

Interfaith Observances Planning Calendar

	2016-2017 Academic Year	2017-2018 Academic Year	2018-2019 Academic Year	Description
Eid al-Fitr**	Thurs., July 12	Mon., June 26	Fri., June 15	Islamic Festival of Sacrifice. The day after Arafat, the most important day
Rosh Hashanah*	Oct.3-Oct. 4	Sept. 20 –Sept. 22	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer and penitence. The story of Abraham is read, the ram's horn is sounded, and special foods are prepared and shared.
Yom Kippur*	Wed., Oct. 12	Sept. 29 – Sept. 30	Sept. 18 – Sept. 19	Jewish Day of Atonement. This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with strict fasting and ceremonial repentance.
Sukkot*	Mon., Oct. 17	Oct. 4 – Oct. 11	Sept. 23 – Oct 30	Jewish Feast of Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents. Temporary dwelling places have leaves for a roof so the sky can be seen. In temperate climates, night is spent in the Succoth.
Ramadan**	June 6-July 5	May 27 – June 2	May 16 – June 14	9th month on Islamic calendar, devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an. The event begins when authorities in Saudi Arabia sight the new moon of the 9th month. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. There is strict fasting from sunrise to sunset.
Diwali	Sun., Oct. 30	Thurs., Oct 19	Wed., Nov. 7	Hindu Festival of Lights symbolizing the human urge to move toward the light. Gift exchanges, fireworks and festive meals. Jain celebration of Lord Mahavira's day of final liberation.
Eid al-Adha**	Tues., Sept. 13	Sept. 1 – Sept. 2	Aug. 21 – Aug. 22	Islamic Festival of Sacrifice. The day after Arafat, the most important day in Hajj ritual. A three-day festival recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah.
Chanukah*	Sun., Dec. 25	Dec. 12 – Dec. 20	Dec. 2 – Dec. 10	Also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire of the 2nd century BC.
Christmas Day	Sun., Dec. 25	Mon., Dec. 25	Tues., Dec. 25	A season of the Christian year following Advent and preceding Epiphany.
Kwanzaa	Mon., Dec. 26	Tues., Dec. 26	Wed., Dec 26	An African American and Pan-African holiday celebrating family, community and culture, Kwanzaa is a secular observance with some religious participation. Seven life virtues are presented. The dates are always December 26 - January 1.
Chinese New Year	Sat., Jan. 28	Fri., Feb. 16	Tues., Feb 5	Begins a fifteen Day Festival for Chinese people of all religions. Family reunions with thanksgiving and remembrance of departed relatives take place. Traditionally a religious ceremony honors Heaven and Earth.
Ash Wednesday	Wed., Mar. 1	Wed., Feb. 14	Wed., Mar. 6	Christian observance to begin the 40 day season of Lent. Ashes are marked on worshippers as a sign of penitence.
Vernal Equinox	Mon., Mar. 20	Tues., Mar. 20	Wed., Mar. 20	Pagan religions in the ancient Mediterranean region had a major seasonal day of religious celebration at, or following, the spring equinox.
Palm Sunday	Sun., April 9	Sun., Mar. 25	Sun., Apr. 14	Christian celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The day begins Holy Week. It is observed by worship celebrations and parades using palm branches.
Passover *	Mon., April 10	Mar. 30 – Apr. 7	Apr. 19 – Apr. 27	Jewish 8-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The story of the Exodus is recounted, and the ongoing struggle of all peoples for freedom from internal and external tyranny is celebrated. A special meal is a central feature. Also called Pesach.
Good Friday	Fri., April 14	Fri. Mar. 30	Fri., Apr. 19	Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events
Easter	Sun., April 16	Sun., Apr. 1	Sun., - Apr. 21	The most holy of Christian sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion. Observances include worship services beginning at sunrise, special music, feasting, and parades.
Shavuot*	Tues., May 30	May 19 – May 21	Jun. 8 – Jun.10	Jewish celebration of Moses' descent from Mt Sinai with the ten commandments. Plants and flowers are used in decorations.

* All Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the evening prior to the day of the holiday. In addition to dates noted, observant Jews celebrate the second, seventh and eighth days of Passover; the second, eighth and ninth days of Sukkot; and two days of Shavuot. Mass. Lawyers Diary and Manual.

** Due to the lunar calendar, these are only approximate dates.