

Religious Holidays and Observances

HOLIDAY/OBSERVANCE	FAITH	DATE(S)
Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary Assumption of the Mary into Heaven.	Christian	August 15, 2019
Navratri One of the greatest Hindu festivals, it symbolizes the triumph of good over evil.	Hindu	September 29 – October 8, 2019
¹ Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, celebration, and prayer.	Jewish	September 29 – October 1, 2019
² Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) The most solemn and holy day of the year in which Jews spend a day in fasting and prayer.	Jewish	October 8-9, 2019
³ Sukkot Also known as the Feast of Tabernacles - celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.	Jewish	October 13- 20, 2019
⁴ Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.	Jewish	October 20-22, 2019
⁵ Diwali Festival of lights symbolizing the human urges to move toward the light.	Hindu/Sikh	October 27, 2019
All Saints Day Festival honoring all Christian saints.	Christian	November 1, 2019
Mawlid-al-Nabi Celebrates the birthday of the prophet Muhammad.	Islamic	November 10, 2019
⁶ Hanukkah Eight night festival of lights celebrating the liberation of the Temple in Jerusalem.	Jewish	December 22-30, 2019

¹ Some celebrants refrain from work, travel, writing, even using electronics, depending on observance level.

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<p>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</p> <p>Celebrates the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.</p>	Christian	December 8, 2019
<p>Christmas</p> <p>Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts and family gatherings (per Gregorian calendar).</p>	Christian	December 25, 2019
<p>Feast of the Epiphany</p> <p>Commemorates the revelation of God through Jesus Christ and marks the time the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem and presented gifts to baby Jesus.</p>	Christian	January 6, 2020
<p>Nativity of Christ</p> <p>Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ according to the Julian calendar.</p>	Orthodox Christian	January 6, 2020
<p>Mahayana New Year</p> <p>A time to reflect. Holiday varies by country of origin.</p>	Buddhist	January 21, 2020
<p>⁷Tu BiShvat</p> <p>New year for trees.</p>	Jewish	January 20, 2020
<p>Vasant Panchami</p> <p>Celebration dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of knowledge.</p>	Hindu	January 29, 2020
<p>Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple</p> <p>Feast emphasizing Jesus' first appearance in the Temple, 40 days after his birth.</p>	Orthodox Christian	February 2, 2020
<p>Chinese New Year</p> <p>Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese of all religions. Family reunions with thanksgiving and remembrance of departed relatives take place. Traditionally a religious ceremony honors Heaven and Earth.</p>	Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist	February 25, 2020

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⁸Nirvana Day A regional observance of the death of the Buddha.	Hindu, Buddhist	February 8, 2020
Shrove Tuesday Traditionally the day designated to use up sweets and fat in the house to prepare for the beginning of Lent.	Christian	February 25, 2020
Ash Wednesday Marks the beginning of Lent.	Christian, Roman Catholic, Protestant	February 26, 2020
Great Lent	Orthodox Christian	March 2, 2020
Hindi New Year	Hindu	March 3, 2020
Maha Shivaratri Festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati.	Hindu	March 4, 2020
Sunday of Orthodoxy Commemorates the restoration of icons for use in services and private devotional life of Christians.	Orthodox Christian	March 8, 2020
Magha Puja Day Celebration of the presentation of teaching by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.	Buddhist	March 9, 2020
⁹Purim Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide.	Jewish	March 10, 2020
Holi Festival of Colors celebrated on the first full moon after February.	Hindu	March 10, 2020
¹⁰Laylat al-Mi'raj	Islamic	March 22, 2020

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Commemorates Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and ascension to heaven.		
Annunciation The announcement of the Incarnation by the angel Gabriel to Mary.	Orthodox Christian	March 25, 2020
Ramanavami Celebrates the birth of Lord Rama to King Dasharatha of Ayodhya.	Hindu	April 2, 2020
Palm Sunday A commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as crowds lined his path with palm fronds.	Christian, Orthodox Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic	April 5, 2020
Therevadin New Year New year for Buddhists that use the teaching of the Pāli Canon, a collection of the oldest recorded Buddhist texts.	Buddhist	April 7, 2020
Hanuman Jayanti Commemorates Lord Hanuman as a symbol of devotion, magical powers, strength and energy.	Hindu	April 8, 2020
¹¹ Laylat al-Bara'ah A night of prayer to God for forgiveness for oneself and for the dead. Preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer begins on this date.	Islamic	April 8, 2020
Maundy Thursday Takes place the Thursday before Easter, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with the Apostles.	Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic	April 9, 2020
Good Friday Commemorates Jesus Christ's death on the cross.	Christian	April 10, 2020
Easter The most holy of Christian Sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.	Christian, Protestant, Roman Catholic	April 12, 2020

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¹²Passover/Pesach Eight-day pilgrimage festival celebrating the Exodus from slavery to freedom. Celebrants refrain from work the first two and last two days of Passover.	Jewish	April 8-16, 2020
Great and Holy Friday	Orthodox Christian	April 17, 2020
Pascha/Easter	Orthodox Christian	April 19, 2020
¹³Yom HaShoa Jewish Holocaust Day remembering the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45.	Jewish	April 20, 2020
Palm Sunday	Orthodox Christian	April 21, 2020
¹⁴Ramadan 9th month on Islamic calendar, devoted to 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.	Islamic	April 23-May 23, 2020
Visakha Puja Day/Buddha Day Marking of the birth, enlightenment and death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha.	Buddhist	May 7, 2020
¹⁵Lag B'Omer Thirty-third day between Passover and Shavuot. Celebrates the perseverance of the Jewish Spirit.	Jewish	May 11, 2020
Ascension Thursday Commemorates the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven.	Christian	May 21, 2020
¹⁶Shavuot Celebration of Moses' descent from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments.	Jewish	May 29-30, 2020

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Ascension of Jesus	Orthodox Christian	May 29, 2020
Pentecost Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his ascension from earth to heaven on Ascension Thursday.	Christian	May 31, 2020
¹⁷ Eid al-Fitr Marks the end of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to God.	Islamic	June 5-7, 2020
Pentecost	Orthodox Christian	June 7, 2020
Corpus Christi Celebrates the belief and the tradition of the transubstantiation of Christ's body and blood to bread and wine in the Eucharist.	Christian	June 11, 2020
Asalha Puja Day Celebrates the Buddha's first sermon in which he set out his doctrine to his five associates.	Buddhist	June 5, 2020
¹⁸ Tisha B'Av A time of mourning. Commemorates the destruction of both the first and second temples in Jerusalem.	Jewish	July 30, 2020
¹⁹ Eid al-Adha Festival of sacrifice. Commemorates the culmination of the hajj in Mecca.	Islamic	July 31, 2020

Note: While this calendar is intended to assist with planning, it does not include all holidays and observances. Requests for accommodations based upon religious observance should be made in a timely manor. The college will provide reasonable accommodations when necessary for employees or students to participate in their religious practice or belief unless the accommodation poses an undue hardship. If questions arise regarding needs, please contact Cyan Corwine at corwincy@alfredstate.edu For concerns and reports regarding discriminated, please contact Nikkie Herman at hermannr@alfredstate.edu

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