelve-day festival when founder Bahá'u'lláh declared his mission.

April 24*: **Yom Ha'shoah** (Jewish) – Holocaust Memorial Day.

May 1: **Beltane** (Wiccan/Pagan) – Honors life and fertility.

May 5: **Buddha's Birthday** (Buddhist) – Holiday that commemorates the birth of the Buddha.

May 16*: **Lag B'Omer** (Jewish) – Celebrates anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, author of the Zohar (text of Jewish mysticism).

May 23*: **Declaration of the Báb** (Bahá'í) – Commemorates declaration of the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

May 28*: **Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh** (Bahá'í) – Anniversary of death of founder.

May 29: Ascension Day (Christianity) – Celebrates the departure of Christ from Earth into the presence of God.

June 2-3*: Shavuot (Jewish) – Festival commemorating giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. (*Work restrictions*)

June 7*: Eid al-Adha (Islam) – Commemorates Ibrahim’s sacrifice of his son to God.

June 8: Pentecost (Christian) – Celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension.

June 20: Litha (Pagan/Wiccan) – Celebrates the Summer solstice.

July 6*: Ashura (Islam) – For Shias, a commemoration of the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala.

July 9*: Martyrdom of the Báb (Bahá’í) – date the Báb was executed.