



9.10.20

University of Dayton
Campus Ministry

Dear Campus Community,

As the semester unfolds, we want to remind everyone that students, faculty, and staff celebrate important religious holidays spanning many different faith traditions. Observance of some religious traditions may require reasonable accommodation to classroom or workplace schedules, environment, or in the way tasks or assignments are customarily completed. We wanted to make you aware and remind you of the recommendations we have at UD for [requesting and granting a religious accommodation](#). These recommendations will help you if you need to request an accommodation or if you are a faculty member or supervisor who is asked to make an accommodation. Those who need accommodations are asked to communicate their requests as early as possible.

Religious and cultural holidays are both solemn times of religious observance and festive times of celebration for families and communities. COVID-19 may also impact the ways in which people are able to celebrate. Keep this in mind as you support and work alongside students and faculty and staff colleagues.

A few of many religious and cultural holidays that will be observed in the fall include:

Jews observe **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish new year, or Day of Remembrance, which starts the eve of Sept. 18 and continues through Sept. 20. This observance also begins 10 days of repentance that conclude with **Yom Kippur** (eve of Sept. 27-28), the day of atonement, observed through fasting, prayer, and repentance. These are followed by a time of celebration, **Sukkot** (eve of Oct. 2-9). Sukkot is followed immediately by Shemini Atzerat (Friday Oct. 9 evening to Saturday evening) and then Simchat Torah (Saturday Oct. 10 to Sunday evening)

East Asian communities celebrate **mid-Autumn festival** (Oct. 1), also known as **Moon festival** -- a fall celebration of agricultural abundance. This is the second largest festival in China and is characterized by a time of family celebrations and many regional festivals and customs.

Hindus celebrate **Diwali** (Nov. 14), the “ancient festival of Lights.” Diwali is a joyful time to recognize the triumph of goodness over evil, symbolized by celebrations of light.

As a Catholic university, the University of Dayton strives to be a place where people of all religious traditions live, learn, and deepen their faith. We encourage faculty and supervisors to review the full list of religious holidays at the link above to increase awareness and inclusive practices. We hope that all find a place to observe faithfully their religious traditions while studying, working, or teaching at the University of Dayton. For questions or more information, contact Crystal Sullivan, executive director of campus ministry, csullivan1@udayton.edu.

Crystal Sullivan
Executive Director of Campus Ministry