# Religious Holidays

*Some dates are tentative due to changes in lunar calendar
*Jewish holidays run from sundown on the designated day until sundown the following day unless otherwise noted

## August

### 1 Thursday

**Lammas** | Wiccan/Pagan

Celebration of the early harvest

### Fast in Honor of Holy Mother of Jesus | Orthodox Christian

Beginning of the 14-day period of preparation, leading up to the Dormition of Mary

### 6 Tuesday

**Transfiguration of the Lord** | Orthodox Christian

Observance of the transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor in the presence of his disciples

### 10 Saturday

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** | Catholic Christian

Commemorating the assumption of Mary, mother of Jesus, into heaven

### 15 Thursday

**Dormition of the Virgin Mary** | Orthodox Christian (New Calendar)

Observance of the death, burial, and transfer to heaven of the Virgin Mary

### 24 Saturday

**Krishna Janmashtani** | Hindu

Commemoration of the birth of Krishna

### 29 Thursday

**Beheading of St. John the Baptist** | Christian

Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist

## September

### 1 Sunday

**Religious year begins** | Orthodox Christian

Start of the religious calendar year

### 2 Monday

**Ganesh Chaturthi** | Hindu

Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence, and success

### 8 Sunday

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** | Christian

Celebration of the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus

### 9 Monday

**Auditor’s Day** | Scientology

Scientology Auditors are acknowledged on this day for their dedication in helping their fellow men and women

### 10 Saturday

**Ashura** | Muslim

Optional one-day fast marking the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali (Shi’a Islam) and marking the day that Moses fasted in gratitude for liberation of the Israelites (Sunni Islam)

## Provided by

The President’s Committee on Religious, Spiritual and Nonreligious Diversity
21 Saturday
Mabon | Wiccan/Pagan
Observance of the Autumnal Equinox

(10/10/2020)

27 Friday
Meskel | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Commemoration of the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helen

Birthday of Guru Ram Das | Sikh Commemoration of the birth of one of the foremost 10 gurus of Sikhism

28 Saturday
Confucius’ Birthday | Confucian Observance of the birth of Confucius

Dussehra/Durga Puja | Hindu Commemoration of the last of the Days of Judgment

29 Sunday
Navratri | Hindu (until 10/8/19)
Festival of the divine mother (lasting 9 nights) honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessing

Rosh Hashanah | Jewish (until 10/2/19)
Jewish New Year, marked by a call to repentance (9/18-9/20/2020)

13 Sunday
Sukkot | Jewish (until 10/14/19)
Feast Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents (10/3-10/9/2020)

14 Monday
Thanksgiving-Canada | Interfaith Celebration of the harvest and other blessings in the past year

19 Saturday
Hoshanah Rabbah | Jewish (until 10/20/19)
Commemoration of the last of the reading of the Torah (10/8/2020)

20 Sunday
Shemini Atzeret | Jewish (until 10/22/19)
Completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah (10/9/2020)

Guru Granth Sahib Installation | Sikh Remembrance of the eternal installation of the holy books by Granth Sahib

November
1 Friday
All Saints Day | Christian Day for honoring and remembering Christian saints

Samhain | Wiccan/Pagan Celebration of endings and beginnings

2 Saturday
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Religion/Tradition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Sat</td>
<td>All Souls Day</td>
<td>Catholic Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christian Commemoration of the souls of Christians who have died</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Tue</td>
<td>Mawlid an Nabi</td>
<td>Muslim</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday</td>
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<td>16 Sat</td>
<td>International Day for Tolerance</td>
<td>Interfaith</td>
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<td>United Nations observance day to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance</td>
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<td>24 Sun</td>
<td>Christ the King Sunday</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feast celebrating the all-embracing authority of Christ, over and above governmental authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Tue</td>
<td>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur</td>
<td>Sikh</td>
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<td>Commemoration of the death of Guru Tegh Bahadur</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Thu</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Interfaith</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celebration of the harvest and community</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Tue</td>
<td>Yule</td>
<td>Wiccan/Pagan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Celebration of the Winter Solstice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Interfaith</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Sun</td>
<td>Advent</td>
<td>Christian (until 12/24/19)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Season observed as a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Fri</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Day</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celebration of St. Nicholas, patron saint of children and role model for gift-giving</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Mon</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception of Mary</td>
<td>Catholic Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celebrates the belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</td>
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<td>12 Thu</td>
<td>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>Catholic Christian</td>
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<td>Honoring of legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Fri</td>
<td>Bodhi Day</td>
<td>Buddhist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha</td>
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<td>16 Mon</td>
<td>Posadas Navidenas</td>
<td>Hispanic Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(until 12/25/18) Nine-day religious observance during which families participate in nightly Christmas processions that re-create the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus on their way to Bethlehem</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Sun</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Tue</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td>Day before Christmas, often celebrated with a midnight Mass/Liturgy of Jesus' birth</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Wed</td>
<td>Christmas /Feast of Nativity</td>
<td>Christian (New Calendar)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ</td>
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<td>26 Thu</td>
<td>Kwanzaa</td>
<td>Pan-African (until 1/1/19)</td>
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<td>Holiday celebrating family, community, and culture among people of African descent</td>
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<td>28 Sat</td>
<td>Holy Innocents</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td>Day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the same attempt to destroy Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Sun</td>
<td>Feast of the Holy Family</td>
<td>Catholic Christian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celebration honoring Jesus, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph as a family</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Tue</td>
<td>Freedom Day</td>
<td>Scientology</td>
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<td>Day celebrating the official recognition of the Church of Scientology in the United States in 1974</td>
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Watch Night | Christian
Occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year, and to prepare for the next year

2020
January

1 Wednesday
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ

Shogatsu/Gantan-sai | Shinto
New Year’s Day celebration

5 Sunday
Twelfth Night | Christian
Conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas and marking the coming of the Epiphany

The Birth of the Tenth Sikh Master | Sikh
Honoring the birth of Guru Gobind Singh

6 Monday
Epiphany/Three Kings Day | Christian
Feast to celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus

Theophany | Orthodox Christian
(New Calendar)
Commemoration of the revelation of the Holy Trinity at Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist

7 Tuesday
Orthodox Christmas | Orthodox Christian
(Old Calendar)
Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian

Commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist

World Religions Day | Baha’i
Day dedicated to the unity and oneness of the world religions

25 Saturday
Conversion of St. Paul | Christian
Event in the life of Paul the Apostle, after which he became a follower of Jesus

February

2 Sunday
Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian
Remembrance of the infant Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem

Imbolc | Wiccan/Pagan
Halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, celebrates the passage from winter to spring

3 Monday
Setsubun-sai | Shinto
Celebration of the traditional beginning of spring and the end of winter

Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith
Commemoration of U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during WWII

5 Wednesday
Chinese New Year | Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist
New Year’s celebration marking the start of the lunar new year, begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions, who give thanks for family and remember ancestors

Vasant Panchami | Hindu
Festival of spring honoring the goddess of learning

9 Sunday
Tu B’Shvat | Jewish (until 2/10/20) Celebration of the coming of spring
Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian Time period leading up to Lent

14 Friday
Race Relations Day | Christian Day recognizing the importance of interracial relations and learning
St. Valentine’s Day | Christian Feast day of St. Valentine, celebrating love and affection
National Founding Day United States | Scientology Founding of the first Church of Scientology in the U.S., the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles in 1954

15 Saturday
Nirvana Day | Buddhist Also known as Parinirvana Day, Nirvana day is believed to be the festival that marks the end of the cycle of birth and rebirth.

19 Wednesday
Spring Lantern Festival | Taoist Marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations

25 Tuesday
Ayyam-i-Ha | Baha’i (until 2/29/20) “Days of Light”- The 4-5 day period leading up to the Baha’i Fast that is a time for celebration and service
Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) | Christian Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday

26 Wednesday
Ash Wednesday | Christian Observance to begin the 40-day season of Lent, ashes are marked on worshipers’ foreheads as a sign of repentance

29 Saturday
Nineteen Day Fast | Baha’i (until 3/19/20) Fast to be observed by adults of the Baha’i faith in good health from sunrise to sunset

March
1 Sunday
Forgiveness Sunday | Orthodox Christian Day before the Great Lent begins, commemorated with a ceremony of mutual forgiveness in preparation for the Great Feast.

2 Monday
Clean Monday | Orthodox Christian Start of Lent for Orthodox Christians, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods

8 Sunday
Orthodoxy Sunday | Orthodox Christian Commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons in the first Sunday after Lent begins.

9 Monday
Ta’anit Esther | Jewish Fast on Purim eve, commemorating the fast of the Jewish people in the story of Purim
Magha Puja Day | Buddhist Celebration of the teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men

10 Tuesday
Purim | Jewish (until 3/11/20) Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide

Holi | Hindu Spring festival known as the “festival of colors” or the “festival of love”. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil.

Hola Mohalla | Sikh Created by Guru Gobind Singh as an occasion for Sikhs to show their martial arts skills and host mock battles

13 Friday
L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday | Scientology Marks the birth of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology

17 Wednesday
St. Patrick’s Day | Christian Feast Day of St. Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland

19 Thursday
Lord’s Evening Meal | Jehovah’s Witness Memorial commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ

21 Friday
Maha Shivaratri | Hindu Festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage to the goddess Parvati

22 Saturday
Laylat al Miraj | Muslim (until 3/23/19) Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad’s nighttime journey from Mecca to ‘the farthest mosque’ in Jerusalem

25 Monday
Annunciation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary | Christian
Feast day commemorating Mary being told by the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, the son of God

Ramayana Week | Hindu
Nine-day festival that marks the auspicious celebration of the appearance of Hindu Lord, Sri Ram

April

2 Thursday
Rama Navami | Hindu
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama

4 Saturday
Qingming Festival | Taoist, Confucian
Also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, commemorates onset of spring and is an occasion to remember ancestors

5 Sunday
Palm Sunday | Christian
Celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem which marks the start of Holy Week

6 Monday
Founding of the Church | Mormon
Commemoration of the appearance of the angel, Moroni, in 1830 to Joseph Smith, subsequently founding the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Mahavir Jayanti | Jain
Celebration of the birth of Mahavira, Founder of Jainism as a religion

8 Wednesday
Hanuman Jayanti | Hindu
Celebration of Hanuman, an embodiment of Lord Rama, devotion and selfless works are encouraged

Lailat al Bara’ah | Muslim
Also known as the Night of Records and the Night of Forgiveness, commemorating when God descends from heaven and forgives the people of their sins

9 Thursday
Maundy Thursday | Christian
Remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples

Theravadin New Year | Buddhist (until 4/11/20)
Buddhist New Year

10 Friday
Good Friday/Holy Friday | Christian
Remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus

Passover/Pesach | Jewish
(until 4/15/20)
8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

11 Saturday
Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian
Celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus

12 Sunday
Easter | Christian
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Lag Ba’Omer | Jewish
Holiday that occurs on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot

13 Monday
Baisakhi/Vaisakhi | Sikh,
In Sikhism the day commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood

17 Friday
Great and Holy Friday | Orthodox Christian
Holy day commemorating crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ

19 Sunday
Palm Sunday | Orthodox Christian

Easter/Pascha | Orthodox Christian
Holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

First Day of Ridvan | Baha’i
(until 5/1/20)
Commemorates the beginning of the Baha’i faith in 1863 when Baha’u’llah first declared his mission, marks first of a twelve-day period

21 Tuesday
Yom HaShoah | Jewish
Holocaust Day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s

23 Thursday
Ramadan begins* | Muslim
(usually 5/23/20)
Month devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur’an

27 Monday
Ninth Day of Ridvan | Baha’i
Day of recognition for the historic and symbolic event of Baha’u’llah’s exile from Baghdad

30 Thursday
Twelfth Day of Ridvan | Baha’i
Final day of the twelve-day festival which celebrates the beginning of the Baha’i faith

May
1 Friday
**Beltane** | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in sacred marriage, the basis of all creation

7 Thursday
**National Day of Prayer** | Interfaith
U.S. day of observance encouraging prayer among all faiths

Visakha Puja (Buddha Day) | Buddhist
Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Guatama Buddha in the Theravada tradition

9 Saturday
**Observance of the Publication of Dianetics** | Scientology
Observance of the publication of *Dianetics: the Modern Science of Mental Health* in 1950 which was the forerunner of Scientology

13 Wednesday
**World Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Day** | Buddhist
Celebration of the spiritual discipline introduced in China in 1992

19 Tuesday
**Laylat al Qadr** | Muslim
The Night of Destiny, the first revelation of the Qur’an to Prophet Muhammad

21 Thursday
**World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development** | Interfaith

22 Friday
**Declaration of The Bab** | Baha’i
Celebration of The Bab, Ali Muhammad’s, announcement in 1844 that he was the “gate” to the coming of the promised one of all religions

23 Saturday
**Eid al Fitr** | Muslim
Festival that marks the end to the fasting month of Ramadan

27 Wednesday
**Ascension of Baha’u’llah** | Baha’i
Remembrance of the passing and ascension of Baha’u’llah, founder of the Baha’i faith

28 Thursday
**Feast of the Ascension** | Orthodox Christian
Commemorates the Christian belief of the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

29 Friday
**Ascension of Jesus** | Christian
Remembrance of the departure of Jesus from Earth after his resurrection. Celebrated 40 days after Easter

**Shavuot** | Jewish (until 5/30/20)
Celebration of the descent of Moses from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments

31 Sunday
**Pentecost** | Christian
Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

June

7 Sunday
**Trinity Sunday** | Christian
Celebrates doctrine of the Trinity, remembering and honoring God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**Pentecost** | Orthodox Christian
Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

11 Thursday
**Corpus Christi** | Catholic Christian
Celebration of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist- also known as transubstantiation

14 Sunday
**Race Unity Day** | Baha’i
Day to promote racial harmony and understanding

**All Saints Day** | Christian, Orthodox Christian
Celebrating the memory of all saints

16 Tuesday
**Guru Arjan Martyrdom** | Sikh
Honoring the first Sikh martyr whose death resulted in changes in the faith’s tradition

19 Friday
**Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** | Catholic Christian
Occasion to pay homage to Christ’s all-encompassing love for humanity

24 Wednesday
**Litha** | Wiccan/Pagan
Celebration of the sacred marriage, in which the energy of the gods is poured into the services of life (Summer Solstice)

25 Thursday
July

5 Sunday
**Asalha Puja Day** | Buddhist
Also known as Dhamma Day, the day that marks the beginning of Buddhism

9 Thursday
**Obon/Ulambana** | Buddhist, Shinto
Also known as Ancestor Day, a time to relieve the suffering of ghosts by making offerings to deceased ancestors

10 Friday
**Martydom of The Bab** | Baha’i
Observance of the day Ali Muhammad was executed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers

24 Friday
**Pioneer Day** | Mormon
Observation of the arrival of the first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA