

Religious Holidays and Observances

HOLIDAY/OBSERVANCE	FAITH	DATE(S)
Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary Assumption of the Mary into Heaven.	Christian	August 15, 2020
¹Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, celebration, and prayer.	Jewish	September 18-20, 2020
²Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) The most solemn and holy day of the year in which Jews spend a day in fasting and prayer.	Jewish	September 27-28, 2020
³Sukkot Also known as the Feast of Tabernacles - celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.	Jewish	October 2-10, 2020
⁴Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.	Jewish	October 10-11, 2020
Navaratri One of the greatest Hindu festivals, it symbolizes the triumph of good over evil.	Hindu	October 17-25, 2020
Mawlid-al-Nabi Celebrates the birthday of the prophet Muhammad.	Islamic	October 29, 2020
All Saints Day Festival honoring all Christian saints.	Christian	November 1, 2020
All Souls Day Festival honoring all of the dead	Christian, Roman Catholic	November 2, 2020
⁵Diwali Festival of lights symbolizing the human urge to move to light.	Hindu/Sikh	November 14, 2020

Shabbat – members of the Jewish faith celebrate the sabbath on a weekly basis from sundown on Friday through nightfall on Saturday. Some celebrants refrain from work, travel, writing, even using electronics, depending on observance level.

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<p>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</p> <p>Celebrates the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.</p>	Christian	December 8, 2020
<p>⁶Hanukkah</p> <p>Eight-night festival of lights celebrating the liberation of the Temple in Jerusalem.</p>	Jewish	December 10-18, 2020
<p>Christmas</p> <p>Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts and family gatherings (per Gregorian calendar).</p>	Christian	December 25, 2020
<p>Feast of the Epiphany</p> <p>Commemorates the revelation of God through Jesus Christ and marks the time the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem and presented gifts to baby Jesus.</p>	Christian	January 6, 2021
<p>Nativity of Christ</p> <p>Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ according to the Julian calendar.</p>	Orthodox Christian	January 7, 2021
<p>Mahayana New Year</p> <p>A time to reflect. Holiday varies by country of origin.</p>	Buddhist	January 10, 2021
<p>⁷Tu BiShvat</p> <p>New year for trees.</p>	Jewish	January 28, 2021
<p>Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple</p> <p>Feast emphasizing Jesus' first appearance in the Temple, 40 days after his birth.</p>	Orthodox Christian, Roman Catholic	February 2, 2021
<p>Chinese New Year</p> <p>Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese of all religions. Family reunions with thanksgiving and remembrance of departed relatives take place. Traditionally a religious ceremony honors Heaven and Earth.</p>	Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist	February 12, 2021
<p>⁸Nirvana Day</p> <p>A regional observance of the death of the Buddha.</p>	Hindu, Buddhist	February 15, 2021

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Shrove Tuesday (Protestant), Mardi Gras (Roman Catholic) Traditionally the day designated to use up sweets and fat in the house to prepare for the beginning of Lent.	Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic	February 16, 2021
Vasant Panchami Celebration dedicated to Saraswathi, goddess of knowledge.	Hindu	February 16, 2021
Ash Wednesday Marks the beginning of Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and service leading up to the Holy Triduum.	Christian, Roman Catholic, Protestant	February 17, 2021
⁹Purim Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide.	Jewish	February 26, 2021
Magha Puja Day Celebration of the presentation of teaching by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.	Buddhist	February 27, 2021
¹⁰Lailat al-Mi'raj Commemorates Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and ascension to heaven.	Islamic	March 11, 2021
Maha Shivaratri Festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati.	Hindu	March 11, 2021
Great Lent A forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and service leading up to Easter.	Orthodox Christian	March 15- May 1, 2021
Sunday of Orthodoxy Commemorates the restoration of icons for use in services and private devotional life of Christians.	Orthodox Christian	March 21, 2021
Feast of the Annunciation The announcement of the Incarnation by the angel Gabriel to Mary.	Orthodox Christian, Roman Catholic	March 25, 2021
¹¹Passover/Pesach Eight-day pilgrimage festival celebrating the Exodus from slavery to freedom. Celebrants refrain from work the first two and last two days of Passover.	Jewish	March 27-April 4, 2021

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<p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>A commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as crowds lined his path with palm fronds. It marks the beginning of Holy Week.</p>	<p>Christian, Orthodox Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic</p>	<p>March 28, 2021</p>
<p>Holi</p> <p>Festival of Colors celebrated on the first full moon after February.</p>	<p>Hindu</p>	<p>March 29, 2021</p>
<p>¹²Lailat al-Bara'ah</p> <p>A night of prayer to God for forgiveness for oneself and for the dead. Preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer begins on this date.</p>	<p>Islamic</p>	<p>March 29, 2021</p>
<p>Maundy Thursday (Protestant), Holy Thursday (Roman Catholic)</p> <p>The Thursday before Easter, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with the Apostles. For Catholics, marks the first of three of the holiest days. It is a celebration of the institution of the Eucharist.</p>	<p>Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic</p>	<p>April 1, 2021</p>
<p>Good Friday</p> <p>Commemorates Jesus Christ's death on the cross. The second day of the Holy Triduum, a day of solemn fasting.</p>	<p>Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic</p>	<p>April 2, 2021</p>
<p>Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil</p> <p>Third day of the Holy triduum, a solemn day culminating with an Easter Vigil, a celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection.</p>	<p>Christian, Roman Catholic</p>	<p>April 3, 2021</p>
<p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>The most holy of Christian sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.</p>	<p>Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic</p>	<p>April 4, 2021</p>
<p>¹³Yom HaShoah</p> <p>Jewish Holocaust Day remembering the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45.</p>	<p>Jewish</p>	<p>April 8, 2021</p>
<p>Hindi New Year</p>	<p>Hindu</p>	<p>April 12, 2021</p>
<p>¹⁴Ramadan</p> <p>9th month on Islamic calendar, devoted to fasting from first light to sunset. In this month, the Prophet Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation, the Qur'an, is commemorated. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year.</p>	<p>Islamic</p>	<p>April 12- May 11, 2021</p>

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Rama Navami Celebrates the birth of Lord Rama to King Dasharatha of Ayodhya.	Hindu	April 21, 2021
Palm Sunday A commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Beginning of Holy Week	Orthodox Christian	April 25, 2021
Theravada New Year New year for Buddhists that use the teaching of the Pāli Canon, a collection of the oldest recorded Buddhist texts.	Buddhist	April 27, 2021
Hanuman Jayanti Commemorates Lord Hanuman as a symbol of devotion, magical powers, strength and energy.	Hindu	April 27, 2021
Great and Holy Thursday Commemorates the washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the agony in the garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas.	Orthodox Christian	April 29, 2021
Great and Holy Friday Commemorates the death of Christ on the Cross.	Orthodox Christian	April 30, 2021
Pascha/Orthodox Easter The most holy of Christian days; commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion. Celebrated at midnight as Holy Saturday turns to Pasha.	Orthodox Christian	May 2, 2021
Ascension Thursday Commemorates the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven.	Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic	May 13, 2021
¹⁵ Eid al-Fitr Marks the end of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to God.	Islamic	May 13, 2021
¹⁶ Shavuot Celebration of Moses' descent from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments.	Jewish	May 16-18, 2021

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Pentecost Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his ascension to heaven on Ascension Thursday.	Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic	May 23, 2021
Vaisakha Puja Day/Buddha Day Marking of the birth, enlightenment and death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha.	Buddhist	May 26, 2021
Corpus Christi Celebrates the belief in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.	Christian	June 3, 2021
Ascension Day	Orthodox Christian	June 10, 2021
Pentecost	Orthodox Christian	June 20, 2021
¹⁷ Tisha B'Av A time of mourning. Commemorates the destruction of both the first and second temples in Jerusalem.	Jewish	July 18, 2021
¹⁸ Eid al-Adha Festival of sacrifice. Commemorates the culmination of the hajj in Mecca.	Islamic	July 20, 2021
Asalha Puja Day Celebrates the Buddha's first sermon in which he set out his doctrine to his five associates.	Buddhist	July 24, 2021

Note: While this calendar is intended to assist with planning, it does not include all holidays and observances. For consideration of additional dates, please e-mail registrar@albany.edu

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