

Interfaith Holidays Calendar Academic Year 202025

prepared by the Interfaith Cooperation Committee

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Ash Wednesday ~~Bent~~(Christianity)

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the season of penitence, prayer, and fasting before Easter. Many Catholic or Orthodox Christians will fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during Lent.

Ashura(Islam)

Ashura is the 10th day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar year. Many Sunni Muslims celebrate Ashura as a commemoration of God's deliverance of Moses and the Israelites. For Shi'i Muslims, Ashura commemorates the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, in the Battle of Karbala.

Autumnal Equinox / Ostra Mab(Secular/Humanist/Wiccan/Pagan)

The Autumnal Equinox is one of two days in the calendar year when day and night hours are almost equal to one another; it is also the first day of Autumn, or Fall, on the Gregorian calendar.

Bandi Chor Diwa(Sikhism)

Bandi Shor Divas (often translated as the "Day of Liberation") is celebrated by Sikhs on the same day as the Hindu observance of Diwali. This is the occasion of the return of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, the sixth Guru, who was released from prison in 1619. About the time of Diwali, which has long been a national holiday in India, Guru Ji returned home to his followers.

Birth of the Guru Granth Sahib Script(Sikhism)

This holiday commemorates the 'birthday' and installation of the Living Guru of Sikhism, "Sri Guru Granth Sahib" (the central holy scripture of the Sikh religion).

Bodhi Day(Buddhism)

Good Friday (Christianity)

Also known as “Black Friday” or “Holy Friday,” this holiday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. Many Christians observe Good Friday with fasting, abstaining from meat, and prayer.

Guru Angad Dev Ji Jay (Birthday of Guru Angad Dev) (Sikhism)

This holiday commemorates the birthday of the second guru of Sikhism, Sri Guru Angad Dev Ji.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji Jay (Birthday of Gobind Singh) (Sikhism)

This holiday celebrates the birthday of the tenth (ydcH6 (d)11.0 Tc 14.3k (s)-1.6 (t)2.7 (i)11.2 (n9.3k (s)-1.6 (n-1.6 (n-1.6 (

Kwanzaa (African American and pan-African)

Kwanzaa is an African American and pan-African holiday that spans seven days (December 26 to January 1), first observed in 1966. It celebrates Black culture, community, and family. Each of the seven days is dedicated to one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Celebrations often include music, dance, song, poetry, and feasts.

Laylat al-Qadr (Islam)

Translating to the "Night of Power," this holiday commemorates the night during which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is considered the holiest night in the Islamic calendar. Some Muslims spend the whole night in prayer to celebrate the revelation of the Qur'an.

Maghi & Lohri (Sikhism and Hinduism)

Maghi marks the first day of the month of Magh, a day celebrated by both Sikhs and Hindus. It is especially important in the Punjab region of South Asia. For Sikhs, Maghi commemorates the martyred "40 Liberated Ones" (Chali Mukte), 40 Sikhs who had deserted the tenth guru Gobind Singh but who had later rejoined him and were killed in battle in Muktsar, Punjab, in 1705. Sikhs mark the day with recitations of scripture, bathing in holy water, acts of charity, and eating sweets like kheer. In Muktsar, the celebration takes place over 3 days, when Sikh pilgrims visit shrines and sites from the battle, and bathe in the sacred pools at Muktsar. For Hindus, Maghi is often celebrated by bathing in the Ganges or another river or body of water, by cleaning and whitening their homes, and by eating traditional food and sweets. The night of Lohri (or the winter festival marking the end of winter and passing of the winter solstice) is often observed the night before Maghi.

Maha Shivaratri (Hinduism)

This holiday is "the Great Night of Shiva," a major, solemn festival celebrating the god Shiva. It may be observed through fasting and all-night prayers and meditation.

Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikhism)

On June 16, each year, Sikhs commemorate the martyrdom of the Sikh Guru Arjan. Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth Sikh guru (and first martyr), was tortured and killed by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir in 1606.

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib (Sikhism)

The Day of Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur is observed as Shaheed Diwas every year. Guru Tegh Bahadur was publicly executed on November 24, 1675, on Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's orders because he had resisted the religious persecution of Kashmiri Hindus. Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth of the ten gurus or founders of Sikhism.

Mawlid al-Nabi (Islam)

Literally translating to "the birthday of the Prophet," this holiday is a celebration of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (around the year 570 CE).

Nativity Fast (Orthodox Christianity)

In Orthodox Christianity, the Nativity Fast, or the "Christmas Fast," is a period of penitence, prayer, fasting, and abstaining from meat in preparation for Christmas.

Navaratri

celebrations of Onam start on Atham day (the day when Atham Nakshatra prevails) and continue for 10 days till Thiruvonam day, also the most auspicious day during the festival of Onam.

Parinirvana Day (Buddhism)

Also called "Nirvana Day," this holiday is celebrated on the day of the Buddha's death. It is a public holiday in many countries, including India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Reformation Day

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Christianity)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an ecumenical or Christian-wide annual octave of eight days of prayer across Christian denominations for the realization of Jesus' prayer the night before he died that all his followers would be one. Each year a biblical text is chosen as a theme for prayer, reflection, dialogue and action. Note that this week is observed at different times in the Southern (Ascension Day through Pentecost) and Northern hemispheres (dates as marked in this calendar).

Winter Solstice / Yule (Secular / Humanist / Wiccan / Pagan)

The Winter Solstice is celebrated on the day when the sun reaches its lowest elevation on the day with (n t)2.7 (he)9 (1 (s