MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Department Chairs, Directors and Colleagues
From: Kathy Schnurr, Chaplain
Date: July 2020
Re: Religious Holy Days

As the 2020-2021 academic year draws near, I would like to bring to your attention some of the major religious holidays and holy days that will impact many of our students, faculty, and staff. Please note that this is not an all-encompassing list for every religious tradition. A longer list is available on our web site at https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/religious-spiritual-life. The holidays listed below are those that will not only affect many of our students at some point in the academic year, but could present a clear conflict with academic demands.

In general, food or work restrictions, as well as special worship obligations may impact the ability of our students, faculty and staff to participate in university events that take place on their respective religious holy day. Please keep in mind that some observances require additional time for preparation or travel before and after the actual holy day. I am asking that you please be responsive to requests from students who need to make advance arrangements with you to make up work missed because of a holy observance. If you have any questions regarding a particular case or would like any guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-516-1880 or kschnurr@jhu.edu. Thank you for your sensitivity to this matter.

**BUDDHIST**

- Bodhi Day: December 8, 2020
- Buddha’s Birthday: April 8, 2021
- Vesak: May 26, 2021

**CHRISTIAN**

- Christmas (Orthodox): January 7, 2021
- Ash Wednesday: February 17, 2021
- Good Friday: April 2, 2021
- Easter (Western): April 4, 2021
- Easter (Orthodox): May 2, 2021

**HINDU**

- Diwali: November 12 – 16, 2020 (New Moon Day is celebrated November 14th)
- Holi: March 28 – 29, 2021
**JEWISH** (Jewish holy days and religious festivals begin at sunset the evening preceding the first date).

Rosh Hashanah September 19 – 20, 2020  
Yom Kippur September 28, 2020  
Sukkot October 3 – 4, 2020  
Sh’mini Atzeret October 10, 2020  
Simchat Torah October 11, 2020  
Hanukkah December 11 – 18, 2020  
Pesach (Passover) March 28 – April 4, 2021 (the first two and last two days of the week)  
Shavuot May 17 – 18, 2021

**MUSLIM** (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).

Eid-al-Adha July 30 – 31, 2020  
Ramadan April 12 – May 11, 2021  
Eid-al-Fitr May 13, 2021