

2025 Religious Observances

Providing an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of our campus community, the university recognizes the importance of observance for religious holidays and holy days. This webpage serves as an educational resource about dates and practices that we hope will be valuable to those planning classroom activities and other academic and co-curricular events.

Contact us at ctl@umsl.edu with questions about reasonable accommodations for religious observances. Additionally, if there is a religious observance missing from our calendar or if you would like to provide more information about a holiday currently on our calendar, please don't hesitate to reach out and inform us. We are committed to updating the calendar to better serve and represent our campus community.

Points to Remember

- The religious observances below are grouped by month by which the holiday occurs. This religious observance calendar charts holidays and observances from many cultures/ belief groups. Some holidays do not follow the Gregorian calendar and may occur in different dates, and even months from year to year. This occurrence can be referred to as 'Moving Holidays.' In such cases, the holidays will be grouped with the month in which they occur most frequently over the next three years. For example:
 - The holiday, The Birth of Bahá'u'lláh is a celebration important to those of the Bahá'i faith. Their holiday's date occurs on the first and second day following the eighth new moon after Naw-Rúz, another holiday important to Bahá'is. The Birth of Bahá'u'lláh occurs on November 3rd in 2024, October 23rd in 2025, and November 11th in 2026. As such the holiday will appear in the November section as for the next three years it will occur a majority of the time in November, but this will be updated year by year.
- “*Kosher restrictions apply*” refers to the dietary guidelines of Jewish law which apply daily throughout the year. Restrictions include pork, shellfish (fish is allowed) and mixing meat with dairy.
- “*Halal dietary restrictions apply*” refers to the foods prohibited according to Islamic dietary law throughout the year. Restrictions include alcohol and pork.

Religious Observances in January

January 1-3	Gantan-Sai or Shogatsu (Shinto)
January 6 Roman Catholic and Protestant)	Epiphany/Twelfth Night/Three Kings Day (Christian —
January 7	Christmas (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

January 7	Bohdi Day (Buddhist)
January 29	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist)

Religious Observances in February

February 1-2	Imbolc/ Candlemas (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)
February 2	Setsubun-sai (Shinto)
February 12	Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)
February 28-March 29	Ramadan (Islamic)

Religious Observances in March

March 5	Ash Wednesday (Christian - Roman Catholic & Protestant)
March 13-14	Holi (Hindu)
March 13-14	Purim (Jewish)
March 15	Shri Ramakrishna Jayanti (Hindu)
March 20	Ostara/Alban Eilir/Spring Equinox (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)
March 19-20	Naw Ruz (Bahá'í)
March 29-30	Eid al-Fitr (Islamic)
March 30-April 7	Navratri (Hindu)

Religious Observances in April

April 12-20	Pesach/ Passover (Jewish)
April 13	Vaisakhi (Sikh) (Hindu)
April 13 Eastern Orthodox Christianity)	Palm Sunday (Christian — Roman Catholic, Protestant,

April 17 Protestant)	Maundy Thursday (Christian — Roman Catholic and
April 18	Good Friday (Christian — Roman Catholic and Protestant)
April 18 Christian)	Great and Holy Friday/Good Friday (Eastern Orthodox
April 20	Easter (Christian — Roman Catholic and Protestant)
April 20	Pascha/Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 20-May 2	Ridvan (Bahá'í)
April 23	Yom HaSho'ah (Jewish)

Religious Observances in May

May 1	Beltane (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)
May 12	Buddha Day/Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 28	Ascension of the Bahá'u'lláh (Baha'i)

Religious Observances in June

June 1-3	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 6-7	Eid al-Adha (Islamic)
June 20 Wiccan, Druid)	Litha/Midsummer/Alban Hefin/Summer Solstice (Pagan,

Religious Observances in July

Religious Observances in August

August 1	Lammas / Lughnasadh (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)
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August 2-3	Tisha B'Av (Jewish)
August 9	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu) August
August 16	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)

Religious Observances in September

September 22- 24	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 22 Druid)	Mabon / Alban Elfed / Autumnal Equinox (Pagan, Wiccan,

Religious Observances in October

October 1-2	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
October 6-13	Sukkot (Jewish)
October 13-15	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 13-15	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 20	Diwali (Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain)
October 31-November 1	Samhain (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid) October

Religious Observances in November

November 1	All Saints Day (Christian–Catholic)
November 3	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'i)
November 27-28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (Bahá'i)
November 30	Start of Advent Season (Christian)

Religious Observances in December

December 8 Catholic – Holy Day of Obligation)	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Christian; Roman
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December 14-22	Hanukkah/Chanukah (Jewish)
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December 21- January 1 Solstice (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)	Yule/Midwinter/Alban Arthan/Winter
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December 25	Christmas (Christian - Roman Catholic & Protestant)
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December 26-January 1	Kwanzaa (African American/ Pan-African)
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