

## Religious Holidays 2016-2017

### Baha'i:

**Martyrdom of the Bab** July 9, 2016  
Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabriz, Persia, of the 30 year old Siyyid 'Ali-Muhammad, the Bab, the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith.

**Birth of the Bab** October 20, 2016  
Baha'i observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Bab," the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, in Shiraz, Persia.

**Birth of Baha'u'llah** November 12, 2016  
Anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Baha'u'llah, prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, in Nur, Persia.

**Day of the Covenant** November 26, 2016  
Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Baha'u'llah's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.

**World Religion Day** January 15, 2017  
Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the people of the earth.

**Ayyam-i-ha or Intercalary Days** February 26, 2017  
"Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, in leap year, before the last month of the Baha'i year.

**Nineteen Day Fast** March 2, 2017  
Baha'i is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.

**Festival of Ridvan** April 21, 2017  
commemorate the 12 days when Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder resided in a garden called Ridvan (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (4/21), ninth (4/29), and twelfth (5/2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'i's suspend work.

**Declaration of the Bab** May 23, 2017  
Commemoration of the May 23, 1844, when the Bab, the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, announced in Shiraz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

**Ascension of Baha'u'llah** May 29, 2017  
Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith.

**Race Unity Day** June 11, 2017  
Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

### Buddhist:

**Asalha Puja Day/Dharma Day** July 19, 2016  
Buddhist observance of the day when Gautama Buddha made his first public proclamation to five ascetics at Deer Park, Banares. He taught the middle way, the noble eight-fold path and the four noble truths.

**Obon** August 15, 2016  
Japanese Buddhist festival to honor deceased ancestors. Involves lighting of bonfires, traditional meals, paper lanterns, folk dances.

**Rohatsu (Bodhi Day)** December 8, 2016  
Buddhist celebration of the enlightenment of Buddha.

**Mahayana New Year** January 12, 2017

**Chinese New Year** January 28, 2017  
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.

**Nirvana Day** February 15, 2017  
A regional observance of the death of the Buddha.

**Magha Puja Day** March 12, 2017  
Celebration of the presentation of teaching by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.

**Therevadin New Year** April 11, 2017

**Visakha Puja Day** May 10, 2017  
Marking of the birth, enlightenment and death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha.

**BOLD** titles are primary holy days of tradition

### Christian:

**Assumption of Mary** August 15, 2016

**All Saint's Day** November 1, 2016

**All Soul's Day** November 2, 2016  
(Catholic Christian)

**Advent – First Sunday** November 27, 2016

**Immaculate Conception** December 8, 2016

**Christmas** December 25, 2016

Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts and family parties

**Mary Mother of God** January 1, 2017

**Shrove Tuesday** February 28, 2017

**Ash Wednesday –** March 1, 2017

Lent begins

**Palm Sunday** April 9, 2017

**Maundy Thursday** April 13, 2017

**Good Friday\*\*** April 14, 2017

Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.

**Easter** April 16, 2017

The most holy of Christian Sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.

Divine Mercy Sunday	April 23, 2017
Ascension Thursday	May 25, 2017
<b>Pentecost(Whit Sunday)</b>	<b>June 4, 2017</b>
Christian observation of the day when the God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind. It is a traditional day for baptism and confirmation of new Christians.	
Trinity Sunday	June 11, 2017
Corpus Christi	June 18, 2017

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\*\*Fasting may be observed in these communities on this day

### Orthodox Christian:

The Indictus	September 1, 2016
The New Ecclesiastical Year	
Nativity of the Theotokos	September 8, 2016
Mother of God	
Exaltation of the Holy Cross	September 14, 2016
Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple	November 21, 2016
Nativity of Christ the Messiah	December 25, 2016
The Theophany	January 6, 2017
<b>Nativity of Christ</b>	<b>January 7, 2017</b>
<b>(old calendar)</b>	
Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple	February 2, 2017
Great Lent begins	February 27, 2017
Sunday of Orthodoxy	March 5, 2017
The Annunciation	March 25, 2017
Saturday of Lazarus	April 8, 2017
Palm Sunday	April 9, 2017
Holy Week	April 10-16, 2017
<b>Great and Holy Friday</b>	<b>April 14, 2017</b>
<b>Orthodox Easter (Pascha)</b>	<b>April 16, 2017</b>
Ascension	May 25, 2017
Pentecost	June 4, 2017

### Hindu:

Raksha Bandhan	August 18, 2016
Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sister in a family.	
<b>Krishna Janmashtami</b>	<b>August 25, 2016</b>
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna – the 8 <sup>th</sup> incarnation of god Vishnu	
Ganesh Chaturthi	August 5, 2016
Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence and success.	
<b>Navaratri</b>	<b>October 1 – 9, 2016</b>
Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings.	

Dasera/Dussehra	October 14, 2016
Celebration of victory and valor. Lord Rama is remembered as winning a victory over evil.	

<b>Diwali</b>	<b>October 30, 2016</b>
Festival of lights symbolizing the human urges to move toward the light.	

Makar Sankranti	January 14, 2017
Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.	

Vasant Panchami	February 1, 2017
Celebration dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning.	

Maha Shivaratri	February 25, 2017
Festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati.	

Holi	March 13, 2017
Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. Observed in a colorful and boisterous manner.	

Ramayana	April 28, 2017
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Ramanavami	April 5, 2017
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama, hero of the religious epic poem, The Ramayana.	

Hanuman Jayanti	April 11, 2017
Celebration of Hanuman who was an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless work are encouraged.	

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### Jewish:

Tisha B'Av	August 14, 2016
Day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 b.c.e. and 70 c.e.	

<b>Rosh HaShanah*</b>	<b>October 3-4, 2016</b>
Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer and penitence.	

<b>Yom Kippur</b>	<b>October 12, 2016</b>
Jewish Day of Atonement. This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with strict fasting and ceremonial repentance.	

<b>Sukkot*</b>	<b>October 17-24, 2016</b>
Feast of Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.	

<b>Shemini Atzeret</b>	<b>October 24, 2016</b>
Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.	

<b>Simhat Torah</b>	<b>October 25, 2016</b>
Day to celebrate the reading of the Law.	

<b>Hanukkah</b>	<b>December 25-Jan.-1, 2017</b>
Festival of Lights. Commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 b.c.e.	

Tu BiShvat	February 11, 2017
Celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of foods native to Israel. Also known as "New Year for Trees".	

<b>Purim</b>	<b>March 12, 2017</b>
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide.	

<b>Pesach*</b>	<b>April 11-18, 2017</b>
Jewish 8 day pilgrimage festival celebrating the Exodus from slavery to freedom. Also known as Passover. The first two and the last two days are	

the primary days of obligation.

**Yom HaShoa** April 23, 2017

Jewish Holocaust Day. Remembering the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45.

**Lag B'Omer** May 14, 2017

Observation of the counting of the day – the link – between Pasach and Shavout.

**Shavuot\*** May 31 – June 1, 2017

Celebration of Moses' descent from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments.

**BOLD** titles are primary holy days of tradition

\*All Jewish holidays begin at sundown the night before the date listed. Sukkot and Passover are 8 day festivals. Although the first two days and the last two days have the strictest holiday observance (i.e. no driving, no writing, etc.), all 8 days have certain restrictions and should be considered according to the levels of stated observance by the diverse Jewish religious communities at Cornell. Holidays marked with an asterisk are observed for one day only by Reform Jews. Holidays noted in **bold** are days on which no work is permitted and absences from school or work should be excused.

### Muslim:

**Ramadan Begins\*** June 6, 2016

9<sup>th</sup> month on Islamic calendar, devoted fasting from first light to sunset. In this month, the Prophet Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation the Qur'an, is commemorated. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. The start date is set either by following Saudi practice of by moon sighting.

**Laylat al Qadr\*** July 1, 2016

This is the 'Night of Destiny' or 'Night of Power'. It marks the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

**Eid al-Fitr\*** July 7, 2016

Marks the end of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to God.

**Eid al Adha\*** September 11, 2016

Festival of Sacrifice. The day after Arafat, marks the end of the Hajj.

**Muharram (Al-Hijra\*– New Year)** October 2, 2016

The date of the Emigration of Muhammad and his followers to Medina in 622 c.e. Islamic New Year.

**`Ashura\*** October 11, 2016

There is an optional fast this day. The Shi'a observance is based on the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Husayn, martyred on this day in 683/684 c.e. at the battle off Karbala. Sunni observance is related to numerous Biblical and Qur'anic events.

**Mawlid an-Nabi\*** December 12, 2016

Commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, in about 570 c.e. Not universally observed.

**Laylat al-Mi`raj** April 24, 2017

Commemorates Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and ascension to heaven.

**Laylat al-Bara`ah** May 11, 2017

Night of Forgiveness (also known as Shab-e baraat). A night of prayer to God for forgiveness for oneself and for the dead. Preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer begins on this date.

**Ramadan Begins\*** May 30, 2017

9<sup>th</sup> month on Islamic calendar, devoted fasting from first light to sunset. In this month, the Prophet Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation the Qur'an, is commemorated. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. The start date is set either by following Saudi practice of by moon sighting.

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\*Actual sightings of the crescent moon may mean these dates are one day earlier or one day later.