

Calendar of Religious Holy Days and Observances

2024

Date	Holiday	Religion	Type/Recommended Accommodations
January			
1	Feast of Mary, Mother of God - Celebrates Mary's motherhood of Jesus.	Christian/Catholic	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
6	Epiphany - Commemorates the revelation of God through Jesus Christ.	Christian/Catholic	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
15	Martin Luther King Day - marks the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement.	Federal Holiday	School is closed. Not work-restricted but all are encouraged to participate in observance activities.
18	Bodhi Day - celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha, ca. 596 B.C.E.	Buddhist	None. Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance.
February			
Black History Month			
10	Chinese New Year - celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar	Public Holiday	None
14	Ash Wednesday - The first day of Lent, preparation for Easter observed through reflection on the life and death of Jesus Christ.	Christian	Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance. Observers may wear ashes on their foreheads.
15	Parinirvana – Festival commemorating the death of the Buddha and	Buddhist	None. Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance.

	attainment of Parinirvana.		
March	Women's History Month		
8	Maha Shivaratri- Celebration of the birth of Lord Shiva.	Hindu	Some employees may choose to take the day off.
March 10-April 9	Ramadan begins- the start of the holy Islamic festival honoring the first revelations of the Qur'an to the Prophet Mohammed.	Islam	Avoid scheduling major academic deadlines during this time. Be sensitive to the fact that employees/students celebrating Ramadan will be fasting during the day (continuously for 30 days). If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (halal restrictions apply).
15	Shri Ramakrishna Jayanti- A celebration of the anniversary of the birth (Jayanthi), in 1836, of Ramakrishna, a Hindu mystic and yogi who was known for his message of the harmony of religions.	Hindu	Work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities.
21	Feast of Saint Benedict- Commemorates the death of St. Benedict of in 547 A.D.	Catholic/Christian	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Benedictine university.
23-24	Purim- a festival that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people living throughout the ancient Persian Empire from persecution by Haman the Agagite.	Jewish	Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (kosher restrictions apply)
24	Palm Sunday- Begins Christian Holy Week, the last week of Lent and the final week before Easter. It refers to the palms that people spread on the road as Jesus entered Jerusalem to	Christian Eastern Orthodox	NOT work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.

	celebrate the feast day of Passover.		
25	Feast of the Annunciation -A Catholic celebration of the announcement made by the angel Gabriel to Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus, Son of God.	Christian	NOT work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
25	Holi -Festival of Colours, Love, and Spring. It celebrates the eternal and divine love of the deities Radha and Krishna.	Hindu	Not work-restricted. Flexibility when scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Hindu employees/students may request a vacation day on this date
28	Holy Thursday (or Maundy Thursday) - Celebrated before Good Friday, Christians commemorate the institution of the Eucharist as the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and the institution of the sacrament of priesthood.	Christian	Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance.
29	Good Friday - Celebrated on the Friday before Easter, Christians remember the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.	Christian	School is closed. Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance.
31	Easter - The central Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.	Christian	School is closed. Because this holiday falls on Sunday, academic accommodations may not be required.
April	Arab American Heritage Month	Autism Awareness Month	
9	Ramadan ends	Islam	Work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities. (Friday afternoon)

9-10	Eid al-Fitr - Islamic festival of the breaking of the fast of Ramadan. One of two major festivals; the other being id al-Adha.	Islam	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Employees will likely ask to take a vacation day. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply)
17	Rama Navami - A festival celebrating the birth of the most supreme God in Hinduism, Lord Rama.	Hindu	Work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities.
April 22-30	Passover begins - Eight-day celebration marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt; Seder ceremonies emphasize the concept of freedom. The first two days and the last two days are observed as holy days.	Jewish	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the first two and last two days of the holiday, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply—the use of leavening is prohibited so, for example, matzah is eaten in place of bread.)
May	Jewish American Heritage Month	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	
3	Good Friday -Christian faiths based on the Julian calendar such as Eastern Orthodox remember the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.	Eastern Orthodox	Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance. Because this holiday falls on Sunday, academic accommodations may not be required.
5-6	Yon HaShoah - International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Jewish	Provide food accommodations as requested (kosher restrictions apply)
9	Feast of the Ascension - The fortieth day after Easter Sunday. As a holy day of obligation, Catholics commemorate the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven and	Christian/Catholic	NOT work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship.

	celebrate on the following Sunday.		
19	Pentecost- Held on the seventh Sunday after Easter, Christians commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirits upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. This day also marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.	Christian/Catholic	Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship.
23	Vesak- The most important of the Buddhist festivals celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha.	Buddhist	Work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities.
26	Trinity Sunday- commemorate the Christian doctrine of the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.	Christian/Catholic	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
30	Corpus Christi Sunday- celebrates the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.	Christian/Catholic	NOT work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
June	LGBTQ+ Pride Month	Caribbean American Heritage Month	
7	Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus- Celebrated on the Friday following Corpus Christi Sunday, Christians honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus	Christian/Catholic	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
11-13	Shavout- Jewish celebration of the spring harvest season and the gift of the Torah.	Jewish	Work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities.

16-17	Eid-ul-Adha - festival of sacrifice that commemorates the faith of Abraham; also a memorial to the dead. One of two major festivals; the other being id al-Fitr.	Islam	Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the first day. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).
24	Nativity of St. John the Baptist - A Christian solemnity that honors the birth and death of St. John the Baptist and his example as a follower of Christ.	Christian/Catholic	NOT work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
26	Somali Independence Day	Cultural Holiday	None
29	Feast of Saints Peter and Paul - A Catholic liturgical feast in honor of the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome. These two apostles hold significance as the leading saints of the early Church.	Christian/Catholic	NOT work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
July	Disability Pride Month		
10	Bahamian Independence Day	Cultural Holiday	None
16-17	Ashura - marks the day in which the Islamic prophet Musa was saved by Allah when He parted the Sea while leading the children of Israel to the land of Israel.	Islam	Work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities.
August			
12-13	Tisha B'Av - An annual fast day in Judaism, on which a number of disasters in Jewish history occurred,	Jewish	25 hours fasting, work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities (optional).

	primarily the destruction of both Solomon's Temple and the Second Temple in Jerusalem.		
15	Feast of the Assumption of Mary - celebration of Mary's assumption into heaven at the end of her earthly life.	Christian/ Catholic	NOT work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance.
26	Krishna Janmashtami -celebration of the birth of Krishna.	Hindu	Work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities.
September	Hispanic Heritage Month September 15- October 15	Suicide Prevention Awareness Heritage Month	
15-16	Mawlid-al-Nabi -observance of the birthday of the Islamic prophet Muhammad	Islam	Work restricted or limit work and/or physical or mental activity including classroom and work activities. Muslim employees/students may be fasting.
16-21	St. Cloud Pride Week An annual week-long celebration held in St. Cloud dedicated to celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride. in the St. Cloud area. Events are open to all.	Cultural Holiday	Sponsored by St. Cloud Pride .
October	Hispanic Heritage Month September 15- October 15		
2-4	Rosh Hashanah -Beginning of the Jewish Year and High Holy Days	Jewish	Work restricted. Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food

			accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).
11-12	Yom Kippur - Day of atonement to reflect on sins and seek forgiveness from God	Jewish	Work restricted. Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date and after a day of fasting.
14	Indigenous Peoples' Day - celebrates and honors indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures.	Cultural Holiday/State Holiday	School is closed. Not work-restricted but all are encouraged to participate in educational observance activities.
16-23	Sukkot - The Feast of the Tabernacles and Harvest festival	Jewish	Work restricted. Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).
23-25	Shemini Atzeret - Marks the end of Sukkot	Jewish	Work restricted. Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply)
24-25	Simchat Torah Celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle	Jewish	Work restricted. Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).
November	Native American/Alaska Native Heritage Month		
1	All Saints Day - As a holy day of obligation, Roman Catholics honor all of the saints, both known and unknown.	Christian/Catholic	NOT work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance.
1	Diwali - A five-day festival of lights representing the start of the Hindu New Year. Diwali celebrates the victory of the Good	Hindu	NOT work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance.

	over the Evil and Light over Darkness.		
2	All Souls Day- A day Roman Catholics pay respect and remember the souls of friends and loved ones who have died and gone to heaven	Christian/Catholic	NOT work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance.
24	Feast of Christ the King- A Catholic solemnity that honors Jesus Christ as lord of all creation.	Christian/Catholic	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
28	Thanksgiving	Federal Holiday	School is closed.
December			
1	Advent Season- a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.	Christian	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception- celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 December, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary on 8 September. It is one of the most important Marian feasts in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church.	Christian/Catholic	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.
12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (<i>Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe</i>)- a celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a	Christian/Catholic	Not work-restricted by definition but may be particularly significant to persons attending or working at a Catholic university.

	Catholic title of Mary, mother of Jesus.		
25	Christmas -Annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus	Christian	Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance. National holiday in the United States, so special accommodations are likely not required.
25	Hanukkah Begins - An eight-day festival of lights that commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrians.	Jewish	Not work-restricted by definition but may involve a special worship or observance. Provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply—potato pancakes, doughnuts or other fried food is customary).
26- January 1	Kwanzaa -Week-long celebration honoring African heritage in African-American culture	Cultural Holiday	Not work-restricted by definition. Schools are usually closed during this time so specific accommodations may not be necessary