Yale University Chaplain's Office
Multi-Religious Calendar
Academic Year 2026-2027

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 2026

August 1: Lugnasadh: (Wicca/Paganism) — Marks the midpoint between summer solstice and Autumnal equinox.

August 15: Feast of the Assumption of Mary (Roman Catholicism) — Anniversary of the death and assumption to heaven of the Virgin Mary.

August 15: Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christianity) — Anniversary of the death and assumption to heaven of the Virgin Mary.

August 26*: Mawlid al-Nabi (Islam) – Commemorates birthday of Prophet Muhammad.

August 27: Raksha Bandhan (Hinduism) — A celebration of harmony. The tying of the rakhi (woven bracelet) signifies a special bond of unity and affection between two individuals including but not limited to brothers and sisters as well as security and police officers and their communities.

September 1: Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Sikhism) – 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.

September 3: Krishna Janmasthtami (Hinduism) - 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.

September 8: Paryushana Parva(Jainism) - Eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline.

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

September 12*-13: Rosh Hashanah (Judaism) – Beginning of the Jewish Year and High Holy Days. (*Work is prohibited*)

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

September 14: Ganesh Chaturthi (Hinduism) - Birthday of Lord Ganesha, god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune and the remover of obstacles.

September 21*: Yom Kippur (Judaism) – Day of Atonement. (*Work prohibited, fasting*)

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

September 25: Autumn Moon Festival (Buddhism) – Celebrates the end of autumn and the full moon.

September 26*- October 2: Sukkot (Judaism) – The Feast of the Tabernacles and Harvest festival. (*Work is prohibited the first two days*)

October 3*: Shemini Atzeret (Judaism) – Marks the end of Sukkot. (*work prohibited*)

October 4*: Simchat Torah (Judaism) – Celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle. (*work prohibited*)

October 11 - 19: Navratri (Hinduism) – Festival of 9 nights celebrating the Goddess in her various forms, most typically as Ma Durga. (*fasting)*

October 20: Dussehra (Hinduism) – Celebrates Lord Rama's triumph over evil King Ravana, also celebrates the conquest by the Goddess Chamundeshwari over demon King Mahishasura.

October 29: Karwa Chauth (Hinduism) — A day of worship to Shiva and fasting which is broken only after viewing and worshiping the moon.

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

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

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

November 1: Buddha's Descent (Buddhism) – Lhabab Duchen is a festival observing the descent of Buddha from heaven to earth.

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

November 6- November 10: Diwali (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism) – Festival of Lights.

November 10*: Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í Faith) – Celebrates the birth of the Báb, one of the founders of the Bahá'í Faith.

November 11*: Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í Faith) – Celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

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

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

November 24: Birth of Guru Nanak (Sikhism) – Celebrates the birth of the founder of Sikhism and the first of the Sikh Gurus.

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

November 28: Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (Bahá'í Faith) – Marks the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921.

November 29: First Sunday of Advent (Protestantism, Roman Catholicism) – Marks the beginning of a season of expectant waiting and preparation of the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

December 5- December 12*: Hanukkah (Judaism) – Festival of Lights commemorating rededication of Second Holy Temple in Jerusalem at time of Maccabean Revolt.

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

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

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

December 19: Srīmad Bhagavad Gītā Jayantī (Hinduism) – Lord Krishna revealed the Bhagvad Gītā to Prince Arjuna while on the Kurukshetra battlefield.

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

December 25: Christmas (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

December 26: Zarathost Diso (Zoroastrianism) – Commemorates death of Zarathustra.

Spring 2027

January 1: Oshogatsu (Shintoism) – 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 (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ.

January 6*: 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 7: Christmas (Orthodox Christianity) – Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

January 13: Maghi (Sikhism) – 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 Sankranthi (Hinduism) – Celebration of the Sun god.

January 15: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikhism) – Birthday of tenth and last Guru.

January 23*: Tu B'shevat (Judaism) – New Year of the Trees.

February 1: Imbolc (Wicca/Paganism) – Marks the beginning of Spring.

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

February 6: Lunar New Year (Buddhism, Confuscianism, Taoism) — Celebration of New Year in East and Southeast Asian countries.

February 8- March 8*: Ramadan (Islam) – Month of fasting to commemorate first revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad.

February 10: Ash Wednesday (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Day of fasting that commemorates first day of Lent.

February 11: Vasant Panchami (Hinduism) – Holy day dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, patron Goddess of knowledge, music, arts, science and technology.

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

February 21: Sangha Day (Buddhism) – Also known as Magha Puja. Celebration in honor of the Buddhist community, especially regarding monastics.

February 26-March 1*: Ayyám-i-Há (Bahá'í Faith) – Days of preparation for the Fast, marked by hospitality and charity to poor and sick.

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

March 6: Maha Shivaratri (Hinduism) – Celebration of the wedding night of Lord Shiva and his Consort Goddess Parvati

March 6: Laylat al Qadr (Islam) – Night of Power.

March 9*: Eid al-Fitr (Islam) – Marks the end of Ramadan, holy month of fasting.

March 14: Forgiveness Sunday (Orthodox Christianity) – Last day before the start of Great Lent.

March 20: Ostara (Wicca/Paganism) – Celebrates Spring, also known as the vernal equinox.

March 20*: Nowruz (Bahá'í Faith, Zoroastrianism) - Marks the first day of Spring.

March 21: Palm Sunday (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

March 22: Holi (Hinduism) – 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 23*: Purim (Judaism) – Commemorates the story of Esther.

March 23-25: Hola Mohalla (Sikhism) – A festival initiated by Guru Gobind Singh, originally as a day of mock battles and poetry contests.

March 25: Holy Thursday (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Commemorates the Maundy and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. Washing of feet is a traditional component.

March 26: Good Friday (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.

March 28: Easter (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
April 14: Vaisakhi (Sikhism) – Marks the establishment of the Khalsa (religious community of Sikhs) by Guru Gobind Singh.

April 15: Rama Navami (Hinduism) – Celebration of birth of Prince Rama, avatar of the Hindu God Vishnu, to King Dasharatha and Queen Kausalya in Ayodhya.

April19: Mahavir Jayanthi (Jainism) – Celebrates birth of Mahavira, the founder of Jainism.

April 20: Hanuman Jayantï (Hinduism) – Celebration of birthday of Hanuman, foremost devotee of Sri Rama and Sita.

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

April 22-29*: Passover (Judaism) – 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 30: Holy Friday (Orthodox Christianity) — Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.

May 1: Beltane (Wicca/Paganism) – Honors life and fertility.

May 2: Pascha (Orthodox Christianity) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

May 4*: Yom Ha'shoah (Judaism) – Holocaust Memorial Day.

May 6: Ascension Day (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Celebrates the departure of Christ from Earth into the presence of God.

May 13: Buddha's Birthday (Buddhism) – Holiday that commemorates the birth of the Buddha.

May 16: Pentecost (Protestant Christianity, Roman Catholicism) – Celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension.

May 17*: Eid al-Adha (Islam) – Commemorates Ibrahim's sacrifice of his son to God.

May 24*: Declaration of the Báb (Bahá'í Faith) – Commemorates declaration of the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

May 25*: Lag B'Omer (Judaism) – Celebrates anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, author of the Zohar (text of Jewish mysticism).

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

June 11-12*: Shavuot (Judaism) – Festival commemorating giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. (*Work restrictions*)

June 15*: Ashura (Islam) – For Shias, a commemoration of the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala.

June 21: Litha (Wicca/Paganism) – Celebrates the Summer solstice.

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

August 11 – 12*: Tisha B'av (Judaism) – Holiday commemorating the destruction of the first and second temples.