

Interfaith Holidays Calendar, Academic Year 2023-

September 19 to September 28, 2023	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hinduism) <i>note that religious obligations are usually at the start (first day) or tenth day of the holiday (known as Anant Chaturdashi)</i>
September 23, 2023	Autumnal Equinox / Ostra Mabon (Secular / Humanist / Wiccan / Pagan)
September 24 to September 25, 2023	Yom Kippur (Judaism)
September 26 to September 27, 2023	Mawlid al-Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad) (Islam) <i>note that this follows the Sunni calendar; many Shi'i Muslims celebrate on October 24, 2022.</i>
September 29 to October 6, 2023	Sukkot (Judaism) <i>note that some Jews follow religious requirements prohibiting work on the first two days of Sukkot</i>

January 6, 2024	Epiphany (Catholic Christianity)
January 6, 2024	Theophany (Orthodox Christianity)
January 7, 2024	Christmas (Orthodox Christianity)
January 13 to January 14, 2024	Maghi & Lohri (Sikhism and Hinduism)
January 17, 2024	

January 18, 2024

Lunar Bodhi Day (Buddhism)

Note: this is the date celebrated in the Indian subcontinent. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the 12th month of the Buddhist calendar. In 2024, it falls on January 18, 2024.

April 23, 202

the Quranic verse announcing that the religion of Islam had been perfected was revealed on this day. It is recommended for Muslims who are not performing *hajj* to fast on this day.

Diwali (Hinduism)

Diwali is the Hindu "festival of lights" that celebrates the Hindu new year. It lasts five days and celebrates the triumph of good over evil. Hindus invite the goddess Lakshmi to their homes to bring abundance and well-being to their households for the next year. Diwali is often celebrated with fireworks and lights (to symbolize the victory of light over darkness), sweets, and colorful patterns called rangolis (made from sand, powder, rice, flowers, etc.).

Easter (Christianity)

Also called "Resurrection Sunday," this holiday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, on the third day following his crucifixion. It is the culmination of the season of *Lent*.

Eid al-Adha (Islam)

Ganesh Chaturthi (Hinduism)

A celebration of the birth of Ganesh (the god of wisdom and intellect, and the remover of obstacles), which may last 10 days. There is often a procession with an idol of Ganesh on the tenth day.

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 Jayanti (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 Jayanti (Birthday of Gobind Singh) (Sikhism)

This holiday celebrates the birthday of the tenth (and last human) guru or founder of the Sikh religion, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Gobind Singh conferred permanent gurudom on the Granth Sahib scripture, naming it the final and eternal Guru of Sikhdom. The birthday is often celebrated with processions and singing, and with communal gatherings, prayer, and meals.

Guru Nanak Jayanti (Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji) (Sikhism)

This holiday commemorates the birthday of the first guru and founder of Sikhism, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It is often celebrated with readings, music, and communal meals featuring sweet food like *karah prashad*.

Hajj (Islam)

Krishna Janmashtami (Hinduism)

This holiday commemorates the birth of Krishna (the eighth avatar of Vishnu, and the god of protection, love, and compassion).

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

Onam (Hinduism)

Onam marks the first month of the Malayalam calendar known as Chingam. The festival commemorates the appearance of the Vamana avatar of Vishnu and the subsequent homecoming of the legendary King Mahabali. The 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 celebrates the attainment of *parinirvana*, or the complete nirvana, by the Buddha after his physical death. It is associated with Mahayana Buddhism. (Buddha's attainment of complete nirvana is commemorated as part of the holiday of **Vesak** in Theravada and Tibetan Buddhism.)

Pascha (Easter) (Orthodox Christianity)

This holiday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, on the third day following his crucifixion. Pascha is the "Feast of Feasts," or the most important religious holiday, in Orthodox Christianity.

Paschal Triduum (Catholic Christianity)

The Three Days—sunset Holy Thursday to sunset **Good Friday**, sunset **Good Friday** to sunset Holy Saturday, and sunset Holy Saturday to sunset on **Easter Sunday**—are the holiest season of the Christian calendar for Catholics. These Three Days of Christian passover pivot from six weeks of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to seven weeks of celebration re-energized service and just-peacebuilding called Eastertime.

Passover (Pesach) (Judaism)

Pesach is a week-long celebration commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in ancient

Reformation Day (Protestant Christianity)

This Protestant Christian holiday is a remembrance of the onset of the Reformation in Western Christianity. On October 31, 1517, the German monk Martin Luther nailed his grievances with the Roman Catholic Church or *Ninety-Five Theses to All Saints*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Christianity)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an ecumenical or Christianity-wide annual octave--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 the smallest number of daylight hours, which is typically on or around December 21st, the first day of winter.

Yom Ha-Shoah (Judaism)

Yom Ha-Shoah is Holocaust Remembrance Day, a commemoration of the approximately six million Jews killed in the Shoah (Holocaust).

Yom Kippur (Judaism)

This is the Day of Atonement. It is the culmination of the 10 days of penitence to start the Jewish New Year and is designated as a High Holiday.