

Selected Religious Holidays and Celebrations 2013–2014

This calendar is offered by the Office of Community Service & Religious Life as a *resource*. The calendar below is not an exhaustive list either of religious traditions or the holidays observed in those traditions. The holidays offered are based on our records of the religious traditions represented in our student body.

As you plan, please be aware that some members of the Dickinson community observe one or more of these religious holidays. **Highlighted holidays marked with ** are observed by the Dickinson community and per college policy, college wide and/or public events should not be scheduled on these days.** While every effort has been made to provide clear and accurate information, some holidays are dependent on lunar sightings and cultural/geographic traditions.

Date	Holiday	Religion
Tuesday, July 9	Ramadan begins <i>The lunar month of fasting begins. Adult Muslims abstain from food, drink, sexual activity, and other activities from dawn until sunset.</i>	Islamic
**Thursday, Aug 8	Eid al Fitr (Ramadan ends) (Campus Observed) <i>The Festival of the Breaking of the Fast celebrates the end of Ramadan. The date of this festival is determined by the rising of the New Moon.</i>	Islamic
**Wednesday, Sept 4 @ sundown – Friday, Sept 6 @ sundown	Rosh Hashanah (Campus Observed) <i>This marks the beginning of the Jewish year and the beginning of the High Holy Days or the Days of Awe. Begins sundown on Sept 4th</i>	Jewish
**Friday, Sept 13 @ sundown – Saturday, Sept 14 @ sundown	Yom Kippur (Campus Observed) <i>The Day of Atonement, the end of the 10 Days of Awe, is devoted to prayer, repentance and fasting. The Sabbath of Sabbaths in the Jewish calendar, it is the most widely observed Jewish holiday of the year. Begins sundown on Sept 13^h</i>	Jewish
Wednesday, Sept 18 @ sundown – Wednesday, Sept 25 @ sundown	Sukkot <i>The Feast of the Tabernacles commemorates the dwelling of the Israelites in the wilderness. Jews will build sukkot (booths) and spend time in them over the week. Begins sundown of Sept 18th</i>	Jewish
Thursday, Sept 26	Shemini Atzeret <i>"marks the beginning of the rainy season following the harvest in Israel" Begins sundown on Wednesday, September 25th</i>	Jewish
Friday, Sept 27	Simchat Torah <i>"Rejoicing in the Torah," this holiday marks the completion of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings. Begins sundown of September 26th</i>	Jewish
Saturday, October 5- Sunday October 13	Navaratri <i>This literally means "9 Nights" and marks a period of fasting and celebration in the name of the mother goddess Devi or Shakti.</i>	Hindu
**Tuesday, Oct 15	Eid al Adha <i>The Festival of the Sacrifice commemorates Abraham's devotion in offering his son as a sacrifice. This holy day occurs at the end of Hajj, or the pilgrimage to Mecca.</i>	Islamic
Sunday, Nov 3	Diwali <i>"Festival of Lights," this holiday marks the Hindu New Year. It is the most important holiday on the Hindu Calendar and most practicing Hindus go to temple this day.</i>	Hindu
Thursday, Nov 28	Thanksgiving <i>A day giving thankfulness and celebration for the autumn harvest at the time of the pilgrim settlers.</i>	Interfaith USA
Saturday, Dec 8	Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) <i>In the Northern or Mahayana tradition, this day celebrates the Buddha's attainment of Enlightenment.</i>	Buddhist

Thursday, Nov 28- Thursday, Dec 5	Hanukkah <i>Festival of Lights marks the victory of the Maccabees and rededication of the Temple. It is a celebration of religious freedom and an affirmation of God's saving power. Begins sundown on Nov 27th.</i>	Jewish
**Wednesday, Dec 25	Christmas (Campus Observed) <i>The celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.</i>	Christian
Thursday, Dec 26- Wednesday, Jan 1	Kwanzaa <i>An African-American celebration honoring African community values and beliefs.</i>	Interfaith
Wednesday, Mar 5	Ash Wednesday <i>This day marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer and repentance that precedes Easter.</i>	Christian
Sunday, Mar 16	Purim <i>This joyous celebration commemorates the victory of the Jews over their tyrannical enemy. The Jews changed the day marked for their destruction into a day of victory. Begins sundown on Mar 15rd</i>	Jewish
Monday, Mar 17	Holi <i>A very popular festival where people throw colored water or powder at one another to celebrate the Hindu god & goddess Krishna and Radha.</i>	Hindu
Monday, April 14 @ sundown-Tuesday, Apr 22 @ sundown	Passover **First night of Passover(Campus Observed – 14th sundown) <i>Passover commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. On the first and second nights, Seders (a ritual meal) are conducted, retelling the Exodus story, so that Jews never forget that they were once slaves and that God helped set them free. Begins sundown on March 14th</i>	Jewish
Friday, April 18	Good Friday <i>One of the most holy Christian days, this day commemorates Jesus' death and crucifixion. This day is a somber day when many fast and abstain from activity.</i>	Christian
Friday, April 18	Holy Friday <i>Orthodox Christians commemorate Jesus' suffering and death. The day is marked with strict fasting (as health allows) and liturgical services re-enacting Christ's descent from the cross and entombment.</i>	Orthodox Christian
**Sunday, April 20	Easter (Campus Observed) <i>Easter celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead and is the most important holy day to Christians.</i>	Christian
Sunday, April 20	Orthodox Easter/Pascha <i>This feast, celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the most important day of the Orthodox liturgical year.</i>	Orthodox Christian
Sunday, April 27@ sundown-Monday April 28 @ sundown	Yom ha-Shoah <i>Holocaust Memorial Day honoring and remembering Jews killed in the Holocaust of World War II 1933-1945. Begins sundown on April 27th.</i>	Jewish
Wednesday, May 14	Buddha Day <i>Holiest of holy days in the Buddhist year, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha; some Buddhists only commemorate the birth of the Buddha on this day.</i>	Buddhist

We welcome questions & suggestions for this listing as we continue to learn to make religious identity and formation a part of a liberal arts education.

Please contact The Office of Community Service & Religious Life at rellife@dickinson.edu or x1577 or Professor Ted Merwin, Director of the Asbell Center for Jewish Life, at merwin@dickinson.edu or x1636 with questions or comments.