



Celebrating Together in 2022



Ramadan, Passover and Easter are overlapping this year. While Passover and Easter occur around the same time each year, it takes the Muslim calendar about 30 years for Ramadan to occur within the same month as the others.

“This is a unique opportunity to expand our personal and collective religious literacy, to promote understanding and curiosity during our shared time of observance.”¹ The following three celebrations fall within the month of April in 2022.



Ramadan : The evening of April 2nd through the evening of May 2nd

“The first day of Islam’s sacred month where Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset. After the sunset prayer, Muslims gather to break their fast with a meal shared with friends and extended family.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar (a lunar calendar). It begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon, starting 10-12 days earlier, each year.² For Muslims, it is a time for self-restraint, spiritual cleansing and purification, increased worship, good deeds and charity.

The conclusion of Ramadan is marked with a major celebration known as Eid al-Fitr, the Feast of Fast-Breaking. It starts the day after Ramadan ends and lasts for three days.³

PASSOVER : Sundown of April 15th through sundown of April 23rd

An eight-day, Jewish holiday that honors the Hebrew’s liberation from slavery. Like Ramadan, Passover changes each year following a lunar-based Hebrew calendar and occurs during the month of Nisan.⁴ Passover always falls on a full moon in the Spring. In Hebrew, this festival is known as Pesach (which means “to pass over”), because God “passed over” the doors of the Israelites during the plague of the first-borns.

During the days of Passover, leaven food products (expanded doughs/batters) are prohibited. In place, unleavened flatbread, called matzo, may be eaten. It symbolizes the haste in which the Hebrews had to leave Egypt.⁵ Passover is often a great celebration, especially on the first night, when a special family meal called the Seder is held. Symbolic foods are eaten, while prayers and traditions are performed, along with retelling the story of the Exodus.



Easter Sunday : April 17th

Also known as Resurrection Sunday, is an important holy day in the Christian faith. It follows Lent, the period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter, which traditionally is observed by acts of penance and fasting.

Easter is observed on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, following the vernal equinox. As told in the New Testament of the Bible, it marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his death by crucifixion on Good Friday. Through acknowledgment and belief in Jesus’ death and resurrection, Christians know their faith is what allows them to enter Heaven and spend eternity with Jesus when they die.

It is believed the name of “Easter” is derived from a pagan goddess “Eostre,” who represented spring and fertility.



Sources: 1. <https://cnewa.org/when-easter-passover-and-ramadan-occur-during-a-pandemic/>
2. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ramadan> 3. <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/ramadan>
4. <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/passover> 5. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Passover>
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