

2020-2021 Religious Diversity Interfaith Holiday Calendar & Suggested Accommodations

DePaul University is deeply committed to supporting its religiously diverse community. The Division of Mission and Ministry has developed this calendar to be used by faculty and staff in order to encourage the religious and faith practices of all members of the DePaul community.

This interfaith calendar provides information on select world religious holidays that fall within DePaul's academic calendar and may therefore effect DePaul students, faculty, and staff. Suggestions for accommodating students, faculty, and staff who are celebrating these holidays are included for each listed holiday. A brief description of the select holidays is also included.

For more information on world-wide religious holidays and accommodations please contact Diane Dardón, Director of Religious Diversity and Pastoral Care:
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Accommodations Key

The following key refers to ways in which faculty and staff might best accommodate the needs of those celebrating religious holidays:

1. Refrain from scheduling important/mandatory events, activities, or deadlines on this date.
2. Students, staff, and faculty within this tradition often request this day off and it is suggested that such requests be honored. Please refer to Human Resources guidelines for such accommodations.
3. Students, staff, and faculty may be fasting, suggesting that activities and events do not include food.
4. Please consider dietary restrictions that may apply (including kosher, halal, vegetarian, etc.).
5. All Jewish and Muslim holidays begin at sundown the night before the date posted. Offering additional time for students, faculty, and staff to prepare is suggested.

Select Religious Holidays Calendar 2020-2021

September 2020

Sept 18-20	Rosh Hashanah	Judaism	Accommodations 1,2,3,5
Sept 27-28	Yom Kippur	Judaism	Accommodations 1,2,3,5

October 2020

Oct 2-9	Sukkot	Judaism	Accommodations 1,4,5
Oct 10	Shemini Atzeret	Judaism	Accommodations 1,4,5
Oct 11	Simchat Torah	Judaism	Accommodations 4,5
Oct 28-29	Mawlid Al-Nabi	Islam	Accommodations 4,5

November 2020

Nov 14	Diwali (Deepavali)	Sikh/Hindu	Accommodation 2
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December 2020

Dec 10-18	Hanukkah	Judaism	Accommodations 1,2,4,5
Dec 25	Christmas	Christian Roman Catholic, Protestant	University Closed

January 2021

Jan 7	Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christmas)	Christian Orthodox	Accommodations 1,2
Jan 10	Bohdi Day	Buddhist	Accommodations 1,2

February 2021

Feb 12	Chinese New Year	Confusion/ Daoist, Buddhist	Accommodations 1,2
Feb 17	Ash Wednesday	Christian Roman Catholic, Protestant	Accommodations 4 Also, some may request short time off for Imposition of Ashes
Feb 25-26	Purim	Judaism	Accommodation 4

March 2021

Mar 15	Clean Monday (beginning of Orthodox Great Lent)	Christian Orthodox	Accommodation 4
Mar 28-29	Holi	Hindu	No accommodations
Mar 27 – Apr 3	Passover	Judaism	Accommodations 1,2,3,4,5 Also, do not schedule on first two and last two dates of holiday

April 2021

Apr 1-3	Passover (final days)	Judaism	See above
Apr 2	Good Friday	Christian Roman Catholic, Protestant	University Closed
Apr 4	Easter	Christian Roman Catholic, Protestant	University Closed
Apr 8-9	Yom HaShoah	Judaism	Academics and work permitted
Apr 12-13	Ramadan Begins (goes through May 11)	Islam	Accommodations 1,2,4,3,5
Apr 30	Holy Friday	Christian Orthodox	Accommodations 1,2,3

May 2021

May 2	Easter	Christian Orthodox	University Closed
May 11-12	Ramadan ends	Islam	Accommodations 1,2,3,4,5
May 12-13	Eid ul-Fitr	Islam	Accommodations 1,2,4,5

May 26	Vesak	Buddhist	Accommodations 1,2
May 30, 2020	Shavuot	Judaism	Accommodations 1,2,4

Descriptions of Select Religious Holidays and Prayers

Buddhist

Enlightenment Day is also referred to as **Rohatus** or **Bodhi Day** and is the day that many Buddhists acknowledge and celebrate the enlightenment of the Buddha. It always occurs on the eighth day of December.

Vesak Day is the day that many Buddhists celebrate the Buddha's birthday and recognize the birth, Awakening, and death of the Buddha.

Christian

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty day Lenten season of reflection and repentance that leads up to the Easter celebration.

Good Friday is the day set aside to remember Jesus' crucifixion. DePaul is closed on Good Friday. The dates for Orthodox Good Friday differs from other Christian denominations.

Easter is the Sunday immediately following Good Friday and is a festival day celebrations the resurrection of Christ. The dates for Orthodox Easter differs from other Christian denomination.

Christmas is a day of celebrating the birth of Christ. Most Christians celebrate on December 25 but many Orthodox Christians celebrate on January 7. DePaul is closed over the traditional Christmas week.

Hindu

Diwali is also known as the **Festival of Lights** and is a five day festival celebrating the goodness of light over dark.

Holi or the **Festival of Spring** or **Festival of Colors** marks the end of winter and is celebrated in colorful and festive ways. This festival celebrates good over evil.

Jewish

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year and extends over ten days with the first two days being celebrated as High Holidays. It is a period of reflection and penitence.

Yom Kippur is the final day of the High Holidays and is a holy day calling for atonement.

Sukkot is also known as the **Festival of the Booths** and is a celebration of fall harvests and a reminder of the Israelites long wandering in the desert.

Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah following Sukkot and call for rest, reading of the Torah, and celebrations.

Passover is also known as **Pesach** is a significant commemoration of the Israelites liberation from their Egyptian enslavement. The story of the Passover is shared over a ritual Seder meal.

Hanukah (Chanukah) is also known as the **Celebration of Lights** spans eight days and nights, commemorating the re-dedication of the Temple at Jerusalem.

Yom HaShoah is a day set aside to commemorate the Holocaust.

Shabbat, also known as **Sabbath**, begins at sundown on Fridays and ends at sundown on Saturdays. It is a day of rest and includes prayers and meals.

Muslim

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islam lunar year and is marked by fasting from dawn to sunset with communal gatherings and special prayers at night. Ramadan is the holiest of all months and times within the Islamic tradition and commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an.

Eid al-Fitr literally means, "Festival of breaking the fast." It is a holiday marking the end of Ramadan.

Eid al-Adha, a major holiday in Islam, is also known as the Festival of the Sacrifice. This holiday comes at the end of the Hajj Pilgrimage season and commemorates the many sacrifices made by Prophet Abraham and his family.

Mawlid Al-Nabi is the day in which Muslims from many countries celebrate the birth of the Prophet Mahammad (peace be upon him) around the year 570 AD.

Ashura is marked by Sunni Muslims who see this as a day of fasting in accordance with Muhammad's (peace be upon him) call to others to join him in fasting. Shi'a Muslims especially mark this day to remember the martyrdom of Muhammad's (peace be upon him) grandson al-Hussayn and take inspiration from his stand for justice and on behalf of the oppressed.

Jumu'ah literally means, "Friday" and refers to prayer that is held after noon on Fridays. Devout Muslims pray five times a day.