



# Yale University Chaplain's Office Multi-Religious Calendar Academic Year 2021-2022

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 2021

**August 19\*: Ashura** (Islam) – For Shias, a commemoration of the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala

**August 21: Raksha Bhandana** (Hindu) – A celebration harmony. The tying of the rakhi (woven bracelet) signifies a special bond of unity and affection between two individuals.

**August 22: Ghost Festival** (Buddhist) – A day when the living perform rituals to relieve the suffering of the ghosts of those who've died, as well as to honor parents and ancestors

**August 29: 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.

**September 3: Paryushana Parva** (Jain) – Eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline

**September 7-8\*: Rosh Hashanah** (Jewish) – Beginning of the Jewish Year and High Holy Days.  
(*Work is prohibited*)

**September 10: Ganesh Chaturthi** (Hindu) – Birthday of Lord Ganesha, god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune and the remover of obstacles

**September 16\*: Yom Kippur** (Jewish) – Day of Atonement (*Fasting and work prohibited*)

**September 21-27\*: Sukkot** (Jewish) – The Feast of the Tabernacles and Harvest festival (*work is prohibited the first two days*)

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

**September 28\*: Shemini Atzeret** (Jewish) – marks the end of Sukkot (*work prohibited*)

**September 29\*: 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 6-14: Navratri** (Hindu) – Festival of 9 nights celebrating the Goddess in her various forms, most typically as Ma Durga

**October 15: Dussehra** (Hindu) – Celebrates Lord Rama's triumph over evil King Ravana, also celebrates the conquest by the Goddess Chamundeshwari over demon King Mahishasura

**October 19\*: Mawlid al-Nabi** (Islam) – Commemorates birthday of prophet Muhammad

**October 27: Buddha's Descent** (Buddhist) – Lhabab Duchen is a festival observing the descent of Buddha from heaven to earth

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

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

**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 2-6: Diwali** (Hindu, Jain, Sikh) – Festival of Lights.

**November 6\*: Birth of the Báb** (Bahá'í) – Celebrates the birth of the Báb, one of the founders of the Bahá'í Faith.

**November 7\*: Birth of Bahá'u'lláh** (Bahá'í) – Celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith

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

**November 19: Birth of Guru Nanak** (Sikh) – Celebrates the birth of the founder of Sikhism and the first of the Sikh Gurus

**November 23: Niinamesai** (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) – Commemorates death of Abbas Effendi, known as 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921

**November 28: First Sunday of Advent** (Christianity) – Season of expectant waiting and preparation of the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas

**November 29- December 6\*: Hanukkah** (Jewish) – Festival of Lights commemorating rededication of Second Holy Temple in Jerusalem at time of Maccabean Revolt

**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 15: Śrīmad Bhagavad Gītā Jayantī** - Lord Krishna revealed the Bhagavad Gītā to Prince Arjuna while on the Kurukshetra battlefield.

**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 2022

**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 9: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh** (Sikh) – Birthday of tenth and last Guru

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

**January 17\*: Tu B'shevat** (Jewish) – New Year of the Trees

**February 2: Imbolc** (Pagan/Wiccan)- Marks the beginning of Spring

**February 5: Vasant Panchami** (Hindu) – Holy day dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, patron Goddess of knowledge, music, arts, science and technology

**February 15: Buddha's Passing** (Buddhist) – Mahayana festival commemorating the death of the Buddha at the age of 80 and his attainment of parinirvana

**February 16: Sangha Day** (Buddhist)- Celebration in honor of the Buddhist community, especially regarding monastics

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

**February 28: Maha Shivaratri** (Hindu) – Celebration of the wedding night of Lord Shiva and his Consort Goddess Parvati

**March 1\*: 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

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

**March 17\*: Purim** (Jewish) – Commemorates the story of Esther

**March 17-18: 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 20\*: Nowruz** (Bahá'í, Zoroastrian) - Marks the first day of spring

**March 21\*: Ostara** (Pagan/Wiccan) – Celebrates Spring, also known as the vernal equinox

**April 3-May 1\*: Ramadan** (Islam) – Month of fasting to commemorate first revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad

**April 10: Palm Sunday** (Christian) – Feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

**April 10: Rama Navami** (Hindu) – Celebration of birth of Prince Rama, avatar of the Hindu God Vishnu, to King Dasharatha and Queen Kausalya in Ayodhya

**April 14: Holy Thursday** (Christian) – Commemorates the Maundy and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. Washing of feet is a traditional component

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

**April 14: Mahavir Jayanthi** (Jain) – Celebrates birth of Mahavira, the founder of Jainism

**April 15: Good Friday** (Christian) – Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary

**April 15: Memorial of Jesus' Death** (Jehovah's Witness) - Commemorates the death of Jesus Christ

**April 16-23\*: 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 16: Hanuman Jayantī** (Hindu) – Celebration of birthday of Hanuman, foremost devotee of Sri Rama and Sita

**April 17: Easter** (Christian) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

**April 20-May 1\*: Ridván** (Bahá'í) – Twelve-day festival when founder Bahá'u'lláh declared his mission

**April 24: Pascha** (Orthodox Christianity) – Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

**April 27: Yom Ha'shoah** (Jewish) – Holocaust Memorial Day

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

**May 2\*: Eid al-Fitr** (Islam) – Marks the end of Ramadan, holy month of fasting

**May 8: Buddha's Birthday** (Buddhist) – Holiday that commemorates the birth of the Buddha

**May 19\*: Lag B'Omer** (Jewish) – Celebrates anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, author of the Zohar (text of Jewish mysticism)

**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 26: Ascension Day** (Christianity) – Celebrates the departure of Christ from Earth into the presence of God

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

**June 5-6\*: Shavuot** (Jewish) – Festival commemorating giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai (*work restrictions*)

**June 5: Pentecost** (Christian) – Celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension

**July 7\*: Tisha B'Av** (Jewish) – Day of mourning to commemorate many tragedies that have befallen Jewish people, many occurring on the ninth of Av (*fasting and work restrictions*)

**July 9\*: Eid al-Adha** (Islam) – Commemorates Ibrahim's sacrifice of his son to God

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