

The following list of major religious holidays and celebrations was prepared by Loyola College in Maryland and is provided for informational purposes. In working with students who may need accommodation for religious observations, faculty should consult the **Faculty Handbook, Section VIII, C. Notification of Causes of Absence, paragraph 5.**

“Students returning to a class after a legitimate absence, can expect their instructor's assistance within the limits of the instructor's established attendance policy. In cases of legitimate absence-such as illness, death in the immediate family, religious observance, jury duty, involvement in University-sponsored activities-some accommodation (makeup work, excused absences, change of grade computation) will be arranged subject to previously announced limitations. There are occasions where the size or nature of the course makes it necessary to set limits on the number of excused absences or the availability of makeup work, particularly for exams or special events such as field trips or outside speakers. Such limitations will be explained in the instructor's statement of attendance policy at the beginning of each course. Students with scheduled activities must check with the instructor as early as possible to clarify that there will be no conflict with the policy.”

Major Religious Holidays and Celebrations July 2009 – August 2010

Those holidays indicated in **bold** with an asterisk (*) require abstinence from all secular activity; i.e., homework, exams, field trips, class meetings, etc. While the other religious holidays may not necessarily require abstinence from all secular activity, some of them may involve fasting, a dietary change, or special celebrations that may occur during the day or the evening.

Holidays indicated with a double asterisk (**) are Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics. In addition, all Sundays are Holy Days of Obligation. When the solemn feasts of Mary, the Mother of God (January 1), the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (August 15), and All Saints (November 1) fall on a Saturday or Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is abolished. Although the obligation to attend Holy Mass is abolished, parishes continue to observe these holy days by scheduling one or more masses at a convenient time so that those who wish to participate are able to do so.

Please Note:

1. In the Jewish tradition, all work-related activities stop from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday to observe Shabbat (Sabbath).
2. Islamic dates are approximate. The official days can be plus/minus one day and depend upon the official physical sighting of the new moon.
3. According to the Eastern Orthodox Church calendar, the day begins after evening vespers at sunset and concludes with cespers on the following day. For this reason, the observance of all Eastern Orthodox holy days begins at sunset on the evening before the holy day.

August 2009

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
2	Sun	Fast in honor of Holy Mary, Mother of Lord Jesus (begins at sunset on the 1st) - Orthodox Christian
5	Wed	Raksha Bandhan - Hindu
5	Wed	Lailat al Bara'ah - Islamic
6	Thu	Transfiguration of Our Lord (begins at sunset on the 5th) - Orthodox Christian
15	Sat	Dormition of the Theotokes (begins at sunset on the 14th) - Orthodox Christian
15	Sat	**Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian
22	Sat	Ramadan (begins sundown on the 1st and continues through October 21st) - Islamic

September 2009

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
16	Wed	Laylat al Kadar (begins sundown on the 15th) - Islamic
19-20	Sat-Sun	*Rosh Hashanah (begins at sundown on the 18th) - Jewish
19-27	Sat- Sun	Navaratri - Hindu
21	Mon	Eid al Fitr (Ramadan ends) - Islamic
28	Mon	*Yom Kippur (begins sundown on the 27th) - Jewish

October 2009

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
3-9	Sat-Fri	*Sukkot (begins at sundown on the 2nd) (no activities the 3rd and 4th) - Jewish
10	Sat	*Shemini Atzeret (begins at sundown on the 9th) - Jewish
11	Sun	*Simchat Torah (begins at sundown on the 10th) - Jewish

17	Sat	*Diwali - Hindu
20	Tue	*Birth of B'ab - Baha'i

November 2009

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
1	Sun	** Solemnity of All Saints - Christian
2	Mon	Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) - Catholic Christian
12	Thu	* Birth of Baha'u'llah (begins at sundown on the 11th) - Bahá'í
26	Thu	Day of Covenant - Baha'i
28	Sat	*Eid al Adha - Islamic
29	Sun	First Sunday of Advent - Christian

December 2009

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
8	Tue	Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) - Buddhist
8	Tue	**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian
11/29, 12/6, 13, 20	Sun	Sundays of Advent - Christian
12-19	Sat- Sun	*Hanukkah (begins at sundown on the 11th) - Jewish
18	Sat	Al- Hijra/Muharram (New Year) (begins sundown on the 17th) - Islamic
25	Fri	**Christmas - Christian
26-1/1	Sat-Fri	Kwanzaa - African American Celebration
27	Sun	Ashura (begins sundown on the 26th) - Islamic

January 2010

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
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1	Fri	** Octave of Christmas, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
6	Wed	Epiphany - Christian
7	Wed	*Feast of the Nativity - Orthodox Christian
14	Thu	*Chinese New Year (Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist) - Chinese
30	Sat	*Tu B'Shvat (begins at sundown on the 27th) - Jewish

February 2010

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
15	Mon	Lent Begins (begins at sunset on the 14th) - Orthodox Christian
17	Wed	Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) - Christian
26	Fri	Mawlid an Nabi (begins sundown on the 25th) - Islamic
28	Sun	*Purim (begins at sundown on the 27th) - Jewish

March 2010

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
21	Sat	Naw Ruz (New Year) - Baha'i
16-24	Tue-Wed	Ramayana Week - Hindu
28	Sun	Palm Sunday
30	Tue	Magha Puja - Buddhist
30-31	Tue-Wed	*Pesach (Passover) First Two Days (begin at sundown on the 29th) - Jewish (no activities on the 30th and 31st

April 2010

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
1	Thu	Holy Thursday - Christian
2	Fri	Good Friday - Christian

2	Fri	Holy Friday - Orthodox Christian
4	Sun	**Easter - Christian
4	Sun	Easter- Orthodox Christian
5-6	Mon-Tue	*Pesach - (Passover) Final Two Days (begins at sundown on the 4th) - Jewish (no activities on the 5th and 6th)
11	Sun	*Yom HaSho'ah (begins at sundown on the 10th) - Jewish
19	Mon	*Yom HaZickaron (begins at sundown on the 18th) - Jewish
20	Tue	*Yom Ha'Atzmaut (begins at sundown on the 19th) - Jewish
21-5/2	Wed-Sun	Festival of Ridvan (begins at sundown on the 20th) - Baha'i

May 2010

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
13	Thu	Ascension of Christ - Christian
13	Thu	**Solemnity of the Ascension - Catholic Christian (Some U.S. dioceses)
19-20	Wed-Thu	*Shavuot (begins at sundown on the 22nd) - Baha'i
23	Sun	Pentecost - Christian
23	Sun	*Declaration of the Bab (begins at sundown on the 22nd) - Baha'i
29	Sat	*Ascension of Baha'u'llah (begins sundown on the 28th) - Baha'i
30	Sun	Trinity Sunday - Christian

June 2010

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
29	Tue	Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul - Christian

July 2010

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
8	Thu	Lailat al Miraj (begins at sundown on the 7th) - Islamic

9	Fri	Martyrdom of the Bab (begins sundown on the 8th) - Bahá'í
13-15	Tue-Thu	Ulambana (Obon) - Buddhist
20	Tue	*Tisha B'Av (begins at sundown on the 19th) - Jewish
26	Mon	Lailat al Bara'a (begins at sundown on the 25th) - Islamic

August 2010

Date	Day	Holiday or Celebration
1	Sun	Fast in honor of Holy Mary Mother of Lord Jesus (begins at sunset on the 30th) - Orthodox Christian
11	Wed	Ramadan (begins sundown on the 10th) - Islamic
15	Sun	**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian