

**Chaplaincy Services Guidance for the Recognition
of Holy Days Calling for Work Proscription,
Public Fast and Observance
2016/2017/2018
(Updated 9/1/2015)**

At the December 1990 Executive Staff meeting, approval was given for the development of a uniform list of recognized holy days on which inmates may be excused from work or school for religious reasons.

The days listed below are commonly observed legitimate holy days free from work in their respective religions, but this is not an exhaustive list. The Warden may authorize other local requests after verifying the religious nature of the observance. In many religions there are no days free from work, but special observances are scheduled during non-work hours (e.g., Pagan, Native American solstice observances).

This list of commonly observed public fast days by inmate members of religious groups within the Bureau will assist in:

- Planning for the fasts and
- Coordinating with Food Service for meals for participants at the conclusion of the fasts.

This document provides a three year overview to encourage long range planning.

DIRECTIVE REFERENCED

P5360.09 Religious Beliefs and Practices (12/31/04)

EXCUSING INMATES FROM WORK AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. The Central Office Chaplaincy Services Branch, Correctional Programs Division (CPD), maintains a general list of recognized holy days to identify days on which inmates of various faith groups may ask to be excused from work and school attendance. Due to the changing nature of religious observances, this list is not exhaustive.

Requests for days off work and school by members of religions not included in this document are to be given due consideration and authorized by the Warden when appropriate.

Days free from work or school attendance is determined by the religious community standard and ordinances of faith groups. The number of days free from work for religious holy day observances is not limited to one per year.

Inmates who personally request to observe holy days should be authorized to do so. Group requests for work proscription are not acceptable. When an inmate submits a written request to staff and staff verifies the request legitimacy, the inmate should not be required to work or attend school. The Warden may require inmates who are authorized to miss work on a holy day to make up for the missed work time or take vacation days if feasible. Holy days occurring on weekends or national holidays are observed on the exact date and not moved to a week day.

GENERAL PROVISIONS. The following considerations must be taken into account when planning for proper observances of religious holy days.

Christianity. Religious Holy Days noted with an (*) require Mass accommodation for Roman Catholic adherents (unless otherwise authorized by the Religious Judicatory). "Whenever January 1, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, or August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption, or November 1, the solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Saturday or on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated. (USCCB 11-17-1992)."

Orthodox Churches follow either the "Old" Julian Calendar or the "New" Gregorian Calendar. There is a 13 day difference between the two calendars. In the US, each Orthodox jurisdiction tends to follow the calendar used by their parent church overseas.

While Good Friday is not a mandatory day of work proscription according to any one Christian tradition, it is considered most sacred, especially by Hispanic Christians. At a minimum, requesting inmates should be allowed to attend services in the Chapel on Good Friday afternoon, as would be the normal practice in the community.

Hinduism. Actual dates may vary due to the slight variations in calculating the Hindu calendar.

Islam. The Islamic calendar is on a lunar based cycle. Therefore, the dates provided in this document are approximate dates of new lunar sight ability. In addition, Muslims observe holidays beginning on the sunset of the previous day.

Judaism. All Jewish holy days begin at sundown of the previous day and end approximately one hour after sundown on holy day.

i. **Native American.** A number of ceremonies and observances occur at the change of the seasons (spring and fall equinoxes, and summer and winter solstices). These observances vary from tribe to tribe and nation to nation. Local tribal consultation is the best reference for each institution.

**RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
WORK PROSCRIPTION**

2016

2017

2018

a. Bahai

--Martyrdom of Bab 9 Jul 9 Jul 9 Jul

b. Buddhism

--Parinirvana Day 15 Feb 15 Feb 15 Feb

--Buddha Day 8 Apr 8 Apr 8 Apr

--Bodhi Day 8 Dec 8 Dec 8 Dec

**Buddhist inmates may select either the three above-listed dates or
Wesak Day, but not all four.**

--Wesak 20 May 10 May 29 May

c. Christianity (* Mass Required)

--Good Friday 25 Mar 14 Apr 31 Mar

--Easter* 27 Mar 16 Apr 1 Apr

--Christmas* 25 Dec 25 Dec 25 Dec

Roman Catholic. Christians observe these additional holy days:

--Octave of Christmas,* 1 Jan 1 Jan 1 Jan
(Mary Mother of God)

--Ascension Thursday* 5 May 25 May 10 May

--Assumption of Mary* 15 Aug 15 Aug 15 Aug

--All Saints' Day* 1 Nov 1 Nov 1 Nov

--Immaculate Conception* 8 Dec 8 Dec 8 Dec

Orthodox. Orthodox Churches follow either the "Old" Julian Calendar (JC) or the "New" Gregorian Calendar ((GC). The date of Pascha (Easter) and the feasts determined by Pascha are the same in both calendars. In the US, each Orthodox jurisdiction tends to follow the calendar used by their parent church overseas. The dates of both calendars are:

--Nativity of Christ 25 Dec (JC) 25 Dec (JC) 25 Dec (JC)
(Christmas) 7 Jan (GC) 7 Jan (GC) 7 Jan (GC)

--Holy Friday 26 Apr 14 Apr 6 Apr

--Pascha (Easter) 1 May 16 Apr 8 Apr

**RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
WORK PROSCRIPTION**

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2017

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d. Hinduism

--Dussehra	11 Oct	30 Sep	19 Oct
--Diwali	30 Oct	19 Oct	7 Nov

e. Islam (Dates are subject to lunar sighting)

--Eid-ul-Fitr	5 Jul	25 Jun	15 Jun
--Eid-ul-Adha	11 Sep	1 Sep	22 Aug

f. Judaism

--Passover, 1st day	23 Apr	11 Apr	31 Mar
--Passover, 2nd day	24 Apr	12 Apr	1 Apr
--Passover, 7th day	29 Apr	17 Apr	6 Apr
--Passover, 8th day	30 Apr	18 Apr	7 Apr
--Shavuot, 1st day	12 Jun	31 May	20 May
--Shavuot, 2nd day	13 Jun	1 Jun	21 May
--Rosh Hashanah, 1st day	3 Oct	21 Sep	10 Sep
--Rosh Hashanah, 2nd day	4 Oct	22 Sep	11 Sep
--Yom Kippur	12 Oct	30 Sep	19 Sep
--Sukkot, 1st day	17 Oct	5 Oct	24 Sep
--Sukkot, 2nd day	18 Oct	6 Oct	25 Sep
--Sukkot, 8th day (Shemini Atzeret)	24 Oct	12 Oct	1 Oct
--Sukkot, 9th day (Simchat Torah)	25 Oct	13 Oct	2 Oct

g. Moorish Science Temple of America

--Noble Drew Ali's Birthday	8 Jan	8 Jan	8 Jan
--Moorish New Year	15 Jan	15 Jan	15 Jan

h. Nation of Islam

--Savior's Day	26 Feb	26 Feb	26 Feb
--Savior's Day	7 Oct	7 Oct	7 Oct
--Holy Day of Atonement	16 Oct	16 Oct	16 Oct

**RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
WORK PROSCRIPTION**

2016

2017

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i. Native American Religion

--American Indian Days 24-25 Sep 24-25 Sep 24-25 Sep

j. Pagan - Wicca

--Samhain 31 Oct 31 Oct 31 Oct

k. Rastafarianism

--Birthday of Haile Selassie 23 Jul 23 Jul 23 Jul

--Rastafarian New Year 11 Sep 11 Sep 11 Sep

--Crowning of Haile Selassie 2 Nov 2 Nov 2 Nov

l. Sikhism

--Vaisakhi (New Year) 14 Apr 14 Apr 14 Apr

--Founder's Birthday
(Guru Nanak) 14 Nov 3 Nov 22 Nov

PUBLIC FAST DAYS. Generally, there are two types of religious fasts, a public, and a private or personal fast. When inmates observe a public fast, i.e. one which is regulated by law or custom for all the faith adherents, Food Service will provide a meal nutritionally equivalent to the meal(s) missed. Public fasts usually begin and end at specific times.

Accommodations may also be made for bagged meals at times when Food Service is normally closed. When an inmate fasts for personal, religious reasons, no special accommodation needs to be made for the meal(s) missed. Requests for meals after a personal fast should be determined on a case-by-case basis, applying sound correctional and pastoral judgment.

- a. **Islam.** Ramadan is observed by the members of **Islam** and the **Nation of Islam.** Actual Western hemisphere moon sightings may occur a day later, but never earlier, than these dates reflect. The fast will last 29 or 30 days, but not longer than 30 days.

	2016	2017	2018
--Ramadan begins	6 Jun	27 May	16 May

b. **Judaism**

--Fast of Tevet	22 Dec (2015)	8 Jan	28 Dec (2017)
--Fast of Esther	23 Mar	9 Mar	28 Feb
--Fast of Tammuz	24 Jun	11 Jul	1 Jul
--Tish B'Av	14 Aug	1 Aug	22 Jul
--Fast of Gedaliah	5 Oct	24 Sep	12 Sep
--Yom Kippur	12 Oct	30 Oct	19 Sep

c. **Nation of Islam**

--Holy Day of Atonement	16 Oct	16 Oct	16 Oct
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- d. **Orthodox Christianity.** Orthodox Christians are obliged to abstain from meat and dairy products on most Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as during several periods of the year (e.g. Great Lent, Nativity season (Advent), 15 days before Dormition, etc.) These frequent fasting days can be accommodated by self-selection from the mainline menu. The day appointed for a total fast from all food is:

--Holy Friday	29 Apr	14 Apr	6 Apr
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e. **Roman Catholicism**

--Ash Wednesday	10 Feb	1 Mar	14 Feb
--Good Friday	25 Mar	14 Apr	31 Mar

OBSERVANCE DAYS. An observance is not a mandatory holy day calling for work proscription and public fast according to the faith tradition or not universally recognized days by the faith community. At a minimum, requesting inmates may be allowed to meet in the Chapel or Outdoor Worship Area as would be the normal practice in the community.

	2016	2017	2018
a. Judaism			
--Purim	24 Mar	12 Mar	1 Mar
--Chanukah	25 Dec	13 Dec	3 Dec

Chanukah is an eight day observance with the lighting of the menorah candles at sundown.

b. Native American			
--Spring Equinox	20 Mar	20 Mar	20 Mar
--Summer Solstice	20 Jun	21 Jun	21 Jun
--Fall Equinox	22 Sep	22 Sep	23 Sep
--Winter Solstice	21 Dec	21 Dec	21 Dec

c. Pagan			
Asatru, Odinst			
-Ostara(Spring Equinox)*	20 Mar	20 Mar	20 Mar
-Midsummer (Summer Solstice)*	20 Jun	21 Jun	21 Jun
-Winter Finding(Fall Equinox)*	22 Sep	22 Sep	23 Sep
-Yule (Winter Solstice)*	21 Dec	21 Dec	21 Dec

(* If requested, the Warden has the authority to approve request locally for days of work proscription)

--Charming of Plow**	Feb	Feb	Feb
--Walpurgisnacht/May Day	1 May	1 May	1 May
--Freyrfaxi**	Aug	Aug	Aug
--Winter Nights**	Oct	Oct	Oct
--Einherjar	11 Nov	11 Nov	11 Nov

**Actual date varies. Inmates may request a specific date during the month to observe.

Wicca			
--Imbolc	1 Feb	1 Feb	1 Feb
--Ostara(Spring Equinox)	20 Mar	20 Mar	20 Mar
--Beltane	1 May	1 May	1 May
--Litha (Summer Solstice)	20 Jun	21 Jun	21 Jun
--Lughnasadh	1 Aug	1 Aug	1 Aug
--Mabon(Fall Equinox)	22 Sep	22 Sep	23 Sep
--Yule (Winter Solstice)	21 Dec	21 Dec	21 Dec

	2016	2017	2018
d. Santeria			
--Oggun: St. Peter	29 Jan	29 Jan	29 Jan
--Oya: St. Teresa	2 Feb	2 Feb	2 Feb
--Ochgrinan: St. Joseph	19 Mar	19 Mar	19 Mar
--Aguema: Lady of Immaculate Conception	5 May	5 May	5 May
--Orichaoko: St. Isodore	15 May	15 May	15 May
--Ochosi: St. Norbert	6 Jun	6 Jun	6 Jun
--Feast of Ellegua	13 Jun	13 Jun	13 Jun
--Aganyu-Sola: St. Christopher	25 Jul	25 Jul	25 Jul
--Yewa: St. Clare	11 Aug	11 Aug	11 Aug
--Yemaya: Our Lady of Regla	7 Sep	7 Sep	7 Sep
--Feast of Osshun	8 Sep	8 Sep	8 Sep
--Feast of Obatala	24 Sep	24 Sep	24 Sep
--Los Ibeyi: Saints Cosmas and Damian	26 Sep	26 Sep	26 Sep
--Orunla: St. Francis Assisi	4 Oct	4 Oct	4 Oct
--Dada: Our Lady of Rosary	7 Oct	7 Oct	7 Oct
--Inle: Archangel Raphael	24 Oct	24 Oct	24 Oct
--Feast of Chango	4 Dec	4 Dec	4 Dec
--Babalu-Aye: St. Lazarus	17 Dec	17 Dec	17 Dec
--Osain: St. Sylvester St. Ambrose	31 Dec	31 Dec	31 Dec

Because of the importance of culture and geography in defining the worship there will never be a comprehensive list of all Orishas. Therefore one should not conclude that others are not legitimate objects of worship or occasions for celebration.