

# Accommodating Religious Observance Academic Years 19-20 and 20-21

As a secular unaffiliated institution, Butler University is proud to welcome people of all faith and philosophical orientations to our campus communities. We hope there can be flexibility and understanding for religious practice in curricular, co-curricular planning, and wider Butler community planning.

## Holy Days

We encourage faculty and staff to avoid scheduling exams, programs, events or other activities that occur on a major holy day that is observed by a portion of our campus community.

There are many other important holy dates and observances than provided below. The list below reflects the most significant holidays for the faith communities present on Butler's campus. For a much more comprehensive list of religious holidays, the CFV website has linked to an interfaith calendar [here](#).

\*Indicates the holiday begins at sundown

† Indicates the holiday date may vary by a day or two; dates are finalized leading up to the holiday.

### AY 2019-2020

| Dates                         | Holy Day Description   | Dietary Observances   |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| May 6-June 7, 2019*†          | Ramadan, Holy month of fasting within Islam, most Muslims will continue daily activity, but will be fasting during the day. June 5-7 is Eid al Fitr, the end of the holy month, involving particular celebrations. | Muslims fast daily from food or drink from sunrise until sunset   |
| June 5-7, 2019*†              | Eid al-Fitr, celebration at the end of Ramadan within Islam)   |   |
| August 12-15, 2019*†          | Eid al-Adha, the second of the two major holidays celebrated around the world in Islam, a great feast that marks the end of the Hajj   |   |
| September 30-October 1, 2019* | Rosh Hashanah, the New Year in the Jewish calendar   |   |
| October 8-9, 2019*            | Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement for Jewish Communities  | Jews observing Yom Kippur traditionally will be fasting   |
| October 27, 2019              | Diwali, a festival of lights celebrated within South Asia and world-wide, connected to Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism  |   |
| December 25, 2019             | Christmas, celebration of the birth of Jesus for Christians  |   |
| February 26, 2020             | Ash Wednesday, Christian first day of Lent   | Christians may fast from meat on Fridays or engage in other forms of fasting between Feb. 26 and April 12 |

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| March 10, 2020  | Holi, a Hindu, Sikh, and Jain festival of colors at the start of spring  |   |
| April 8-16, 2020*<br>(Avoid exams and other programs on the evenings of 4/10 and 4/11.) | Passover, Jewish week-long observance of Exodus from Egypt, begins at sundown  | Jews observing Passover will eat no leavened bread and may observe other dietary restrictions from April 8-16 |
| April 10, 2020  | Good Friday, Christian observance of Jesus' death and burial   |   |
| April 12, 2020  | Easter, Christian celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection   |   |
| April 17, 2020  | Holy Friday, Eastern Orthodox Christians observance of Jesus' death and burial   |   |
| April 19, 2020  | Easter for Eastern Orthodox Christians, celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection   |   |
| April 13 or 14, 2020  | Vaisakhi, Founding of the Sikh religion and the harvest festival of the Punjabi region of India                            |   |
| April 23 - May 23, 2020*† (dates may vary)  | Ramadan, Holy month of fasting within Islam, most Muslims will continue daily activity, but will be fasting during the day | Muslims fast daily from food or drink from sunrise until sunset   |
| May 23-24, 2020*†   | Eid al-Fitr, celebration at the end of Ramadan within Islam)   |   |

#### AY 2020-2021

| <b>Dates</b>           | <b>Holy Day Description</b>  | <b>Dietary Observances</b>   |
|------------------------|--|--|
| May 23-24, 2020*†      | Eid al-Fitr, celebration at the end of Ramadan within Islam)   | Ramadan lasts from April 23-May 23 and Muslims will fast daily from food or drink from sunrise to sunset |
| July 30-31, 2020*†     | Eid al-Adha, the second of the two major holidays celebrated around the world in Islam, a great feast that marks the end of the Hajj |  |
| September 18-20, 2020* | Rosh Hashanah, the New Year in the Jewish calendar   |  |
| September 27-28, 2020* | Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement for Jewish Communities  | Jews observing Yom Kippur traditionally will be fasting  |
| November 14, 2020      | Diwali, a festival of lights celebrated within South Asia and world-wide, connected to Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism                |  |
| December 25, 2020      | Christmas, celebration of the birth of Jesus for Christians  |  |
| February 17, 2021      | Ash Wednesday, Christian first day of Lent   | Christians may fast from meat on Fridays or engage in other  |

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|  |  | forms of fasting between Feb. 26 and April 12.  |
| March 27-April 3, 2021*<br>(Avoid exams and other programs on the evenings of 3/26, 3/27.) | Passover, Jewish week-long observance of Exodus from Egypt, begins at sundown  | Jews observing Passover will eat no leavened bread and may observe other dietary restrictions from April 8-16 |
| March 29, 2021†  | Holi, a Hindu, Sikh, and Jain festival of colors at the start of spring  |   |
| April 2, 2021  | Good Friday, Christian observance of Jesus' death and burial   |   |
| April 4, 2021  | Easter, Christian celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection   |   |
| April 12 - May 11, 2021*† (dates may vary)   | Ramadan, Holy month of fasting within Islam, most Muslims will continue daily activity, but will be fasting during the day | Muslims fast daily from food or drink before sunrise until after sunset                                       |
| April 13 or 14, 2021   | Vaisakhi, Founding of the Sikh religion and the harvest festival of the Punjabi region of India                            |   |
| April 30, 2021   | Holy Friday for Eastern Orthodox Christians observance of Jesus' death and burial  |   |
| May 2, 2021  | Easter, Eastern Orthodox Christians celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection   |   |
| May 12-13, 2021*†  | Eid al-Fitr, celebration at the end of Ramadan within Islam  |   |

### Questions or Suggestions

Please contact the Center for Faith and Vocation for additional information or with suggestions about how we can continue to celebrate and welcome the religious diversity on our campus. Daniel Meyers, CFV Director, can be reached at [dgmeyers@butler.edu](mailto:dgmeyers@butler.edu).