

Founded in 1924, Nazareth College is located on a close-knit suburban campus in the dynamic, metropolitan region of Rochester, New York. The college offers challenging academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences and professional programs, health and human services, education, and management. Nazareth's strong culture of service and community prepare students to be successful professionals and engaged citizens.



Nazareth College, Golisano Academic Center

Mission Statement

The mission of Nazareth College is to provide a learning community that educates students in the liberal arts, sciences, visual and performing arts, and professional fields, fostering commitment to a life informed by intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and aesthetic values; to develop skills necessary for the pursuit of meaningful careers; and to inspire dedication to the ideal service to their communities. Nazareth seeks students who want to make a difference in their own world and the world around them, and encourages them to develop the understanding, commitment, and confidence to lead fully informed and actively engaged lives.

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Dates of Religious Observance

- 1 Gantan-sai**
Shinto: New Year festival observed with prayers for inner renewal. Japanese observers welcome the New Year with prayers for renewed heart, good health, and prosperity.
- 5 Twelfth Night**
Christian: Observance of the close of Christmas tide and a prelude to Epiphany which begins the next day.
- 6 Epiphany**
Christian: Feast day celebrating the manifestation of Christmas in accordance with the Jewish Calendar
- Dia de los Reyes**
Hispanic Christian: Remembrance of what the Three Wise Men saw the star of Bethlehem and arrived bearing their gifts for the infant Jesus.
- 13 Maghi**
Sikh: Commemoration of the sacrifice of forty Sikhs, who fought for Guru Gobind Singh
- 21 World Religion Day**
Baha'i: The day calls attention to the harmony of the various religions' spiritual principles and to emphasize that religion is the motivating force for world unity.
- 22 Vasant Panshami**
Hindu: Festival that highlights the coming of Spring. This festival is usually celebrated in Magh.
- 25 Conversion of Saint Paul**
Catholic Christian
- 31 Tu B'shevat**
Jewish: Celebration of the spring

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	31	1	○ 2	3	4	5	6
		Gantan-sai				Twelfth Night	Epiphany Dia de los Reyes
	7	● 8	9	10	11	12	13
							Maghi
	14	15	16	● 17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	● 24	25	26	27
	World Religion Day	Vasant Panshami			Conversion of Saint Paul		
	28	29	30	○ 31	1	2	3
				Tu B'shevat			

The Brian and Jean Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue

At Nazareth College, the Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue promotes research and encourages strategies for living peacefully in a religiously diverse world. This vision is realized through dialogue, education, and community-building efforts. Every religion demands that we alleviate suffering. Every Religion dreams of a better world. Yet each religion offers different means to attain these goals. The Hickey Center believes that individuals can learn from each other, understand each other, and work together.



Dr. Muhammad Shafiq in front of Peking university, with a group of scholars from the Dialogue of Civilizations

Mission Statement

The Hickey Center includes individuals who are diverse in religion, faith, ethnicity, race, gender, and education. The common denominator is a desire to develop skills to clarify and improve individual and community-wide communications on matters of religion, faith and spirituality; to understand individual and communal faiths; to establish a methodology proper to our goals; and to develop the capacity for living in a pluralistic world. We seek to understand and develop research tools, knowledge, and skills to benefit our common humanity.

Our Goals:

- To establish an environment conducive to understanding the diversity of faiths in our world and community
- To provide educational resources to aid the establishing of environments of understanding and equality
- To teach individuals, communities, and institutions how to live and communicate with those from varying religions and faith backgrounds

Dates of Religious Observance

2 Imbolc

Wicca/Pagan: Traditional festival marking the beginning of spring and reflecting upon the power of the gods from which physical and spiritual harvest will come.

3 Setsebun Sai

Shinto: Known as the good luck holiday. This day marks the end of the cold season and the coming of Spring.

4 Four Chaplains Sunday

Interfaith: Commemoration of World War II event in which four Chaplains of Jewish and Christian faiths gave their life jackets to others as a troop ship sank in the Atlantic Ocean.

14 St. Valentine's Day

Christian: Originating from Saint Valentine, this day honors a Roman who was martyred for refusing to deny his faith.

15 Nirvana Day

Buddhist: The observance of the death of Buddha at the age of 80, having achieved total Nirvana.

16 Chinese New Year

Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist: Begins a fifteen Day Festival for Chinese people of all religions. This time includes family reunions and remembrance of departed relatives.

26 Intercalary Days

Baha'i: Celebration during the last four days of the Baha'i year. Observers are committed to celebrating through hospitality, charity, gift giving, and preparing for the Fast.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	28	29	30	○ 31	1	2	3
						Imbolc	Setsebun Sai
	4	5	6	● 7	8	9	10
	Four Chaplains Sunday						
	11	12	13	14	● 15	16	17
				St. Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday	Nirvana Day	Chinese New Year	
	18	19	20	21	22	● 23	24
		Presidents' Day					
	25	26	27	28	1	○ 2	3
		Intercalary Days					

Interdisciplinary Minor in Interfaith Studies

Interfaith studies enhance the understanding of our globalized and pluralistic society, cultivate our spiritual and cultural sensitivities, and promote useful skills across professions.



Students engaging in interfaith dialogue

Benefits:

- Teachers will understand the values and beliefs of colleagues, students, and parents, while educating about models of humane respect.
- Nurses will be able to promote wellness through sensitivity to patients' religious and cultural practices.
- Business professionals will enhance the quality of client relationships through empathy with a diverse workforce, customers, regulators, and suppliers.
- Leaders in the faith community will gain the tools to dialogue and contribute to peacemaking.

Program Goals

- To develop students who are:
- Religiously literate and understanding of individual and communal faiths and traditions
 - Spiritually mature, secure, and curious, seeing religious diversity as a human resource rather than a personal threat
 - Committed leaders in developing a peaceful, religiously pluralistic world
 - Skilled in methods of communication, education and community building

Dates of Religious Observance

1: Purim

Jewish: A joyous festival based on the story told in the book of Esther.

3 Holi

Hindu: This is an annual and popular Hindu Spring Festival. Also known as the Festival of Colors.

13 L. Ron Hubbard Birthday
Scientology: The birthday of the founder of the Church of Scientology.

21 Ostara

Wicca/Pagan: Held on the Spring Equinox, Ostara celebrates the welcoming of the spring season and the goddess-as-maiden.

Naw Ruz

Baha'i: New Year and the first day of Favardin, this first month of the Iranian solar year.

26 Ramanavami

Hindu: Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama, the hero of the Ramayana.

28 Khordad Sal

Zoroastrian: The birth of the prophet Zaranthushtra.

30 Passover

Jewish: The Festival of Freedom; This eight day observance includes restrictive dietary rules celebrating the deliverance of the Jews from Egypt.

31 Magha Puja Day

Buddhist: In the third lunar month, on the first full moon, this holiday is celebrated as a veneration of Buddha and his teachings.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
				Purim		Holi
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		L. Ron Hubbard Birthday				St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	Vernal Equinox 21	22	23	24
			Ostara Naw Ruz Norooz			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Palm Sunday	Ramanavami		Khordad Sal		Passover Good Friday	Pesach Hanuman Jayanti Magha Puja Day

March | 2018

Judaism is a monotheistic faith, which believes in one eternal and all-powerful deity: God. Judaism stands as the oldest of three Abrahamic traditions.



Temple Sinai, Rochester, NY

Holy Scriptures

The central text of Judaism is the Tanak. The first third of this collection is the Torah (“teaching”), comprising the Five Books of Moses. The second portion is the Nevi’im (“prophets”), which covers the history of the Israelites from their arrival in the Holy Land to the period of Babylonian captivity. The Ketuvim (“writings”) completes the collection with three poetic books, the Five Scrolls, and three other historical books. The Talmud, or “Oral Revelation”, serves as a second essential text, containing ethics, laws, customs, and history.

Halakhah (Jewish Law)

Within Judaism, there are 613 mitzvot (“commandments”) given to the Jewish people by God. The Ten Commandments received by Moses are more accurately translated as the Ten Statements, and can be viewed as categories under which all 613 mitzvot may be organized.

Streams of Judaism

- Reform Judaism
- Orthodox Judaism
- Conservative Judaism

Dates of Religious Observance

- 1 Easter**
Christian: One of the most important holidays in Christianity. Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus three days after his crucifixion.
- 3 Mahavir Jayanti**
Jain: Celebration honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder’s birthday.
- 12 Yom Hashoah**
Jewish: A day set aside by the Jewish people to commemorate the Holocaust.
- 13 Lailat al Miraj**
Islam: Celebrates the Isra and Mir’aj of Muhammad, when it is believed he was raised to heaven to meet with the prophets.
- 14 Baisakhi**
Sikh: Day of commemorating the founding of the Sikh brotherhood of the Khalsa.
- 29 Visakha Puja**
Buddhist: Also known as Buddha Day, this celebration honors the birth, enlightenment, and attainment of Nirvana of Lord Buddha.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Easter		Mahavir Jayanti				
☾	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
					Yom Hashoah	Lailat al Miraj	Baisakhi
	15	● 16	17	18	19	20	21
					Yom Ha’Atzmaut		First Day of Ridvan
☽	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	○ 30	1	2	3	4	5
Visakha Puja		Theravada New Year					

Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama, commonly referred to as the Buddha ("the enlightened one"). The Buddha devoted his life to finding the cause of suffering and ways to eliminate it. To escape the cycle of samsara and attain a state of spiritual freedom (nirvana), Buddhists follow principles of nonviolence and contemplative practice.



Zendo at Chapin Mill, Rochester NY

Texts and Teachings

Buddhists, as a community, do not consider one book or collection of books as "Buddhist scripture." Each group holds certain texts to be more important than others.

The Four Noble Truths

1. To live is to suffer.
2. Suffering comes from desire.
3. To end suffering, end desire.
4. Release from suffering can be attained by following the noble enlightened path.

The Eightfold Path

- Right Understanding
- Right Action
- Right Intention
- Right Effort
- Right Speech
- Right Meditation
- Right Work
- Right Contemplation

Three Jewels of Buddhism

- Buddha
- Dharma (teachings of Buddha)
- Sangha (community of those seeking enlightenment)

Dates of Religious Observance

1 Beltane

Wicca/Pagan: A fertility and love festival that celebrates the union between the Lord and the Lady, or Goddess.

Lailat al Bara'ah

Israel: Night of Forgiveness; a night of prayer to Allah for forgiveness of the dead. This holiday is preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer.

3 National Day of Prayer USA Interfaith

16 Ramadan

Islam: All able adults fast during this entire month of Ramadan, beginning at the sight of the moon. This month is considered the most venerated, blessed, and spiritually beneficial month of the Islamic faith.

20-21 Shavuot

Jewish: Marks the giving of the law (Torah) on Mount Sinai.

23 Declaration of the Bab

Baha'i: Important day of the Baha'i faith; when they venerate the Declaration of the Bab, the Promised Person.

29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah

Baha'i: Commemorates the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Baha'i faith, Baha'u'llah.

31 Corpus Christi

Catholic Christian: This day celebrates the Eucharist.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
			Beltane Lailat al Bara'ah		National Day of Prayer		Cinco de Mayo
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Ramadan			
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Shavuot		Declaration of the Bab			
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
			Ascension of Baha'u'llah		Corpus Christi		

Islam is the most recent of the three Abrahamic Traditions. The final messenger of Islam is Muhammad, whose revelations became the foundation for the faith. Muhammad's moral and social lessons guide Muslims in their daily lives.



Islamic Center of Rochester, NY

Holy Scriptures

The Qur'an compiles the collected revelations received by Muhammad from the angel Gabriel. This book of moral guidance contains praise for Allah and spiritual counsel. The Hadith is a second valuable text, which compliments the Qur'an and is used to assist in interpreting its message. The Hadith is a compilation of stories of Muhammad's life and of sayings ascribed to him, The Sunnah, the unwritten version of the Hadith, is a set of traditions attributed to Muhammad.

The Five Pillars

1. Shahada (witness)
2. Salat (worship)
3. Zakat (poor tax)
4. Siyam (fasting)
5. Hajj (pilgrimage to the House of God in Mecca)

Dates of Religious Observance

2 All Saints

Orthodox Christian: Observers traditionally celebrate this with baptism and confirmation of new Christians. This holiday marks the day when God spoke to the disciples in tongues.

11 Lailat al-Qadr

Islam: Marks the time when the Qur'an's first verse were revealed to the prophet Muhammad. Observers believe that this night marks their fate in the following year.

15 Eid al-Fitr

Islam: A celebration at the end of Ramadan of the good things Muslims have received, God's bounty, and their family and friends. Every household must make an offering of charity in the days leading up to Eid al-Fitr.

16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev

Sikh: A time for remembering those who have suffered for their faith.

20 Waqf al-Arafa

Islam: Observance day during Hajj when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy

21 Litha

Wicca/Pagan: Also known as Midsummer, this holiday marks the sacred marriage in which energy of the gods is poured into the service of life.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
							All Saints
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
							St. Colomba of Iona
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Lailat al-Qadr				Eid al-Fitr	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Father's Day			Waqf al-Arafa	Litha		
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

African American Traditions

The phrase “African American traditions” refers to the religious and spiritual practices of blacks and people of African descent in the United States. Often times the religious life of Black Americans forms the foundation of their community life.



African Methodist Episcopal Church

History

Around 1800, the African Methodist Episcopal Church and other churches were founded and became a focal point of the black community. The black church was both an expression of community and unique African-American spirituality, and a reaction to discrimination. The church also served as a neighborhood where blacks could celebrate their African heritage without intrusion by white critics and belittlers. Community members would go to the church to receive education. Other non-Christian denominations evolved over the years to make what is now a diverse and intricate culture of religions.

Major Historically Black Christian Denominations

- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Baptists
- Pentecostal

Other Denominations

- Islam
- Black/African Hebrew Israelites
- Black Mormons

Dates of Religious Observance

9 Martyrdom of the Bab
Baha'i: A solemn holy day commemorating the death of the Bab by firing squad on July 9, 1850.

13 Obon
Shinto: A Japanese Buddhist custom to honor deceased family members. A day to visit and clean family members' graves.

22 Tisha B'av
Jewish: A day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the First Temple by the Babylonians in 586BCE and the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 CE.

24 Pioneer Day
Mormon Christian: This holiday is primarily celebrated in the U.S., particularly in the state of Utah. It recognizes the entry of Brigham Young and the first group of Mormon pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley.

27 Asalha Puja Day
Buddhist: Festival commemorating the Buddha delivering his famous Sermon at Deer Park.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9 Martyrdom of the Bab	10	11	12	13 Obon	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Tisha B'av	23	24 Pioneer Day	25	26	27 Asalha Puja Day	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Centralized in the Indian Subcontinent, Hinduism has now spread across the world. Sectarian differences in Hinduism are due to differences in the importance of certain gods and the traditions of worship. Groups are usually defined by the god that is essential to their worship and belief. The sacred language of Hinduism is Sanskrit.



Public prayer, Haridwar, India

Holy Scriptures

The Vedas are the oldest sacred texts of Hinduism, and comprise the Rigveda, the Samaveda, the Yajurveda, and the Atharvaveda. Other scriptures include the Upanishads, the Puranas, the Bhagavad Gita.

Teachings, Practices, and Systems

Hinduism teaches that Brahman is the one, ultimate divine force. Maya is the illusion of the material world around us, concealing the ultimate reality of the Brahman. The illusion must be pierced in order to find truth. The term of Atman in Hinduism represents "true self," which does not die.

Karma means "deed" and describes the principle of cause and effect which governs all aspects of life. Hinduism teaches that one is reborn according to their karma, their positive and negative actions during their previous life. One can progress upward through various animals, to human, and then through the differently privileged classes of humans, often referred to as castes. The cycle of rebirth is known as samsara.

Dates of Religious Observance

1 Lammas

Christian: This annual festival commemorates the abiding ties between siblings.

2 Lughnassad

Wicca/Pagan: The festival of the god of harvest honors Lugh's (the Celtic god of light) sacrifice and celebrates the first of the Great Harvest festivals, the harvest of the fruits and grains.

6 Transfiguration of the Lord

Orthodox Christian: Celebrates the appearance of Jesus to his disciples in glorified form, with Moses and Elijah at his side.

15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Catholic Christian: Celebrates the belief that at the end of her life, Mary was taken - body and soul - into heaven.

22 Eid al Adha

Islam: Islamic Festival of Sacrifice. A three-day festival recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah.

29 Raksha Bandhan

Hindu: This annual festival commemorates the abiding ties between siblings.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
				Lammas	Lughnassad		
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Transfiguration of the Lord					
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary			
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				Eid al Adha			
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
				Raksha Bandham			

Having started between 600-500 BCE, Taoism is as much a philosophy as it is a religious practice. Its tenets are simple: compassion, moderation, and humility. The Tao is a life force that flows through all of existence and beyond. If translated directly, it means "The Way". Rather than attributing a specific consciousness or being to the Tao - as is the case with the Abrahamic notion of God - Taoism asserts that there is not separation between the physical world and the divine.



Taoist temple, Cebu, Philippines

Holy Scripture

The Tao Te Ching has 81 chapters that emphasize the illusion of duality in our everyday lives. To reach enlightenment, one must ultimately discover balance.

Confucianism

Confucianism is a philosophical/ethical system based on the teachings of Confucius, a Chinese philosopher who lived between 551-478 B.C.E. This system includes religious, moral, social, and political components that heavily influence many Asian countries such as China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Vietnam. The main idea of Confucianism stresses the importance of moral development for individuals. Recognizing that many people simply follow laws and rules without knowing the reason for those rules, Confucianism stresses that with individual moral development there would be a decreased need for laws to govern people because the individual will do what is right so as not to shame him or herself.

Dates of Religious Observance

3 Krishna Janmashtami
Hindu: Commemoration of the birth of Krishna, the 8th incarnation of the god Vishnu

8 Nativity of Virgin Mary
Christian: Celebrates the birth of the Virgin Mary.

10-11 Rosh Hashanah
Jewish: Commonly known as the Jewish New Year. Occurs on the first and second day of Tishiri.

12 Hijra
Islam: The emigration of Muhammad and his followers to Medina in 615CE

13 Ganesh Chaturthi
Hindu: A festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence, and success.

19 Yom Kippur
Jewish: Day of Atonement and the most solemn Holy Day devoted to prayer and fasting.

21 Ashura
Islam: An optional one day fast. Sunni and Shia observance differ on this day.

22 Mabon/Ostara
Wicca/Pagan: The second of three harvest festivals. Encourages the term "you reap what you sow" both literally and figuratively. A time to express gratitude, complete projects, and honor a moment of balance, as the day and night are of equal lengths.

24 Sukkot
Jewish: Feast of Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	2	☾ 3	4	5	6	7	8
		Krishna Janmashtami					Nativity of Virgin Mary
●	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Rosh Hashanah		Hijra	Ganesh Chaturthi	Paryushana Parva	
☾	16	17	18	19	20	21	Autumnal Equinox 22
				Yom Kippur		Ashura	Mabon
	23	24	☉ 25	26	27	28	29
	30						
		Sukkot					

Paganism and Wicca

Paganism is the ancestral religion of the whole of humanity. This ancient religious outlook remains active throughout much of the world today, from places such as Japan and India, to diverse tribal societies world-wide. It was the outlook of the European religions of classical antiquity – Persia, Egypt, Greece and Rome – as well as of their neighbors on the northern fringes, and its European form is re-emerging into explicit awareness in the modern West as the articulation of urgent contemporary religious priorities.



A Wiccan altar

A definition of a Pagan is a follower of a polytheistic or pantheistic nature-worshipping religion.

Pagans and Wiccans:

- * May be trained in particular traditions or they may follow their own inspiration.
- * Are not dogmatic.
- * Pursue their own vision of the Divine as a direct and personal experience.
- * Have a very diverse culture, with different covens devoting themselves to different gods and goddesses.
- * All acknowledge the existence of the Goddess, the most important divine figure. Even if the coven is devoted to a major or minor god or goddess, the Goddess is still worshipped.
- * More often than not believe in the Mother, Maiden, and Crone, symbolizing the three main important stages of a woman's life.
- * Are a very matriarchal culture. Covens are mostly ruled by High Priestesses, who are the most knowledgeable and have a special connection with the Goddess.

Sacred Texts:

Pagans and Wiccans collect their information from a variety of sources and readings, but their most sacred text is their Book of Shadows, a self-created compilation of the practitioner's experiences and spells.

Dates of Religious Observance

1 Shemini Atzret

Jewish: Celebrates the conclusion of the year-long cycle of reading the Torah (the five books of Moses) and renewing the cycle.

2 Simchat Torah

Jewish: Celebrates the reading of the Law. Synagogue services involve readings, processions, and blessing of the children.

19 Dasara

Hindu: Celebration of victory and valor. Lord Rama is remembered as winning a victory over evil.

20 Birth of the Bab

Baha'i: Celebration of the birth of one of the founders of Baha'i.

Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth

Sikh: Sikh scriptures, the Adi Granth, are honored as perpetual Guru

28 Reformation Day

Protestant Christian: An important liturgical festival celebrated by Lutheran Christians and Christians of many Protestant denominations.

Milvian Bridge Day

Christian: Day of solemn reflection on the relationship of the spiritual community and the powers of civil government.

31 All Hallows Eve

Christian

Samhain

Wicca/Pagan: Celebration of endings and beginnings, gratitude, and remembering the dead.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Shemini Atzeret	Simchat Torah				
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Thanksgiving (Canada)					
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						Dasara	Birth of the Bab Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Reformation Day Milvian Bridge Day			All Hallows Eve Samhain			

Native American Traditions

Native American religions are the spiritual practices of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. Traditional Native American ceremonial ways can vary widely, and are based on the differing histories and beliefs of individual tribes, clans, and bands. Early European explorers describe individual Native American tribes and even small bands as each having their own religious practices. Theology may be monotheistic, polytheistic, henotheistic, animistic, or some combination thereof. Traditional beliefs are usually passed down in the forms of oral histories, stories, allegories and principles, and rely on face to face teaching in one's family and community.



A smudge stick being used in a Native American Ritual, AZ

A Cherokee Marriage Prayer

God in Heaven above
please protect the ones we love.
We honor all you created as we
pledge
our hearts and lives together.

We honor Mother Earth
and ask for our marriage to be abundant
and grow stronger through the
seasons;

We honor Fire
and ask that our union
be warm and glowing
with love in our hearts;

We honor Wind
and ask that we sail through life
safe and calm as in our father's arms;

We honor Water
to clean and soothe our relationship
that it may never thirst for love;

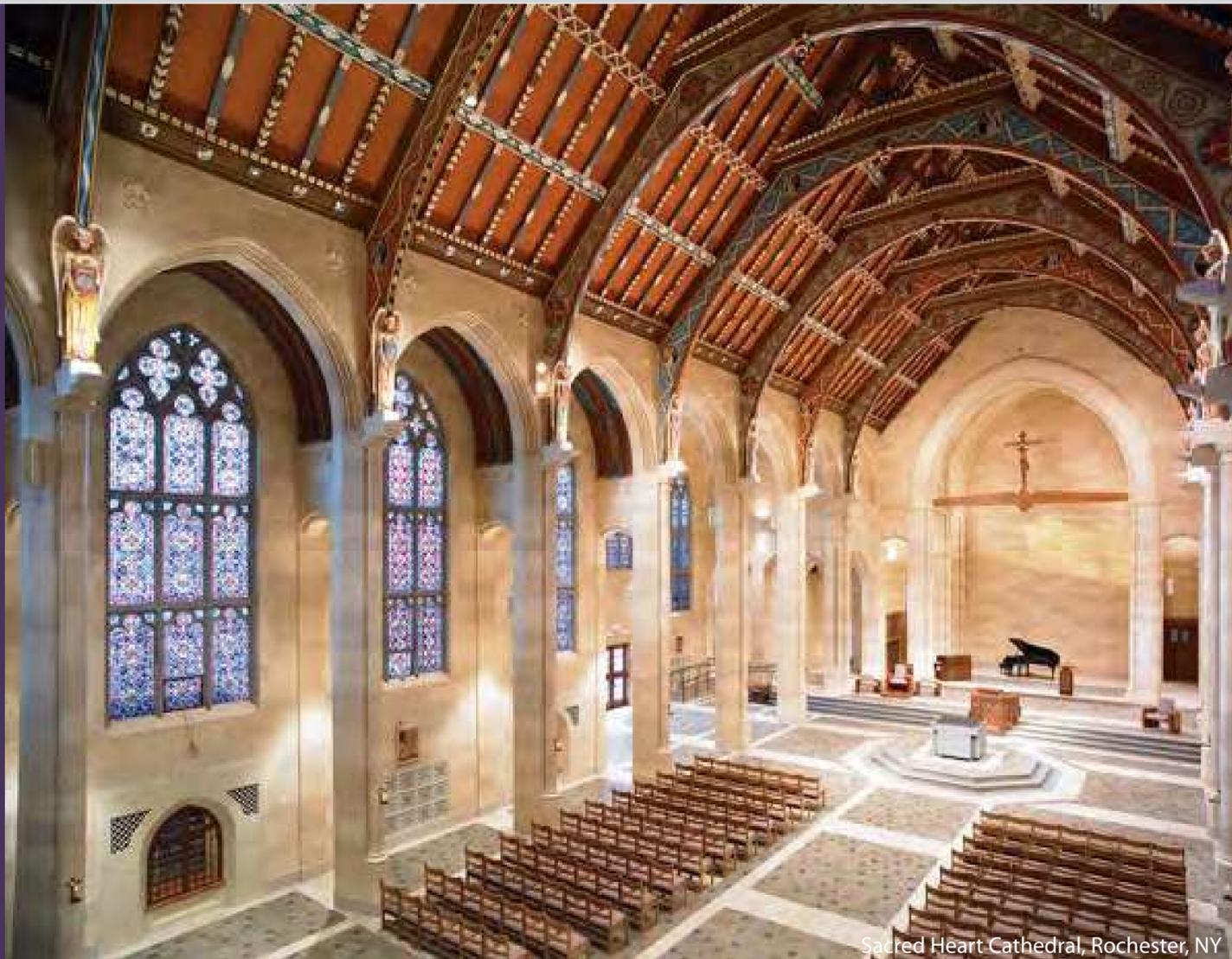
With all the forces of the universe you
created,
we pray for harmony and true happiness
as we forever grow young together.

Dates of Religious Observance

- 1 All Saints Day**
Christian: A day for honoring saints, known and unknown.
- 2 All Souls Day**
Catholic Christian: A day of prayers of remembrance and intercession for the dead.
- 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah**
Baha'i: The birthday of Baha'i's founder and teacher, and people refrain from work.
- 15 Nativity Fast Begins**
Orthodox Christian
- 23 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib**
Sikh: The birthday of Sikhism's founder.
- 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahdur**
Sikh: A day for remembering the martyrdom of the ninth Sikh Guru.
- 25 Christ the King**
Christian: The celebration of the preeminence of Jesus over all earthly authorities.
- 26 Day of the Covenant**
Baha'i: Celebration of the covenant given by Baha'u'llah.
- 28 Ascension of Abdul-Baha**
Baha'i: Celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu'l-Baha to the heavenly dwelling.
- 30 St. Andrew's Day**
Christian: Celebration of the coming of Christianity to Scotland.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				All Saints Day	All Souls Day	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Birth of Baha'u'llah			Nativity Fast Begins		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Thanksgiving	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahdur
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	Christ the King Day of the Covenant		Ascension of Abdul-Baha		St. Andrew's Day	

The second of the three Abrahamic faiths, Christianity grew out of ancient Judaism through belief in the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.



Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester, NY

Christianity

According to Christian tradition, Jesus was born the Son of God to Mary, a virgin of the lineage of King David and betrothed to Joseph in Bethlehem. As an adult, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and began ministering to his community. Jesus' actions displeased the reigning political and religious authorities, leading to his arrest and sentencing. Before his arrest, he met with his disciples for Passover. In this Last Supper, as it came to be called, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and shared bread and wine with them, which would serve as the basis for the sacrament of the Eucharist, emphasizing his role as a sacrifice for humanity. Jesus was crucified and, according to Christian tradition, rose from the dead on the third day after his death.

Holy Scripture

The central teachings are found in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

Dates of Religious Observance

1 Milad un Nabi

Islam: A day commemorating the Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

3 Hanukkah

Jewish: Also known as the Festival of Lights. It commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 BCE

6 Saint Nicholas Day

Christian: Celebration of the birth of Saint Nicolas, patron saint of children and role model for gift giving.

8 Immaculate Conception

Catholic Christian: Day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life.

Bodhi Day

Buddhist: Celebration of the time when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

21 Yule

Wiccan/Pagan: Pagan celebration of the winter-born king, symbolized by the rebirth of the sun. In Wicca, it is a celebration of the rebirth of the Great horned hunter god.

25 Christmas

Christian

26 Kwanzaa

African American: An African American and Pan-African holiday celebrating family, community and culture.

28 Holy Innocents

Christian: Day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the attempt to destroy Jesus.

31 Watch Night

Christian: An occasion to thank God for bringing people safely through another year.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
							Milad un Nabi
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Hanukkah			Saint Nicholas Day		Immaculate Conception of Mary Bodhi Day
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	Winter Solstice 21	22
						Yule Litha	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31	Christmas	Kwanzaa		Holy Innocents	
		Watch Night					