



Yale University Chaplain's Office

Multi-Religious Calendar

Academic Year 2025-2026

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 2025

August 16: Krishna Janmasthmi (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 21: Paryushana Parva (Jain) - Eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline.

August 26: Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu) - Birthday of Lord Ganesha, god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune and the remover of obstacles.

September 5*: Mawlid al-Nabi (Islam) – Commemorates birthday of Prophet Muhammad.

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

September 23*-24: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) – Beginning of the Jewish Year and High Holy Days. (*Work is prohibited*)

September 25 – October 2: Navratri (Hindu) – Festival of 9 nights celebrating the Goddess in her various forms, most typically as Ma Durga.

October 2*: Yom Kippur (Jewish) – Day of Atonement. (*Work prohibited, fasting*)

October 2: Dussehra (Hindu) – Celebrates Lord Rama's triumph over evil King Ravana, also celebrates the conquest by the Goddess Chamundeshwari over demon King Mahishasura.

October 6: Autumn Moon Festival (Buddhist) – Celebrates the end of autumn and the full moon.

October 7*- October 13: Sukkot (Jewish) – The Feast of the Tabernacles and Harvest festival. (*Work is prohibited the first two days*)

October 14*: Shemini Atzeret (Jewish) – marks the end of Sukkot. (*work prohibited*)

October 15*: Simchat Torah (Jewish) – Celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle. (*work prohibited*)

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 20- October 25: Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Sikh) – Festival of Lights.

October 22*: Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í) – Celebrates the birth of the Báb, one of the founders of the Bahá'í Faith.

October 23*: Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í) – Celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

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

November 11: Buddha's Descent (Buddhist) – Lhabab Duchen is a festival observing the descent of Buddha from heaven to earth.

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

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.

November 30: First Sunday of Advent (Christianity) – Season of expectant waiting and preparation of the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

December 1: Srīmad Bhagavad Gītā Jayantī (Hindu) – Lord Krishna revealed the Bhagvad Gītā to Prince Arjuna while on the Kurukshetra battlefield.

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 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 25- December 22*: Hanukkah (Jewish) – Festival of Lights commemorating rededication of Second Holy Temple in Jerusalem at time of Maccabean Revolt.

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.

Spring 2026

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

January 16*: 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.

January 20: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh) – Birthday of tenth and last Guru.

January 23: Vasant Panchami (Hindu) – Holy day dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, patron Goddess of knowledge, music, arts, science and technology.

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

February 2*: Tu B'shevat (Jewish) – New Year of the Trees.

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

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

February 15: Maha Shivaratri (Hindu) – Celebration of the wedding night of Lord Shiva and his Consort Goddess Parvati

February 18- March 19*: Ramadan (Islam) – Month of fasting to commemorate first revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad.

February 22: Forgiveness Sunday (Orthodox Christian) – Last day before the start of Great Lent.

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

March 2-20*: Nineteen Day Fast (Bahá'í) – Sunrise to sunset fast also marked with prayer to reinvigorate soul and bring closer to God. (Fasting)

March 3*: Purim (Jewish) – Commemorates the story of Esther.

March 3: Sangha Day (Buddhist) – Also known as Magha Puja. Celebration in honor of the Buddhist community, especially regarding monastics.

March 4: 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 4-6: Hola Mohalla (Sikh) – A festival initiated by Guru Gobind Singh, originally as a day of mock battles and poetry contests.

March 16: Lailat al Qadr (Islam) – Night of Power.

March 20*: Eid al-Fitr (Islam) – Marks the end of Ramadan, holy month of fasting.

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

March 29: Palm Sunday (Christian) – Feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

March 31: Mahavir Jayanthi (Jain) – Celebrates birth of Mahavira, the founder of Jainism.

April 1: Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu) – Celebration of birthday of Hanuman, foremost devotee of Sri Rama and Sita.

April 2-9*: 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 2: Holy Thursday (Christian) – Commemorates the Maundy and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. Washing of feet is a traditional component.

April 3: Good Friday (Christian) – Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.

April 5: Easter (Christian) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

April 12: Pascha (Orthodox Christianity) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

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

April 14*: Yom Ha'shoah (Jewish) – Holocaust Memorial Day.

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

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

May 14: Ascension Day (Christianity) – Celebrates the departure of Christ from Earth into the presence of God.

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 22-23*: Shavuot (Jewish) – Festival commemorating giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai.
(*Work restrictions*)

May 24*: 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 5: Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist) – Holiday that commemorates the birth of the Buddha.

May 24: Pentecost (Christian) – Celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension.

May 27*: Eid al-Adha (Islam) – Commemorates Ibrahim's sacrifice of his son to God.

May 29*: Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í) – Anniversary of death of founder.

June 21: Litha (Pagan/Wiccan) – Celebrates the Summer solstice.

June 26*: Ashura (Islam) – For Shias, a commemoration of the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala.

July 10*: Martyrdom of the Báb (Bahá'í) – date the Báb was executed.

July 23*: Tisha B'av (Judaism) – Holiday commemorating the destruction of the first and second temples.