

Cultural, Heritage, & Religious Observances

FEBRUARY 2026

Thoughtful acknowledgment of cultural, heritage, and religious observances fosters belonging, invites learning, and strengthens connections. Through this effort, the *Office of University Engagement and Enrichment (OEE)* serves as a connector and amplifier—curating resources, highlighting events, and creating space for awareness in collaboration with campus partners to recognize the richness of traditions represented across our institution.



Black History Month

Honoring and celebrating Black histories, cultures, and leadership in the United States—rooted in a **century-long effort** begun by Dr. Carter G. Woodson to bring Black history into public learning—and affirming its continued importance in understanding our past, shaping our present, and advancing justice and belonging today.



Maha Shivaratri

Feb 15

A sacred night within Hindu religious traditions, dedicated to Lord Shiva and marked by prayer, fasting, and meditation. The observance emphasizes spiritual renewal, self-discipline, and reflection.

Lunar New Year

Feb 17

A seasonal observance rooted in multiple cultural traditions that follow the lunar calendar, marking the beginning of a new year. The observance emphasizes renewal, gratitude, family connection, and shared customs that welcome good fortune and continuity.



Ash Wednesday

Feb 18

A sacred day within Christian religious traditions that marks the beginning of Lent and is observed through prayer, reflection, and the receiving of ashes. The observance emphasizes humility, intention, repentance, and spiritual preparation.



Ramadan

Begins on Feb 18 or 19*

The start of a sacred month within Islamic religious traditions, marked by fasting, prayer, generosity, and reflection. The observance emphasizes spiritual discipline, compassion, and community connection.



**Dates may vary based on lunar observation.*

Stay connected.

Visit the OEE website to explore additional calendar observances, learn more about upcoming events, and share observance-related programming with us.

rochester.edu/oee
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