**MEMORANDUM**

To: Deans, Department Chairs, Directors and Colleagues

From: Kathy Schnurr, Chaplain

Date: July 2023

Re: Religious Holy Days

As the 2023-2024 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, 2023

Buddha’s Birthday April 8, 2024

Vesak Day May 23, 2024 – Note this is Commencement

**CHRISTIAN**

Christmas (Orthodox) January 7, 2024

Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024

Good Friday March 29, 2024

Easter (Western) March 31, 2024

Easter (Orthodox) May 5, 2024

**HINDU**

Diwali November 10 – 15, 2023 (New Moon Day is celebrated 11/12)

Holi March 25, 2024

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

Rosh Hashanah September 15 – 16, 2023

Yom Kippur September 24 – 25, 2023

Sukkot September 29 – October 6, 2023

Sh’mini Atzeret October 6 – 7, 2023

Simchat Torah October 7 – 8, 2023

Hanukkah December 7 – 15, 2023 – Note this is during finals

Pesach (Passover) April 22 – 30, 2024 (the first 2 and last 2 days of the week) – Note this is during Reading Period

Shavuot June 11 – 13, 2024

**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).*

Ramadan March 10 – April 9, 2024

Eid-al-Fitr April 10, 2024

Eid-al-Adha June 16 – 17, 2024