



Welcoming Religious Identities

GUIDE TO SACRED TIMES AND DAYS
FOR EVENT PLANNERS

SPRING 2026



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

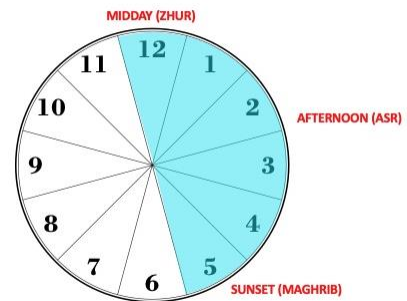


Daily Prayers

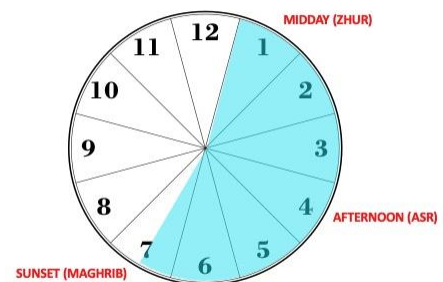
Muslims pray five times a day: before dawn, midday, afternoon, sunset, and at night. For events that span the hours between midday and dusk, consider providing a quiet space and breaks so that Muslim attendees can pray. There are three separate prayer times that fall during the windows shown in blue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

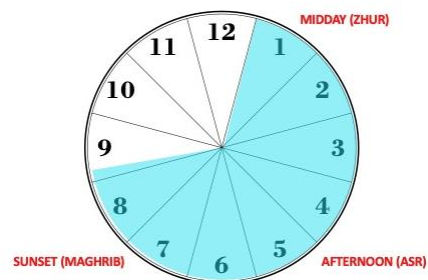
Typical Prayer Times for Cambridge



Daylight Savings Time
Early November to Early March



September-October and March-April



Summer
May to August

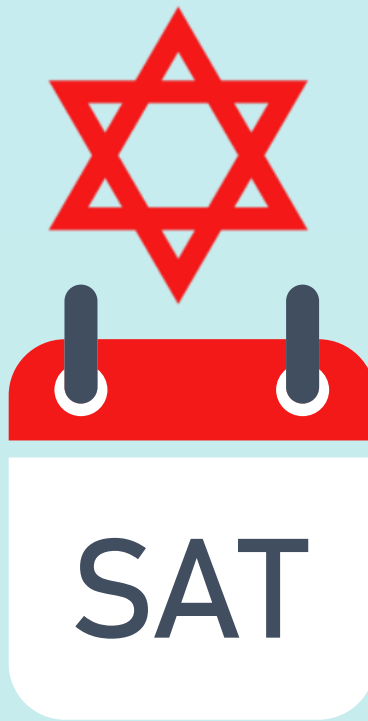


Friday afternoon

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.

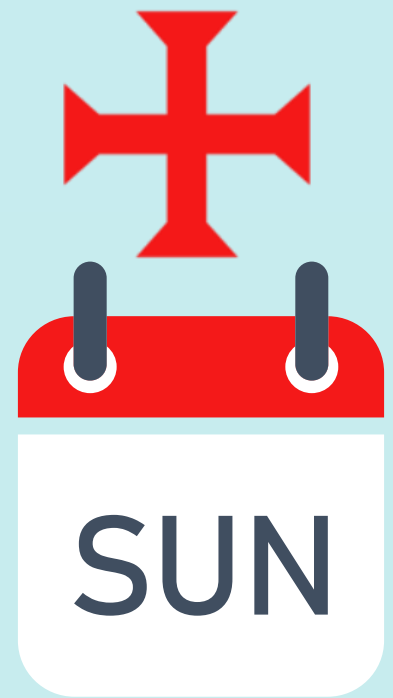
Friday night

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).

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)**.

See the next page for key dates in **Spring 2026**.

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

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

Muslim


















































Many Muslims fast and avoid drinking water for the 30 days in the holy month of **Ramadan (Feb 18-March 19)**. They may avoid events focused on food. In the evenings, Muslims break the fast together. The day after Ramadan, **Eid-al-Fitr (March 20)**, is a major holiday. **Muslim holidays** start at sundown the night before and end at sundown.

Christian

Ash Wednesday (February 18) and **Holy Week (April 2-4)** are days of fasting and prayer for many Christians, especially Catholics. **Easter Sunday (April 5)** is the central feast of the Christian year. Catholics also celebrate the **Ascension of the Lord (May 14)** and **Pentecost (May 24)**.

Jewish

During the eight days of **Passover (April 1-9)**, 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 2026						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
15 Feb	16	17	18 	19 	20 	21 
22 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 Feb 
1  Mar	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