



# JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty and Staff  
From: Kathy Schnurr, Chaplain  
Cc: Office for Institutional Equity and University Registrar  
Re: Religious Holy Days

September 25, 2025

As we kick off the 2025-2026 academic year, I am writing to share information about some of the major religious holidays and holy days observed by our students, listed below. **Please note that this is not an all-encompassing list for every religious tradition;** a list of additional dates is available on our Religious and Spiritual Life (RSL) website at <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/religious-spiritual-life/religious-holy-days/>.

***Note about religious accommodations:*** Students may submit religious accommodation request forms to the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE). More information, along with the religious accommodation request form, can be found on the OIE site at <https://oie.jhu.edu/religious-accommodations>.

In general, food or work restrictions – as well as special worship obligations – may impact the ability of our students to participate in university events that take place on their respective religious holy days. 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 conflict with academic demands.

Please keep in mind that some observances require additional time for preparation or travel before and after the actual holy day. I am asking you please to be responsive to student needs when advance arrangements may be necessary 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 the Office for Institutional Equity at [oie@jhu.edu](mailto:oie@jhu.edu). Thank you for your sensitivity to this matter.

For your awareness, I have also sent a message (also included below) to all university students making them aware of the university's Religious and Spiritual Life resources. In addition, my message directs students to the OIE site for information about the university's religious accommodation process, including how to submit a request for religious accommodation.

Sincerely,

Kathy Schnurr, Chaplain

**Examples of Religious Holy Days observed by our students** (For a more comprehensive list of Holy Days observed by our students, please go to our Religious and Spiritual Life (RSL) website at <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/religious-spiritual-life/religious-holy-days/>).

**BUDDHIST**

Bodhi Day	December 8, 2025
Vesak Day	May 1, 2026
Buddha's Birthday	May 24, 2026

**CHRISTIAN**

Christmas	December 25, 2025
Christmas (Orthodox)	January 7, 2026
Ash Wednesday	February 18, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Easter (Western)	April 5, 2026
Easter (Orthodox)	April 12, 2026

**HINDU**

Diwali	October 21, 2025
Holi	March 4, 2026

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

Rosh Hashanah	September 22 – September 24, 2025
Yom Kippur	October 1 – October 2, 2025
Sukkot	October 6 – October 12, 2025
Sh'mini Atzeret	October 13 – 14, 2025
Simchat Torah	October 14 – 15, 2025
Hanukkah	December 14 – 22, 2025 – <i>Note this is during finals</i>
Pesach (Passover)	April 1 – 9, 2026
Shavuot	May 21 – 23, 2026

**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	February 17 – March 19, 2026
Eid-al-Fitr	March 19 – 20, 2026
Eid-al-Adha	May 26 - 27, 2026

## **Religious and Spiritual Life Resources Message Sent to ALL JHU Students:**

September 2025

Dear Students,

On behalf of JHU Religious and Spiritual Life (RSL), I am delighted to extend my warmest wishes to every Blue Jay for a wonderful academic year ahead! I am writing to let you know about the ways we support student religious and spiritual life at our university.

My name is Kathy Schnurr, and I am the JHU Chaplain. I serve in an interfaith capacity and direct the RSL office in facilitating the many religious and spiritual activities that take place here. Our team includes ordained and lay ministers, an imam, and student leaders who are here to support our student community's religious and spiritual traditions.

RSL is located in the Bunting Meyerhoff Interfaith and Community Service Center (IFC), located at 3509 North Charles Street—at the corner of Charles Street and University Parkway, across the street from the tennis courts. From daily activities to weekly services, the IFC is open to people of all faith traditions and spiritual paths or no faith at all. In addition to offices and worship space, there are places to study, meet friends, engage in community building, meditate, pray, and lounge—all to help provide nourishment for the mind, body, and soul.

We know the transition to university life can bring with it many new experiences and we want to be sure you are aware of the resources and community at JHU. For a listing of our many RSL student groups and resources, please [visit our website](#). For information about the religious accommodations request process and to access the form to request religious accommodation, please visit the [Office of Institutional Equity website](#).

Please know you are always welcome to stop by the IFC to meet me, our Assistant Chaplains, Sajid Settles and Emily Niehoff, and our Administrative Coordinator, Edythe Othello. If you have questions about navigating your religious, spiritual, and academic commitments during your time as a Hopkins student, we understand and are here to support you in any way we can. We are very honored to welcome and serve you. You may also [email me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to seeing you this year!

Sincerely,  
Kathy Schnurr, Chaplain