



## **Welcoming Religious Identities**

GUIDE TO SACRED TIMES AND DAYS  
FOR EVENT PLANNERS

**SPRING 2025**



**Office of Religious, Spiritual,  
and Ethical Life**

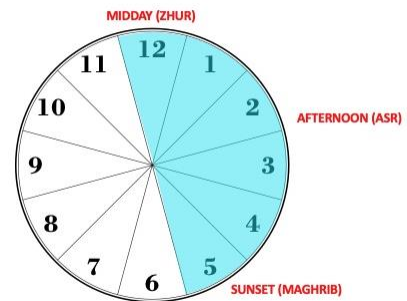


## Daily Prayers

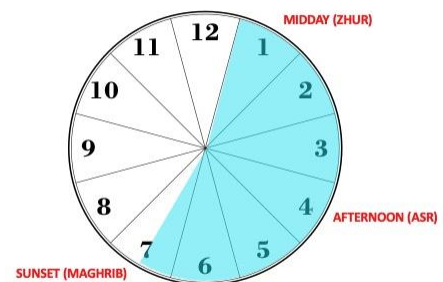
Muslims pray five times a day: before dawn, midday, afternoon, sunset, and at night. For events that span the hours between midday and dusk, consider providing a quiet space and breaks so that Muslim attendees can pray. There are three separate prayer times that fall during the windows shown in blue here.

For a more precise schedule with the starts of each prayer time, search “Islamic Prayer Times Cambridge MA” and the date of your event.

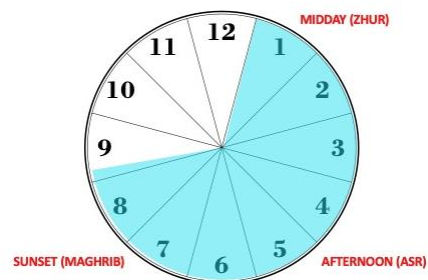
### Typical Prayer Times for Cambridge



Daylight Savings Time  
Early November to Early March



September-October and March-April



Summer  
May to August

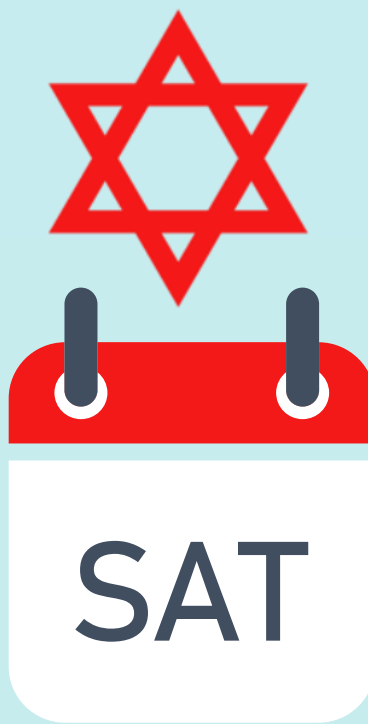


### **Friday afternoon**

Many Muslims attend Jumu`a prayers between 12pm and 2pm on Fridays. Consider shifting or extending your event into the late morning or late afternoon.

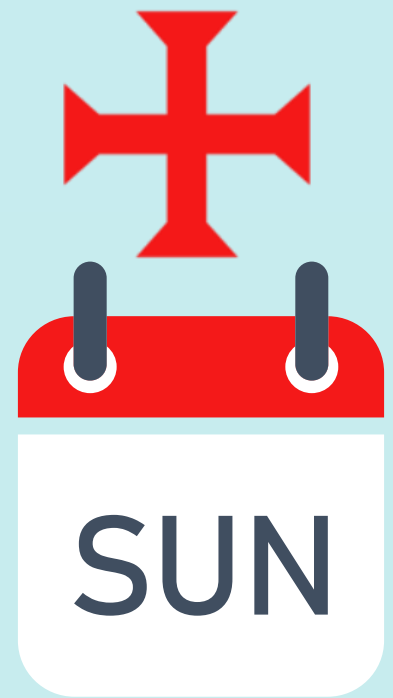
### **Friday night**

See tips for Saturday



### **Saturday (daytime events)**

From sundown on Friday to an hour after sundown on Saturday (Shabbat), some Jews will not work, write, or use any electronic devices including computers, cell phones, email, lights, cars, card readers, automatic doors, or automatic toilets. Consider how you can accommodate observant Jewish guests.



### **Sunday**

Many Christians make Sunday services a priority. Many Catholics attend Mass on Saturday night or Sunday. If you're hosting an all-day event on a Sunday, consider breaking for at least an hour at one of the times that Mass is offered in the MIT Chapel (9:30am, 1:00pm, or 5:00pm).

## Muslim



















































Many Muslims fast and avoid drinking water for the 30 days in the holy month of **Ramadan (March 1-30)**. They may avoid events focused on food. In the evenings, Muslims break the fast together. The day after Ramadan, **Eid-al-Fitr (March 31)**, is a major holiday. **Muslim holidays** start at sundown the night before and end at sundown.

## Christian

**Ash Wednesday (March 5)** and **Holy Week (April 17-19)** are days of fasting and prayer for many Christians, especially Catholics. **Easter Sunday (April 20)** is the central feast of the Christian year. Catholics also celebrate the **Ascension of the Lord (May 29)**.

## Jewish

During the eight days of **Passover (April 13-20)**, many Jews will abstain from eating any bread products and some may only eat fruits, vegetables, and foods that are labeled "Kosher for Passover." Observant Jews do not write or use electricity on the first two and last two days of the holiday. Observant Jews also avoid writing and using electricity on **Shavuot (June 2 & 3)**. All Jewish holidays start at sundown the night before, and they conclude an hour after sundown.

SPRING 2025						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28 Feb 	1  March
2 	3 	4 	5  	6 	7 	8 
9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 
16 	17 	18 	19 	20 	21 	22 
23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 
30 	31 	1 April	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 
13 	14 	15 	16 	17  	18  	19  
20  	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 May	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 	30	31
1 June 	2 	3 	4	5	6	7

FALL 2025						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
21 Sept	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 Oct	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



Jewish

Some Jews will abstain from writing and using electricity on the two days of **Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 23-24)**. Many Jews will fast all day on **Yom Kippur (Oct. 2)**, and some will avoid writing and electricity. During the festival of **Sukkot (Oct. 7-13)**, the Jewish community gathers outdoors in a booth. Some Jews avoid writing and using electricity during the first two days. The two days after Sukkot, **Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah (Oct. 14-15)**, are also holidays when some Jews may avoid writing and electricity. **Jewish holidays** start at sundown the night before and end an hour after sundown.



Christian

Catholics observe the **Feast of All Saints (Nov. 1)**.

Please note: Almost all of these annual holidays are connected to **lunar calendars** and will appear on slightly different dates in following years.

This guide focuses on the religious communities that most often experience challenges in attending Institute events: Muslims, Jews, and Christians (and more specifically, Catholics). You can find a **more complete calendar** of religious holidays [here](#).

We also provide suggestions for **halal and kosher** food [here](#).

We're happy to help. Send questions to: [askachaplain@mit.edu](mailto:askachaplain@mit.edu)

Thank you for your care for religious members of our MIT community, and the warm welcome you give your guests!