



Office for Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Life

STUDENT AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Religious Holidays 2019-2020

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 2019

August 27: Paryushana Parva – eight-day festival of forgiveness and self-discipline (Jainism).

September 10: Ashura (Islam). **food restriction, begins sundown September 9*

September 21: Leil Selichot - Prayers for forgiveness for the New Year (Judaism) **takes place late evening September 21*

September 29 – October 7: Navratri (Hinduism)

September 30 - October 1: Rosh Hashanah - The Jewish New Year (Judaism) **work restriction both days, begins at sundown September 29*

October 2: Tzom Gedaliah - Fast of the Seventh Month (Judaism) **minor fast, no work restriction*

October 8: Dussehra (Hinduism) **work restriction*

October 9: Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement (Judaism) **fast and work restriction, begins sundown October 8*

October 14 - October 20: Sukkot - Feast of Tabernacles (Judaism) **work restriction first two days, begins at sundown October 13*

October 21: Shmini Atzeret - Eighth Day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Judaism) **work restriction, begins sundown October 20*

October 22: Simchat Torah - Celebrating the Beginning of the Annual Torah reading cycle (Judaism) **work restriction, begins at sundown October 21*

October 27: Diwali - Festival of Lights (Hindu, Jain, Sikh)

November 1: All Saints' Day (Christianity)

November 2: All Souls' Day (Christianity)

November 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah (Bahá'í)

December 18: Bodhi Day (Buddhism)

December 23-30: Hanukkah - Festival of Lights (Judaism) **begins at sundown December 22*

December 25: Christmas (Christianity)

Spring 2020

January 7: Asara B'Tevet - The Tenth of Tevet (Judaism) ** minor fast only when sun up*

January 7: Christmas (Orthodox Christianity)

February 10: Tu BiShvat - New Year of Trees (Judaism) **begins at sundown February 9, No restrictions*

February 26: Ash Wednesday (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity) **fasting*

March 2-20: Nineteen Day Fast. (Bahá'í) **fasting*

March 8-9: Holi - Festival of Colors (Hinduism) **fasting*

March 9 Ta'anit Esther - Fast of Esther (Judaism) **minor fast only when sun up*

March 10: Purim - Festival of Lots (Judaism) **begins sundown March 9*

March 20: Nowruz (Zoroastrian and Bahá'í), New Year's Day

April 5: Palm Sunday (Christianity)

April 8: Fast of the First Born (Judaism) **minor fast only when sun up*

April 9 - April 16: Passover - Festival of Freedom (Judaism) **work restrictions on following set of days: 4/8 evening-4/10 evening and 4/14 evening-4/16 evening, *begins at sundown April 8, food restrictions all 8 days*

April 10: Good Friday (Christianity)

April 12: Easter (Christianity)

April 17: Good Friday (Orthodox Christianity)

April 19: Easter (Orthodox Christianity)

April 21: Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Memorial Day (Judaism) **no restrictions, begins at sundown April 20*

April 24-May 23: Ramadan (Islam) **month of fasting, dawn until dusk or sundown, begins evening of April 23*

May 12: Lag B'Omer - 33rd day of counting the Omer (Judaism) **no restrictions, begins at sundown May 11*

May 23: Eid al-Fitr (Islam) **begins evening of May 22*

May 29 - May 30: Shavuot - Festival of Weeks (Judaism) **work restrictions, begins sundown May 28*

May 29: Ascension (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity)

May 31: Pentecost (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity)

June 5: Ascension (Orthodox Christianity)

June 7: Pentecost (Orthodox Christianity)

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