

# 2023 Calendar of Religious Holidays



The purpose of this document is to inform HFH staff of the major religious holidays celebrated in the communities where we serve and by our staff. In alignment with our Christian mission, we seek to welcome and respect the perspectives of those whose beliefs may be different from our own. This document includes important holidays from the Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Christian traditions, but please note that it is not a comprehensive list of all holidays within these religions.

Religious Holiday	Dates (2023)	Description
<u>Orthodox Christmas</u> (Orthodox Christian)	Jan. 7	Orthodox believers observe Christmas according to the Julian – rather than the Gregorian – calendar. Marked by devout vigils and traditional feasts, the holiday traces its origins back to the centuries-old decision of splitting the Orthodox church from the Catholic church.
<u>Parinirvana Day</u> (Buddhist)	Feb. 15	This celebration centers around the enlightenment of the Buddha and his death.
<u>Lent</u> (Christian)	Feb. 22 – Apr. 6	The Christian holiday of penance and fasting marks the final countdown to Easter.
<u>Ramadan</u> (Muslim)	Mar. 23 – Apr. 21	This is a holy month of fasting that begins and ends with the appearance of the <u>crescent</u> moon.
<u>Passover</u> (Jewish)	Sunset Apr. 5 – Evening Apr. 13	Passover celebrates the miracle of the Israelite people's miraculous Exodus from Egypt and being passed over by the 10 <sup>th</sup> plague in Bible book of Exodus.
<u>Easter</u> (Christian)	Apr. 9	This is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb on the third day after his death.
<u>Orthodox Easter</u> (Orthodox Christian)	Apr. 16	Orthodox believers observe Easter according to the Julian – rather than the Gregorian – calendar. Similarly to regular Easter, Orthodox Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb.
<u>Eid al-Fitr</u> (Muslim)	Apr. 22 - 24	A celebration at the end of the Ramadan fast that is also centered around forgiveness.
<u>Vesak</u> (Buddhist)	May 5	The Buddha's birthday is known and is one of the major festivals of the year. Some cultures also use it to celebrate his enlightenment.
<u>Eid al-Adha</u> (Muslim)	June 29 - July 2	Honors the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ismail as an act of obedience to God's.
<u>Rosh Hashanah</u> (Jewish)	Sunset Sept. 15 - Evening Sept. 17	This holiday celebrates the Jewish New Year and is symbolically connected to creation.
<u>Yom Kippur</u> (Jewish)	Sunset Sept. 24 – Evening Sept. 25	Day of atonement, known as the holiest day of the Jewish year. Yom Kippur concludes the "10 days of repentance" that begins with Rosh Hashanah.

<u>Vijayadashami</u> (Hindu)	Oct. 24 - Nov. 3	This celebration is a 10-day festival that symbolizes the victory of good over evil.
<u>Diwali</u> (Hindu)	Nov.12	This is a Festival of Lights and symbolizes the victory of light over darkness.
<u>Hanukkah</u> (Jewish)	Dec.7 – Dec.15	This is a Festival of Lights celebrating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was defiled by the Selucids in 164 B.C.
<u>Christmas</u> (Christian)	Dec. 25	This holiday celebrates the incarnation and virgin birth of Jesus.