

GOUCHER | college

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

December 5, 2022

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Congratulations on nearing the end of the semester! To be more inclusive of the religious and spiritual lives of our students, your attention to the diversity of religious expression on our campus is greatly appreciated. I am writing to offer my support as you begin to think about your calendars for the spring semester.

We are in the process of updating our current Religious Observance Accommodations Form, which is being reviewed by the Policy Committee in consultation with the faculty, Hillel Rabbi, and other Religious Advisors. Therefore, **this process may change for the Fall of 2023.**

Below you will find a list of the religious holy days that may impact your calendars in the spring 2023 semester. Keep in mind, this is not an exhaustive list. Rather, the holidays included are those that may have a significant impact on observant students and could present a conflict with academic demands. It may be prudent to avoid scheduling programs, events, or deadlines on these days, as some members of our community could be fasting, limiting work, or observing the holiday in other ways.

Please keep in mind that some observances require additional time for preparation or travel before and after the actual holy day. Students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors directly, should a religious accommodation be needed. You can find the current [Religious Observance Form here](#).

Additionally, I have not included holidays which our academic calendar already accommodates or when the college is closed.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you in advance for making Goucher College a more religiously inclusive campus.

A more complete list of religious holidays can be found at interfaith-calendar.org

Peace to you,
Maeba

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Holy Days by Religious Tradition: Spring 2023

BUDDHISM

Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist)	January 22, 2023
Nirvana Day	February 15, 2023
Vesak Day	May 5, 2023

CHRISTIANITY

Epiphany (Theophany - Orthodox)	January 6, 2023
Christmas Eve (Orthodox)	January 6, 2023
Christmas Day (Orthodox)	January 7, 2023
Ash Wednesday(Western)	February 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday (Orthodox)	March 1, 2023
Good Friday (Western)	April 7, 2023 (<i>may include fasting</i>)
Easter (Western)	April 9, 2023
Holy Friday (Orthodox)	April 14, 2023 (<i>may include fasting</i>)
Easter (Orthodox)	April 16, 2023
Pentecost (Western)	May 28, 2023
Pentecost (Orthodox)	June 4, 2023

HINDU

Makar Sankranti	January 15, 2023
Vasant Panchami	January 26, 2023
Maha Shivaratri	February 18, 2023
Holi (Festival of Colors)	March 7-8, 2023 (<i>fasting</i>)
Ram Navami	March 30, 2023

JUDAISM

(Jewish holy days and religious festivals begin at sunset the evening preceding the first date).

Asara B'Tevet	January 3, 2023 (<i>*minor fast, no work restrictions</i>)
Tu BiShvat	February 6, 2023 (<i>begins at sundown on February 5, no work restrictions</i>)
Ta'anit Esther	March 6, 2023 (<i>minor fast, no work restriction</i>)
Purim	March 7, 2023 (<i>begins at sundown on March 6, celebration, no work restriction</i>)
Pesach (Passover)	April 6 – April 13, 2023 (<i>the first two and last two days require work restrictions</i>)
Yom HaShoah (<i>Holocaust Remembrance Day</i>)	April 17-April 18, 2023
Shavuot	May 25 – May 27, 2023 (<i>begins at sundown, work restriction</i>)

ISLAM

(Muslim holy days are based on a lunar calendar, and the actual dates are determined by direct observation of the moon and announced by the local mosque. The dates listed below may vary by a day or two).

Ramadan	March 22 – April 21, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>fasting required during daylight hours, many people rest during the day and wake early to eat, prayers throughout the day and other observances</i>
Laylat al-Qadr	April 18, 2023 <i>(fasting, worship)</i>
Eid-al-Fitr	April 22, 2023 <i>(worship, begins at sundown on April 21)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>marks the end of the month of Ramadan and one of the most holy days of the year, feast and celebration as well as religious observances</i>
Eid-al-Adha	June 28-29, 2023

SIKH

Maghi	January 13, 2023
Vasant Panchami	January 26, 2023
Vaisakhi	April 14, 2023

Full List of Holy Days: Spring 2023

January 1: The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Roman Catholic Christianity)

January 3: Asara B'Tevet - The Tenth of Tevet (Judaism) **minor fast, no work restriction*

January 6: Christmas Eve (Orthodox Christianity)

January 7: Christmas (Orthodox Christianity)

January 15: Makar Sankranti (Hindu)

January 22: Lunar New Year (Doaist, Confusian, Buddhist)

January 26: Vasant Panchami (Hindu, Sikh)

February 6: Tu BiShvat - New Year of Trees (Judaism) **begins at sundown February 5, no work restriction*

February 5: Nirvana Day (Buddhist)

February 18: Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)

February 22: Ash Wednesday (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity) **fasting*

March 6: Ta'anit Esther - Fast of Esther (Judaism) **minor fast, no work restriction*

March 7: Purim - Festival of Lots (Judaism) **begins at sundown March 6, no work restriction*

March 1: Ash Wednesday (Orthodox Christianity)

March 7-8: Holi - Festival of Colors (Hinduism) **fasting*

March 22 - April 21: Ramadan (Islam) *month of fasting, dawn until dusk or sundown, begins at sundown March 22*

March 30: Ram Navami (Hindu)

April 2: Palm Sunday (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity)

April 6 - April 13: Passover - Festival of Freedom (Judaism) **work restrictions on following set of days: evening of 4/5-evening of 4/7 and evening of 4/11-evening of 4/13, *begins at sundown April 5*

April 7: Good Friday (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity)

April 9: Easter (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity), Palm Sunday (Orthodox Christianity)

April 14: Good Friday (Orthodox Christianity)

April 16: Easter (Orthodox Christianity)

April 18: Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Memorial Day (Judaism) **no work restriction, begins at sundown April 17*

April 18: Laylat al-Qadr (Islam) **begins at sundown April 17*

April 22: Eid-al-Fitr - Feast Celebrating the Conclusion of Ramadan (Islam) **begins sundown April 21*

April 25: Yom HaZikaron - Israeli Memorial Day (Judaism) **no work restriction, begins at sundown April 24*

April 26: Yom Ha'Atzma'ut - Israeli Independence Day (Judaism) **no work restriction, begins at sundown April 25*

May 9: Lag BaOmer - 33rd day of counting the Omer (Judaism) **no work restriction, begins at sundown May 8*

May 26-27: Shavuot - Festival of Weeks (Judaism) **work restriction, begins at sundown May 25*

May 18: Ascension (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity)

May 25: Ascension (Orthodox Christianity)

May 28: Pentecost (Roman Catholic and Protestant Christianity)

June 4: Pentecost (Orthodox Christianity)

June 28-29: Eid al-Adha (Islam)