

2025-2026 Religious and Cultural Holiday Calendar

October 2025

2 **Yom Kippur** Jewish: Day of Atonement, observed with fasting (begins at sundown evening prior)

2 **Dussehra** Hindu: Celebration of the victory of Lord Rama over demon Ravan, also known as Vijayadashami

6-13 **Sukkot** Jewish: Festival of Booths (begins at sundown)

13 **Indigenous Peoples Day**: Interfaith celebration of the cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples of Western hemisphere

14 **Shemini Atzeret** Jewish: Festival connected to the eighth day of Sukkot (begins at sundown evening prior)

15 **Simchat Torah** Jewish: Day of rejoicing to celebrate the yearly completion of reading the whole Torah (begins at sundown evening prior)

20 **Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib** Sikh: Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib. Recognition of Sikh sacred writings as the final, eternal guru.

20 **Diwali (Deepavali)*** Hindu — Jain — Sikh: The main day of the five-day festival of lights, a celebration of light over darkness, new beginnings and triumph of goodness.

21 **Jain New Year** Jain: Celebration of the New Year

22 **Birth of the Báb** Bahá'í: Celebrates the birth of one of the founders of the Bahá'í faith

31 **Samhain** Wiccan/Neo-Pagan: Midpoint between equinox and solstice, a time for inner reflection, honoring ancestors, as well as observing nature's descent into the dark winter season.

31 **All Hallows Eve** Christian: Celebration derived from Celtic Samhain, beginning two-day remembrance of the Dead

November 2025

1 **All Saints Day** Christian: Celebration of lives of the saints; holy day of obligation for Catholics

2 **All Souls Day** Christian: Celebration of lives of the saints

3 **Birth of Bahá'u'lláh** Bahá'í: Commemoration of the birth of Bahá'u'láh (translated 'Glory of God'), the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í faith

5 **Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib** Sikh: Birth of the founder and first guru of the Sikh faith

12 **Bandi Chhor Diwas** Sikh: Celebration of the release of Guru Hargobind from wrongful imprisonment

23 **Christ the King** Christian: Festival celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church in honor of Jesus Christ as Lord over all creation

25 **Day of the Covenant** Bahá'í: The day when Bahá'ís celebrate the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant.

28 **Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá** Bahá'í: Commemoration of the ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who died on Nov. 28, 1921

December 2025

1 **Advent Season Begins** Christian

1-7 **Chalica** Unitarian: Chalica is a week-long celebration of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. Chalica begins on the first Monday in December and lasts seven days. Each day, a chalice is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle.

6 **Saint Nicholas Day** Christian: Feast day honoring the first-century Christian bishop known for generosity, miracles and intercessions.

6 **Saint Nicholas Day** Orthodox Christian (O.C.): Feast day honoring the first-century Christian bishop known for generosity, miracles and intercessions.

8 **Immaculate Conception of Mary** Christian: Catholic day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life. Holy day of obligation.

8 **Bodhi Day** Buddhist: Celebration of the beginning of the path to enlightenment of the Buddha.

12 **Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe** Christian: Catholic celebration of Mary as patron saint of The Americas.

15-22 **Chanukah** Jewish: The Jewish festival of dedication (begins at sundown)

16-24 **Posadas Navideñas** Christian: Mexican Catholic reenactment of journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem

21 **Pan Am 103 Memorial** Interfaith: Syracuse University service and vigil honoring and remembering the victims of Pan Am Flight 103.

21 **Yule** Pagan: Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. An observance of the return of the Sun, making daylight hours longer from this day until June.

23 **Human Light**: Secular celebration of humanist vision of peace and goodwill among all

24 **Christmas Eve** Christian: Eve of traditional Western date observing the birth of Christ in a 12-day festival lasting until Epiphany

25 **Christmas** Christian: Traditional Western date observing the birth of Christ in a 12-day festival lasting until Epiphany

26 **Zarathosht Diso*** Zoroastrian: Death of founding prophet Zarathushtra

26-Jan. 1 **Kwanzaa**: Weeklong celebration of African American life and cultural heritage

28 **Feast of the Holy Family** Christian: Catholic celebration of the love between the family of Jesus

30 **Fast of Tevet** Jewish: Day of mourning and repentance marking the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem. In recent years, it also is a day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust.

31 **Watch Night** Christian: Ritual service of preparation for the year to come

January 2026

1 **Kwanzaa** ends.

1 **Mary, Mother of God** Christian: Catholic day of prayer and thanksgiving to Mary, mother of Jesus

1 **Gantan-sai** Shinto: New Year festival, also known as Shogatsu

6 **Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti** Sikh: Celebration of the birth of the final human guru of the Sikh faith

6 **Epiphany** Christian: Festival celebrating the revelation of God in Jesus and the visit of the sages to the Christ child.

7 **Feast of the Nativity** Orthodox Christian (O.C.): Traditional celebration of Christmas for Eastern Orthodox Christians

12 **Baptism of the Lord Jesus** Christian: Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus

14 **Maghi** Sikh: Commemoration of the 40 martyrs (Chalis Mukte) who died fighting the Mughal army with Guru Gobind Singh in 1705 CE

14 **Makar Sankranti** Hindu: Festival honoring the Sun, the main source of energy to our planet

16 **Lailat al Miraj*** Islam: Al Isra wal Miraj, or the Night Journey and Ascension marks the miraculous journey of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), in 621 CE, from Makkah to Jeruslaem and ascension to the heavens and back in a single night.

18-25 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** Christian: Seven days of ecumenical prayer

23 **Vasant Panchami*** Hindu: Festival honoring Saraswati, goddess of learning, wisdom, music and art.

29 **Lunar New Year**: Celebration of the first new moon of the lunar calendar

29 **Chinese New Year** Chinese Traditional: Beginning of the Chinese celebration of a new year for people of all religions

February 2026

1 **Imbolc** Wiccan/Neo-Pagan: Midpoint between solstice and equinox. Celebration of new beginnings and the first signs of spring stirring.

2 **Candlemas** Christian: Celebration of the presentation of Jesus in the temple. New beginnings are recognized.

2 **Tu BiShvat** Jewish: Celebration of the New Year of the Trees (begins at sundown evening prior)

2 **Lailat al Bara'ah*** Islam: Optional night of prayer (begins at sundown)

2 **Four Chaplains Interfaith Sunday** Interfaith: Commemoration of the event in World War II when four Chaplains of Jewish and Christian traditions (Catholic and Protestant) gave their life jackets to others as a troop ship sank in the Atlantic Ocean.

3 **Setsebun-sai** Shinto: Celebration of the approach of spring as an invitation to good fortune.

14 **St. Valentine's Day** Christian: Festival of love loosely connected to Christian saint

15 **Nirvana Day*** Buddhist – Jain: Commemoration of passing into Nirvana of the Buddha

16 **Maha Shivaratri*** Hindu: Festival in honor of Lord Shiva

17 **Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras** Christian: Day of preparation for Lent, observed by feasting and carnival activities

18 **Ramadan*** Islam: Ramadan begins. Holy month of daily fasting (from dawn to sunset) and nightly prayers (begins at sundown evening prior)

18 **Ash Wednesday** Christian: First of 40 days of Western Christian penitential observance of Lent

22 **Forgiveness Sunday** Orthodox Christian: Day of preparation for Lent, also known as Cheesefare Sunday

23 Orthodox First Day of Lent Orthodox Christian: Start of the 40-day fast before Pascha (Easter)

23 Clean Monday Orthodox Christian: First day of Lent

25-28 Ayyám-i-Há Bahá'í: Intercalary Days is a period dedicated to socializing, being hospitable, giving generously to the poor and needy, and preparing for the upcoming month of fasting.

28 Bahá'í Fast Bahá'í: Abstain from food and drinks between sunrise and sunset

March 2026

1 Orthodox Sunday Orthodox Christian: First Sunday of Lent. Restoration of icons to the church is celebrated.

2 Ta'anit Esther Jewish: Fast of Esther: Jewish fast from dawn until dusk on Purim eve, commemorating the three-day fast observed by the Jewish people in the story of Purim (begins at dawn and ends at nightfall)

3 Magha Puja Day* Buddhist: Commemoration of the presentation of Buddha to the world

3 Purim Jewish: Holiday marking deliverance from Haman's genocidal plot against Jewish people in ancient Persia as related in Book of Esther (begins at sundown evening prior).

4 Holi* Hindu: Colorful festival of spring

9 Laylat al-Qadr (The Night of Destiny)* Islam: Commemoration of the Holy Night in Ramadan when the Qur'an was revealed (begins at sundown). It can fall on any of the last ten odd nights of Ramadan.

15 27th Night of Ramadan Islam

17 St. Patrick's Day Christian: Celebration of St. Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland

19-27 Chaitra Navaratri Hindu: Nine-day festival that signifies the victory of good over evil.

19 St. Joseph's Day Christian: Celebration of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus

20 Eid al Fitr* Islam: Celebration showing gratitude for a successful completion of fasting in the Holy month of Ramadan (begins at sundown evening prior). The day begins with a distribution of charity to the needy the night before, followed by morning prayer services the next day and gatherings with family, friends and relatives.

20 Hola Mohalla Sikh: Begins on the first day of the lunar month of Chet in the Nanakshahi calendar and follows the Hindu festival of colors, Holi

20 Ostara Wiccan/Neo-Pagan: Celebration for the return of life after the cold of winter

21 Naw Ruz Bahá'í: New Year

25 Feast of the Annunciation Christian: Commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary

26 Ramanavami* Hindu: Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama, seventh incarnation of Vishnu

29 Palm Sunday Christian: Beginning of Western Christian Holy Week, also known as Palm Sunday of the Passion.

April 2026

1 Hanuman Jayanti* Hindu: Festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Sri Hanuman

1-9 **Passover** Jewish: Eight-day commemoration of freedom of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. (Begins with First Night Seder sundown 4/1. Second Seder sundown 4/2. Holiday concludes with two final days, sundown 4/8 – nightfall 4/9).

2 **Maundy Thursday** Christian: Remembrance of Christ's last supper, first day of the Sacred Triduum

3 **Good Friday** Christian: Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Christ, second day of the Sacred Triduum

4 **Holy Saturday** Christian: Day of vigil culminating in observance of the resurrection of Christ, third day of the Sacred Triduum

4 **Lazarus Saturday** Orthodox Christian: Feast commemorating the raising of Lazarus by Jesus Christ

5 **Easter Sunday** Christian: Feast of the resurrection of Christ

6 **Mahavir Jayanti*** Jain: Birth of founder Mahavira 540 BCE.

8 **Buddha's Birthday*** Buddhist: Celebrates the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, also known as Vesak

10 **Holy Friday** Orthodox Christian: Anniversary of the death of Christ, as commemorated by Orthodox Christians

12 **Pascha (Easter)** Orthodox Christian: Celebration of the resurrection of Christ, beginning at midnight

13 **Baisakhi (Vaisakhi)** Sikh: Honors the day in 1699 that Guru Gobind Singh Ji affirmed the direct connection between Sikhs and the Divine

14 **Yom HaShoah** Jewish: Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day (begins at sundown evening prior)

21 **First Day of Ridván** Bahá'í: Celebrates the day Bahá'u'lláh arrived at the Garden of Ridván.

21 **Yom HaZikaron** Jewish: Israeli Memorial Day (begins at sundown evening prior)

22 **Yom Ha'atzmaut** Jewish: Israeli Independence Day (begins at sundown evening prior)

29 **Ninth Day of Ridván** Bahá'í: Celebrates the day Bahá'u'lláh declared the Mission and Purpose of the Bahá'í Faith.

May 2026

1 **Beltane** Wiccan/Neo-pagan: Midpoint between equinox and solstice, embracing Earth's peak fertility and the joyful elevated energy of early summer

2 **12th Day of Ridván** Bahá'í: Commemorate the day Bahá'u'lláh departed from the Garden of Ridván and continued His exile

5 **Lag B'Omer** Jewish: Celebrates the 33rd day of the Omer, a 49-day period between Pesach and Shavuot (begins at sundown evening prior)

14 **Ascension of the Lord** Christian: Festival marking the bodily ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

22-23 **Shavuot** Jewish: Festival of Weeks receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai (begins at sundown evening prior)

24 **Pentecost** Christian: Celebration of the descent of Holy Spirit upon followers of Christ

26 **Day of Arafat*** Islam: Day of assembly on the plain of Arafah in Hajj. Optional day of fasting for nonpilgrims

27 **Eid al Adha*** Islam: Celebration honoring the spiritual sacrifice of his son by prophet Abraham

29 **Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh** Bahá'í: Commemoration of the ascension of Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í faith

31 **Trinity Sunday** Christian: Honors the belief in one God with a threefold nature

31 **Pentecost** Orthodox Christian: Celebration of the descent of Holy Spirit upon followers of Christ

31 **Declaration of the Báb** Bahá'í: Celebration of the day when the Báb announced He was “the bearer of a Divine Revelation which would prepare humanity for the advent of the Promised One of all religions.”

June 2026

16 **Al-Hijra New Year*** Islam: The first day of the Islamic New Year or the Hijri New Year. The epoch of the Islamic era was set as the year of emigration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina, known as Hijrah, which equates to 622 C.E.

19 **Juneteenth:** Commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States in 1865, when those enslaved in Texas were notified of their liberty.

21 **Litha** Wiccan/Neo-Pagan: Summer solstice, summer is at its height and the sun shines the longest. Celebration of the life-giving power of the sun.

25 **Day of Ashura*** Islam: Commemoration of Prophet Moses delivering his people from Pharaoh (a day of optional fasting accompanied with a day of fasting before and/or after) and of trials endured by leaders among Prophet Muhammad's family.

July 2026

2 Fast of Tammuz Jewish: Fast commemorating breaching of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple (begins at dawn and ends at nightfall)

9 Martyrdom of the Báb Bahá'í: The Báb, forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh, was publicly executed for announcing the nearing arrival of the Promised One and the prophesied dawn of a new day

23 Tisha B'Av Jewish: Day of fasting and mourning for tragedies across Jewish history, most particularly the destruction and loss of the first and second Temple and Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago (begins sundown the evening before).

**This calendar has been adopted from the “Holy Days and Holidays” website by Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University - <https://chapel.syracuse.edu/spiritual-life/holy-days-holidays/>*