



## Holy Days of Observance fall 2020-spring 2021

This guide to the most prominent holy days of several major religions is offered for your information. While there is a greater breadth of observances and religions, these were selected as they are from the major traditions most represented and observed on our campus and are likely to affect students during the time classes are in session (Monday through Friday), necessitating worship in a religious community or fasting. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements for missing class or coursework. Faculty and staff are asked to take these dates into consideration when making plans for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year, including events outside of class such as speaker series and evening and weekend programs.

### Dates to Keep in Mind:

Friday, 9/18-Sunday, 9/20 Rosh Hashanah (begins and ends at sundown)

Sunday, 9/27-Monday, 9/28: Yom Kippur (begins and ends at sundown)

Saturday, 11/14: Diwali

Sunday, 11/29-Friday, 12/25: Advent season (observed on Sundays); ends with Christmas

Thursday, 1/7: Orthodox Christmas

Wednesday, 2/17: Ash Wednesday

Saturday, 3/27-Sunday, 4/4: Passover (begins/ends at sundown; 1<sup>st</sup>/last 2 days most important)

Sunday, 3/28-Sunday, 4/4: Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter)

Monday, 3/29: Holi

Monday, 4/12-Wednesday, 5/12: Ramadan

Sunday, 5/2: Orthodox Easter/Pascha

### Holy Day Descriptions:

**Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)**—Jewish New Year, High Holy Day; Students may attend local services. We often observe it on campus with a prayer service. Avoid scheduling events. |

**Yom Kippur (Judaism)**—Day of Atonement, High Holy Day; the most important of the Jewish holidays; Observant Jews will likely attend services off-campus and may fast. Avoid scheduling events on either day.

**Diwali (Hinduism)**—Festival of lights; a celebration with fireworks and lighted candles and prayers to the Goddess of Wealth. As neither candles nor fireworks are permitted in living and study spaces, students are invited to the prayer room in the chapel to light a candle in observance. Students usually have a table display in Moody with information

**Advent (Christianity)**—a 4-week season of preparation, celebrating the movement from darkness to light and anticipating the “coming” of **Christmas**, the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

**Ash Wednesday (Christianity)**— the beginning of the season of Lent, which is the 40-day period leading up to Easter. Celebrants usually attend a service and receive ashes on their foreheads as a reminder that “from dust we came, and to dust we shall return”. It’s a season of fasting and mourning. Ashes are usually offered at lunchtime in Moody, and at a service in the Meditation Chapel on campus.

**Passover (Judaism)**— A major Jewish festival marking the exodus of Jews from slavery in Egypt. It’s celebrated with a storytelling Seder meal of symbolic foods. We have a Passover Seder on campus, date and time to be determined. Avoid scheduling events the first day and evening. Food accommodations (avoid leaven) may be requested.

**Holy Week (Christianity)**— includes Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and **Easter Sunday**; commemorates Jesus’ last week, including his entry into Jerusalem, his last meal with his disciples, crucifixion, and resurrection. Each is usually marked with a service. We generally have Good Friday prayer stations and an Easter service and egg hunt on campus.

**Holi (Hinduism)**— the Festival of Colors, and is celebrated with bonfires and colored powders to usher in spring. Our campus celebration is sponsored by Cultural and Community Engagement and ACCENT.

**Ramadan (Islam)**—one of the Five Pillars of Islam; month of fasting (dawn to sunset) and sacred time of prayer and charity; the Islamic calendar is lunar, so the festivals like Ramadan rotate through the seasons. \*\*Note that this will take place towards the end of the semester and final exams, meaning that practicing Muslim students will not be eating until after sundown on these days. Many schools work with students to reschedule exams and project due dates to morning times after students have eaten. Students may sign up with me for meal accommodations offered through the dining hall\*\*

I encourage you to help our students make accommodations for their religious observances, understanding that there may be additional holy days celebrated that are not listed here. There is a multi-faith prayer room in the chapel that is available for use during building hours (6am-midnight) for prayer and meditation for all students, faculty and staff. We observe a number of religious holy days on campus depending on student interest and leadership. The Better Together interfaith club and student chaplains are also resources.

While my last day at Hollins will be June 30, 2020, please know this position will be posted and filled to make sure there is a resource for supporting students, faculty, and staff in their spiritual and religious needs. I have greatly appreciated the privilege of serving as your chaplain for the past nine years, will miss you, and wish you many blessings in the year ahead.

With care,



Rev. Jenny Call  
university chaplain

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