

July 2026-July 2027 Religious and Cultural Holiday Calendar

*Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.

July 2026

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).

August 2026

1 Lughnasadh Wiccan: Midpoint between solstice and equinox, marking the start of the harvest season. Celebration of the abundance and thriving natural world. A time to pause and celebrate all the effort put into where we are now, while also acknowledging there is more work ahead.

13-16 Obon Buddhist: Japanese Buddhist Festival to honor ancestors

15 Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Dormition of the Theotokos Catholic: Celebration of assumption of Mary into Heaven. Holy day of Obligation for Catholics

26 Mawlid al Nabi Muslim: The celebration of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad

28 Raksha Bandhan Hindu: Festival honoring family ties between brothers and sisters

September 2026

4 Krishna Janmashtami Hindu: Festival celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu. He exhorted the epic poem "Gita" to Arjun.

5 **Leil S'lichot** Jewish: Prayers for forgiveness in preparation for High Holy Days (begins after nightfall)

8-14 **Paryushana Parva** Jain: Eight-day festival of devotion

12-13 **Rosh Hashanah** Jewish: New Year and beginning of High Holy Days (begins sundown on evening prior)

14 **Ganesh Chaturthi** Hindu: Festival honoring Lord Ganesh

14 **Feast of the Holy Cross** Orthodox Christian: Eastern Orthodox feast of the Holy Cross

14 **Fast of Gedaliah** Jewish: Day of fasting marking the assassination of Gedaliah, the governor of Judea, following the Babylonian conquest (begins at dawn and ends at nightfall)

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

21-29 **Mabon** Wiccan: Autumn equinox, time for celebrating abundance, wealth, and generosity. A time to revisit goals and accomplishments and begin preparing for winter.

26-Oct. 3 **Sukkot** Jewish: Festival of Booths (begins at sundown on evening prior). A week-long holiday traditionally celebrated by eating and dwelling in temporary structures with a roof of palm fronds and other branches.

28 **Birth of Confucius** Observed in religious traditions emanating from China

October 2026

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

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

11-19 **Navaratri** Hindu: Nine-night festival worshiping different forms of the Goddess Shakti

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

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

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.

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 2026

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

8 **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.

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

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

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

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

15 **Nativity Fast** Orthodox: Time of prayer and abstinence in preparation for the Nativity of Christ

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

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

26 **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

29 **First Sunday of Advent** Christian: Season of spiritual preparation and anticipation in the liturgical year that begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

December 2026

4-12 **Chanukah** Jewish: The Jewish festival of dedication (begins at sundown)

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.

7-13 Chalice Unitarian: Chalice is a week-long celebration of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. Chalice 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.

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: Celebrates Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment. It is also called Rohatsu, which commemorates the 8 days the Buddha sat with determination to understand the cause and cessation of suffering.

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

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

20 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.

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

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

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

January 2027

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

5-6 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 Jerusalem and ascension to the heavens and back in a single night.

5 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

10 Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christian: Commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus

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

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

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

2 Tu BiShvat Jewish: New Year for the Trees (begins sundown evening prior)

February 2027

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 Parinirvana Day* Buddhist – Jain: Commemoration of the Shakyamuni Buddha's death and entering into Nirvana.

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

26-Mar.1 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.

March 2027

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

5 27th Night of Ramadan Islam

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

6 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.

10 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.

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

15 Orthodox First Day of Lent or Clean Monday Orthodox Christian: Start of the 40-day fast before Pascha (Easter)

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

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

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

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

21 Naw Ruz Bahá'í: New Year

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

22 **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)

22 **Holi*** Hindu: Colorful festival of spring

23 **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).

23 **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

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

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

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

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

April 2027

1 **Theravada New Year** Buddhist

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

7-15 **Chaitra Navaratri** Hindu: Nine-day festival that signifies the victory of good over evil.

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

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

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

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

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

21-28 **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).

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

24 **Lazarus Saturday** Orthodox Christian

25 **Palm Sunday** Orthodox Christian

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

30 **Holy Friday** Orthodox Christian

May 2027

1 **Vesak** Buddhist: Vesak, or Wesak, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha. It is celebrated mostly in the Theravada tradition.

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

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

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

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

6 **Solemnity of the Ascension** Catholic: Celebration of Jesus' Ascension into heaven. It is a holy day of obligation. This applies to the Catholic provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York (which includes the Diocese of Syracuse), Omaha, and Philadelphia. In other provinces, this feast is transferred to Sunday, May 9.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 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.”

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

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

June 2027

6 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.

11-12 Shavuot Jewish: Festival of Weeks receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai (begins at sundown evening prior)

15 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.

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

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

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.

July 2027

22 **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)

10 **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

**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/>*