

Subject	Start Date	End Date	Description	Notes
Farvardegan, Muktaḁ, Gatha Prayers	8/8/2018	8/17/2018	Prayers for the departed are recited during the period. The last five days of the Parsi (Shahnshahi) calendar are devoted to five Holy Gathas, the divine songs of Prophet Zarathushtra. The final day of the period is Pateti - (from 'patet' meaning confession). In the Greater Washington area, a public prayer service is held invoking the names of deceased persons.	
New Year's Day	1/1/2019		Montgomery County government will observe this holiday. Area: Bethesda/Chevy Chase, East County, MidCounty, Silver Spring, Upcounty	
Birth of Guru Gobind Singh	1/5/2019		The birth of the last human Guru (divine teacher) of Sikhs (1666 - 1708)	
Three Kings Day	1/6/2019		Three Kings Days (also called Dia de los Reyes, Epiphany, Feast of Kings, Twelfth Day, Twelfthtide, Day of the Three Wise Men). This major festival of the Christian Church is observed in many parts of the world with gifts, feasting, last lighting of the Christmas lights and burning of Christmas greens. It is the Twelfth and last day of the Feast of the Nativity. It commemorates the visit of the Three Wise Men (Kings of Magi) to Bethlehem. It is one of the oldest Christian feasts, originating in the Eastern Church in the second century, and predates the Western feast of Christmas. It was adopted by the Western Church during the same period in which the Eastern Church accepted Christmas.	
Orthodox Christmas	1/7/2019		Eastern Orthodox Churches, which use the Julian Calendar to determine feast days, celebrate on January 7 by the Gregorian Calendar.	

Korean American Day	1/13/2019		A number of U.S. states have declared January 13 as Korean American Day in order to recognize Korean Americans' impact and contributions.	
Makar Sankranti	1/15/2019		One of the few solar holidays that marks the transition of the Sun into Capricorn on its celestial path and the northward journey of the sun. It also broadly coincides with the winter harvest in many parts of India. Hindus thank God for the bountiful harvest and may pay homage to Goddess Saraswati on this day as well as to ancestors. <i>Pongal</i> is widely celebrated in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka.	
MLK Day	1/21/2019		Location: Montgomery County, MD The Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., often called Martin Luther King Day, is a United States holiday honoring the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., black civil rights leader, minister, advocate of nonviolence and recipient of Nobel Peace Prize (1964). It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of Dr. King's birthday, January 15. Area: Bethesda/Chevy Chase, East County, MidCounty, Silver Spring, Upcounty	

Asian Lunar New Year	2/5/2019		Asian Lunar New Year is typically observed between January 21 and February 19; it is a public holiday in a number of countries and areas where a sizeable Asian population resides. It is the principal holiday in Asian calendars and falls on different dates on the Gregorian calendar every year on different days of the week. New Year season begins with the first new moon after the sun enters Aquarius and lasts for fifteen days. The first week is the most important and most often celebrated with visits to friends and family as well as greetings of good luck. The highlight of the season is the Dragon Parade which is thought to dispel evil spirits. Also known as Losar, Tet, or Chinese New Year	
Tet (Vietnamese New Year)	2/5/2019			
Losar	2/5/2019		Losar is the Tibetan word for "new year" and it is celebrated for 15 days, with the main celebrations on the first three days. On the first day of Losar, a beverage called changkol is made from chhaang (a Tibetan cousin of beer). The second day of Losar is known as King's Losar (gyalpo losar). Losar is traditionally preceded by the five day practice of Vajrakilaya.	
Vasant Panchami	2/10/2019		Worship Saraswati -- goddess of learning	
Parinirvana	2/15/2019		Mahayana Buddhist festival marking the anniversary of Buddha's death. Pure Land Buddhists call the festival "Nirvana Day". Parinirvana is celebrated by some Buddhists on February 8th. Nirvana Day is the celebration of Buddha's death when he reached total Nirvana, at the age of 80.	

President's Day	2/18/2019		Washington's Birthday is a United States federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February in honor of George Washington, the first President of the United States. Although President Lincoln's birthday, February 12, was never a federal holiday, approximately a dozen state governments including Maryland, have officially renamed their Washington's Birthday observances as Presidents' Day. Montgomery County government is closed.	
Magha Puja	2/19/2019		Fourfold Assembly or Sangha Day. Marks the day Buddha addressed a meeting of 1250 arahants. The date of Magha Puja may be 2/19/19 or ????, depending on the tradition.	
Chotrul Duchen	2/19/2019		Chokhor Duchen, one of the four great holy days of the Tibetan calendar. It is also known as the Festival of Turning the Wheel of Dharma, Chokhor Duchen commemorates the anniversary upon which Shakyamuni Buddha first began teaching the Dharma. For seven weeks after his enlightenment, the Buddha did not teach. After this period, Indra and Brahma offered a dharmachakra and a conch shell and requested Shakyamuni to teach. Accepting, Buddha Shakyamuni turned the Wheel of Dharma for the first time at Sarnath by teaching on the Four Noble Truths.	

Purim	2/20/2019		Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the deliverance of Persian Jews from the plot of Haman to exterminate them, as recorded in the biblical Book of Esther. Purim is marked by a carnival atmosphere, with masquerades, farcical plays, and the giving of gifts, especially charitable gifts. In the synagogue, the chief observance is the reading of the Megillah (scroll) of Esther, but here, also, unusual levity prevails. For example, at every mention of Haman, the congregation rattles "gregers" (noisemakers) to drown out the sound of his name. Purim begins at sundown on March 20, 2019.	
Maha Shivratri	3/4/2019		Worship Shiva -- one of the Hindu Trinity, the divine manifestation of transformation and regeneration	
Ash Wednesday	3/6/2019		In the Western Christian calendar, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It occurs forty-six days before Easter, but Lent is nevertheless considered forty days long, because Sundays in this period are not counted among the days of Lent. It falls on different dates from year to year, according to the date of Easter; it can occur as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. Worshippers are blessed by a priest or minister with ashes placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross. Ash Wednesday is observed by fasting and repentance.	
Holi	3/20/2019		Holi, the festival of colors, is the one of the most important Hindu festivals after Diwali. The festival is celebrated in early Spring with people throwing color powder/water at each other, sharing a meal together, and renewing friendships. The festival is a joyous celebration of the colors of Spring and communal harmony. Holi begins the evening of 3/20/2019	

Norouz	3/21/2019		<p>"New Day" (originally "New Light") is the traditional celebration of the ancient Achaemenid Iranian New Year. Norouz is also widely referred to as the Persian New Year. Norouz is celebrated and observed by Iranian peoples and has spread in many other parts of the world, including parts of Central Asia, South Asia, Northwestern China, the Crimea and some groups in the Balkans. It is marked by family visits and the exchange of gifts, as well as special feasts. It is also commemorated by setting tables with foods and special items beginning with the letter S; this is known as the Haft Sin. The 13th day of the New Year festival is called "Sizdah Bedar" and is spent out of doors at picnics and parks. The UN's General Assembly in 2010 recognized the International Day of Norouz, describing it a spring festival of Persian origin which has been celebrated for over 3,000 years.</p>	
Nowruz	3/21/2019		<p>This marks the first day of spring. Nowruz – 'new day', has been celebrated since Achaemenian times (circa 550 BC – 330BC) as the Persian New Year. The festival is celebrated in many parts of the Persian speaking world, including Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, and Central and South Asia. For Zoroastrians, a religious service followed by a feast, is usual. Noteworthy in the celebrations is the ceremonious placement of a 'Haft Sheen' table (consisting of seven items of Ahura Mazda's creations, starting with the letter S), also representing seven divinities in Zoroastrianism.</p>	
Kuan Yin (Avalokitesvara) Birthday	3/25/2019			

Khordad	3/28/2019		The day marks the birth of Prophet Zarathushtra (Zoroaster). For practical reasons the occasion is celebrated together with Nowruz.	
Wesak or Buddah Day	4/4/2019		The most important of the Buddhist festivals. It celebrates the Buddha's birthday, and, for some Buddhists, also marks his enlightenment and death.	
Ugadi	4/6/2019		Ugadi is derived from the Sanskrit words yuga (age) and ādi (starting) - 'the beginning of a new age'. The legend behind this festival is that Lord Brahma created the universe on Ugadi.	
Vesak (Theravada)	4/8/2019		Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and parinirvana	
Vaisakhi	4/14/2019		Vaisakhi celebrates the founding of the institution of Khalsa in 1699 which made the current outer identity of the Sikhs – unshorn hair and beard and a head covering – as a mandatory part of their faith, symbolizing equality, and to follow a code of conduct. http://www.sikhcouncilusa.org/article.aspx?aid=52	
Ram Navami	4/14/2019		Celebrates the birth of Lord Rama, an incarnation of Hindu Trinity Vishnu and embodiment of dharma (righteousness)	
Holy (Maundy) Thursday	4/18/2019		In the Christian calendar, Holy Thursday or Great Thursday, called in England and in a few other English-speaking countries Maundy Thursday, is the feast or holy day on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.	

Passover	4/19/2019	4/27/2019	<p>Passover is an eight-day Jewish holiday which is celebrated in the spring. It begins on the 15th day of Nisan (on the Hebrew calendar), which falls between March 15-April 30. Passover commemorates the Exodus and freedom of the Israelites from ancient Egypt. Jews celebrate Passover in their homes at a ceremonial feast called the Seder. At the Seder, the story of the flight of the Israelites is read from a book called the Haggadah. Foods symbolizing the flight from Egypt are placed on the table. The most important symbol is unleavened (unraised) bread called matzo (also spelled matzah). According to the Bible, when the Israelites fled, they did not have time to let their bread rise. They made flat, unleavened bread instead. Therefore, Jews eat matzahs instead of leavened bread during Passover. Passover begins at sunset on April 19, 2019.</p>	
Good Friday	4/19/2019		<p>Good Friday is a holy day celebrated by most Christians on the Friday before Easter or Pascha. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus at Calvary.</p>	
Hanuman Jayanti	4/19/2019		<p>Hanuman is a monkey god and is worshipped for his unflinching devotion to Lord Rama.</p>	
Theravada New Year	4/19/2019		<p>Traditional festival to mark the new year in several South and Southeast Asian cultures, including Thai, Cambodian, Lao, Burmese, Sinhalese, Tamil, Bengali, and Nepali.</p>	

Festival of Ridvan	4/20/2019	5/2/2019	Festival of Ridvan - Meaning ("paradise") is a Baha'i celebration commemorating the 12-day period in 1863 that Baha'u'llah (Baha'i founder) spent in the Garden of Ridvan, just outside Bagdad. During this period, Baha'u'llah began his prophethood and became God's messenger for this age. Baha'u'llah was in the Garden of Ridvan from April 21 to May 2, 1863, and this period is considered the most holy festival of the Baha'i faith and is called "Most Great Festival." The Festival of Ridvan is observed according to the Baha'i calendar and begins on the evening of April 20 and continues through May 2 each year.	
Easter	4/21/2019		Easter, also known as the Feast of the Resurrection, "the Sunday of the Resurrection", or "Resurrection Day", is the most important religious festival of the Christian liturgical year. The date of Easter, a moveable feast, is derived from the lunar calendar: the first Sunday following the first ecclesiastical full moon on or after March 21-always between March 22 and April 25. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which occurred after his death by crucifixion in AD 27-33). In the Catholic Church, Easter is actually an eight-day feast called the Octave of Easter.	
Orthodox Holy Thursday	4/25/2019		In the Christian calendar, Holy Thursday or Great Thursday is the feast or holy day on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.	
Orthodox Good Friday	4/26/2019		Good Friday is a holy day celebrated by most Christians on the Friday before Easter or Pascha. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus at Calvary.	

Orthodox Easter	4/28/2019		Easter, also known as the Feast of the Resurrection, "the Sunday of the Resurrection", or "Resurrection Day", is the most important religious festival of the Christian liturgical year. The date of Easter, a moveable feast, is derived from the lunar calendar: the first Sunday following the first ecclesiastical full moon on or after March 21-always between March 22 and April 25. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which occurred after his death by crucifixion in AD 27-33). In the Catholic Church, Easter is actually an eight-day feast called the Octave of Easter.	
Yom Ha'Shoah	5/1/2019		Officially entitled "Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day" by the Israeli Knesset, it also marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The JCRCGW organizes and sponsors Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration programs in both Montgomery and Fairfax counties to commemorate the more than six million victims of the Holocaust. Begins evening of 5/1/2019	
Ramadan: The Islamic Month of Fasting	5/5/2019	6/4/2019	Ramadan, the month of fasting, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is holy because it was during this month that the Holy Quran (Koran) was revealed. Adults fast from dawn until sunset to achieve spiritual and physical purification and self-discipline, abstaining from food, drink and intimate relations. It is a time for feeling a common bond with the poor and needy, and is a time of piety and prayer. It begins on the Islamic lunar calendar date Ramadan 1, 1438.	
Sagadawa Duchen	5/18/2019		Buddha's enlightenment and parinirvana	

Memorial Day	5/27/2019		<p>County Offices – closed Libraries – closed County liquor stores – open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m Recreation – all indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities will be open; administrative offices, senior centers and community recreation centers will be closed Montgomery Parks – for operating schedules, including Brookside Gardens, ice rinks, tennis centers, trains and carousels, visit www.montgomeryparks.org. Ride On – Sunday schedule Metrobus – Sunday schedule Metrorail – Sunday schedule TRiPS Commuter Stores (Silver Spring and Friendship Heights) – closed Refuse/recycling pickup – no collection* Transfer Station – closed Parking at public garages, lots, curbside meters – free MCPS Administrative Offices – closed State offices & courts – closed</p> <p>*Collection provided one day later for remainder of week (last collection day is Saturday). Memorial Day, also known as Decoration Day, is an official holiday observed in most states of the United States. It is observed on the last Monday in May; historically it was observed on a fixed date, May 30, until 1971 when it was changed for federal employees. All states adopted the change to the last Monday in May except Louisiana. Memorial Day began after the end of World War I when the day was reserved for honoring the dead of all American wars; it eventually included the deceased relatives and friends, military and civilian. Memorial Day is officially marked by the placing of</p>	
Ascension Thursday (Western)	5/30/2019		<p>Religious observance by many Christians, affirming the ascension of Jesus, celebrated on the Thursday in the sixth week following Easter Sunday.</p>	

Eid ul-Fitr	6/3/2019		Eid ul-Fitr, or abbreviated simply as Eid, is a principal Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. In Arabic, Fitr means "to break" and therefore symbolizes the breaking of the fasting period and of all evil habits. The holiday follows the month of Ramadan (usually October in the Gregorian calendar), falling on the first day of Shawwal (the tenth month in the Islamic calendar). As with all months in the Islamic calendar, it begins with the sighting of the new moon. For this reason there may be regional differences in the exact date of Eid, with some Muslims fasting for 29 days and some for 30 days. In the United States, Eid is expected to begin at sundown on June 3, 2019.	
Orthodox Ascension Thursday	6/6/2019		Religious observance by many Christians, affirming the ascension of Jesus, celebrated on the Thursday in the sixth week following Easter Sunday.	
Shavuot	6/8/2019	6/10/2019	Shavuot is the Jewish holiday that celebrates the giving of the Torah (the law) to Moses on Mount Sinai. The holiday is one of the Shalosh Regalim, the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals. Shavuot begins at sundown on June 8, 2019	
Juneteenth	6/19/2019		Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is a holiday in the United States honoring African American heritage by commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the State of Texas on June 19, 1865.	

Independence Day	7/4/2019		<p>Location: Montgomery County MD Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from Great Britain. Montgomery County government will observe this holiday. County Offices – closed Libraries – closed County liquor stores – open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Recreation – all indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities will be open; Germantown Indoor Swim Center will close at 3 p.m., all other aquatic facilities will close at 6 p.m.; swim lessons will meet in morning – afternoon/evening lessons and classes cancelled; administrative offices, senior centers and community recreation centers will be closed Montgomery Parks – for operating schedules, including Brookside Gardens, ice rinks, tennis centers, trains and carousels, visit www.montgomeryparks.org. Ride On – Saturday schedule Metrobus – Saturday schedule Metrorail – Holiday special service TRiPS Commuter Stores (Silver Spring and Friendship Heights) – closed Refuse/recycling pickup – no collection* Transfer Station – closed Parking at public garages, lots, curbside meters – free MCPS Administrative Offices – closed State offices & courts – closed *Collection provided one day later for remainder of week (last collection day is Saturday).</p>	
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Chokhor Duchen	7/6/2019		Chokhor Duchen, one of the four great holy days of the Tibetan calendar. It is also known as the Festival of Turning the Wheel of Dharma, Chokhor Duchen commemorates the anniversary upon which Shakyamuni Buddha first began teaching the Dharma. For seven weeks after his enlightenment, the Buddha did not teach. After this period, Indra and Brahma offered a dharmachakra and a conch shell and requested Shakyamuni to teach. Accepting, Buddha Shakyamuni turned the Wheel of Dharma for the first time at Sarnath by teaching on the Four Noble Truths.	
Guru Purnima	7/16/2019		Guru purnima is traditionally celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Buddhists, to pay their respects to their teachers and express their gratitude.	
Dharma Day	7/17/2019		The anniversary of the start of Buddha's teaching - his first sermon, "The Wheel of Truth", after his enlightenment.	
Eid ul-Adha: Feast of the Sacrifice	8/10/2019		Religious festival celebrated by Muslims, commemorating Abraham's (Ibrahim's) willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael in obedience to God. It marks the end of the Haji (pilgrimage to Mecca.) Observed with prayer, sacrificing a goat or sheep and feasting with family and friends. In the United States, Eid is expected to begin at sundown on August 10, 2019.	

Feast of Assumption	8/15/2019		The Feast of the Assumption is celebrated on August 15. The Eastern Orthodox Feast celebrates the Dormition of the Theotokos with a 14-day fast prior to the Feast of the Assumption. The Dormition is the period of Mary's time among the dead before her Assumption. Eastern Orthodox Christians believe that Mary died and was later resurrected from the dead, before being assumed into Heaven. Many Catholics also believe this, but many others believe she never died and was assumed into Heaven while alive. Eastern (Roman) Catholics also observe the Dormition as well as the Assumption.	
Ullambama Day (Mahayana)	8/15/2019		Ancestor Day	
Raksha Bandhan	8/15/2019		A holiday which celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters. Sisters tie a decorative sacred thread or amulet on the right wrist of her brothers (often including distant cousins and friends considered honorary brothers) with her prayers for his protection and well-being while sweets are exchanged. In return, brothers give their sisters small tokens or gifts of appreciation.	
Parsi New Year	8/17/2019		The Shahanshai calendar, failing to intercalate leap years, observes Nowruz later in the year.	
First Installation of Adi Granth	9/1/2019		First version of Sikh Scriptures completed in 1604 and installed at Golden Temple, Amritsar, India.	
Ganesh Chaturthi	9/1/2019	9/12/2019	Pays homage to Lord Ganesha or Lord Vinayaka, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and divine manifestation of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune	

Labor Day	9/2/2019		<p>Location: Montgomery County, MD</p> <p>Labor Day is an official holiday observed on the first Monday in September in both the United States and Canada. Other countries also observe this holiday but on different dates. Labor Day is celebrated in order to recognize the contribution of labor to the world and hence is of special importance to organized labor movements. It is a federal holiday and is also recognized by law in all of the states, U.S. territories, and Puerto Rico. The idea for Labor Day is credited to two individuals; Matthew Maguire, a machinist from Paterson, N.J., and Peter McGuire of New York City. McGuire founded the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and co-founded the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, which later became the American Federation of Labor.</p> <p>Montgomery County government will observe this holiday.</p>	
Pitru Paksh	9/13/2019	9/28/2019	<p>Period of 16 days dedicated to ancestors. Shraddha is performed on the specific lunar day during the Pitru Paksha, when the ancestor—usually a parent or paternal grandparent—died.</p>	
Vishwakarma Puja	9/17/2019		<p>Celebrates Vishwakarma who is considered the divine architect.</p>	
Krishna Janmashtam	9/24/2019		<p>Celebrates the birth and life of Lord Krishna, one of the most endeared incarnations of Vishnu and deliverer of the Bhagavad Gita</p>	

Navaratri	9/29/2019	10/8/2019	A nine night celebration of the feminine divine that occurs five times a year (the spring and fall celebrations being amongst the more widely celebrated). The most popularly worshiped manifestations of the feminine divine include Goddess Durga representing the Mother Goddess and <i>Shakti</i> (Divine Energy), Goddess Saraswati representing knowledge, speech and the arts and Goddess Lakshmi, representing good health, wealth and prosperity. Many fasts and rituals associated with <i>Navaratri</i> are exclusive to women.	
Rosh Hashanah	9/29/2019	10/1/2019	Rosh Hashanah is a religious holiday celebrating the Jewish New Year. It literally means “Head of the Year”. It ushers in ten days of repentance and spiritual renewal. Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on September 29, 2019.	
Mehergan	10/2/2019		This is a fall festival to celebrate the divinity that represents the virtues of friendship, affection and love. It also corresponds to the time of harvest. Both personal and public prayers are recited followed by a feast.	
Durga Puja	10/4/2019	10/8/2019	Celebration of the goddess Durga and victory over buffalo demon named Mahishasura	
Dussehra	10/8/2019		Celebrates victory of Lord Rama over the ten-headed demon king Ravana	

Yom Kippur	10/8/2019		<p>Yom Kippur (Hebrew: יוֹם כִּפּוּר, IPA: [ˈjom kiˈpʊs], or יום כיפורים), also known as Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jewish people traditionally observe this holy day with a 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. Yom Kippur completes the annual period known in Judaism as the High Holy Days or Yamim Nora'im ("Days of Awe"). Yom Kippur begins at sundown on October 8, 2019.</p>	
Sukkot	10/13/2019	10/20/2019	<p>Sukkot begins a seven-day festival in commemoration of the Jewish people's 40 years of wandering in the desert as well as thanksgiving for the fall harvest. The ancient Hebrews celebrated Sukkot as a festival of thanksgiving and brought sacrifices to the Temple in Jerusalem. Jews still observe the holiday by making joyous parades in synagogues and carrying lulabs (palm branches), etrogs (citrons), and myrtle and willow branches. During Sukkot, traditional Jews live in a hut called a sukkah as a reminder of the temporary dwellings in which their ancestors lived during their wanderings in the wilderness in Biblical times. Ends with Shemini Atzeret, which is observed with memorial services and cycle of Biblical readings and is a supplementary two-day celebration. Sukkot begins at sundown on October 20, 2019.</p>	
Gurugadhi Guru Granth Sahib	10/20/2019		<p>Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh Scriptures, declared as the eternal guide for the Worldwide Sikh community in 1708</p>	

Simchat Torah	10/21/2019		Simchat Torah, means “Rejoicing in the Torah.” It is a Jewish festival of rejoicing in the Torah, or Law. Simhat Torah marks the end of the annual cycle of readings from the Torah that take place in the synagogue every week. The cycle begins again on the first Saturday after Simhat Torah. The festival falls on the 23rd day of the Hebrew month of Tishri. Tishri usually occurs in September and October. Jews in Israel and Reform Jews observe the festival on the 22nd day of Tishri. This festival begins at sundown on October 21, 2019.	
Diwali	10/27/2019		Diwali, a holiday observed by Hindus, as well as Sikhs, Jains, and other peoples of India; it occurs in either October or November each year and signifies the beginning of the new year as well as the triumph of good over evil. The name of the festival comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, meaning row of lights. Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' because houses, shops, and public places are decorated with small clay oil lamps called Diyas. These lamps, which are traditionally lit by mustard oil, are placed in decorative arrangements in windows, doors and outside buildings.	
Birth of the Báb	10/28/2019		Born in Persia in 1819, the Báb was the Herald of the Baha’i Faith who, in 1844, announced the imminent appearance of the Messenger of God awaited by all the peoples of the world.	
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	10/30/2019		Founder of the Baha’i Faith, Bahá'u'lláh, whose name in Arabic means “The Glory of God,” was born in Persia in 1817 and became an early follower of the Báb. He was imprisoned in Persia and then exiled to Iraq after the Báb’s execution. In 1863 in Baghdad, He declared Himself to be the One promised by the Báb.	

All Saints Day	11/1/2019		A Christian, primarily Roman Catholic, holiday falls on November 1, followed by All Souls Day on November 2, which commemorates the faithful departed. The Eastern Orthodox Church's All Saints is the first Sunday after Pentecost and as such marks the close of the Easter season.	
Veterans' Day	11/11/2019		Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, is observed annually on November 11. From 1971 until 1977, it was observed on the fourth Monday in October, but in 1978 it was restored to the original date of November 11. The first Armistice Day was proclaimed on November 11, 1919 to mark the signing of the armistice on November 11, 1918 that ended World War I. The name of the holiday was changed officially to Veterans Day when President Dwight Eisenhower signed an act of Congress "to honor veterans on the eleventh day of November of each year a day dedicated to world peace." Montgomery County government will observe this holiday.	
Birth of Guru Nanak Dev ji	11/12/2019		The birth of the Founder of Sikhism is celebrated throughout the world by all Sikhs	

Lhabab Duchen	11/19/2019		Lhabab Düchen is one of the four Buddhist festivals commemorating four events in the life of the Buddha, according to Tibetan traditions. This is a Buddhist festival celebrated to observe the descent of Buddha from heaven back to earth. Buddha had left for heaven at the age of 41, having ascended to The Heaven of Thirty-Three (Trayastrimsa) in order to give teachings to benefit the gods in the desire realms and to repay the kindness of his mother by liberating her from Samsara. He was exhorted by his follower and representative Maudgalyayana to return, and after a long debate managed to return. This is considered to be one of the eight great deeds of the Buddha. On Lhabab Duchen, the effects of positive or negative actions are multiplied ten million times.	
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	11/24/2019		Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, Ninth Guru of the Sikhs, was executed in 1675 in India for speaking for religious freedom and human rights.	

Thanksgiving Day	11/28/2019		<p>Thanksgiving Day is a holiday celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday in November. On Thanksgiving Day, people give thanks for what they have and for the good things that happened during the year. The first Thanksgiving in New England took place in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1621. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. Presidents made a similar declaration each year afterward. Congress established Thanksgiving Day as a legal national holiday beginning in 1941.</p> <p>Montgomery County government will observe the following holiday schedule for Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 26: County Offices - closed Libraries - closed County liquor stores - closed Recreation - all programs and facilities are closed Montgomery Parks - all Parks facilities are closed on Thursday. For operating schedules on Friday, including Brookside Gardens, ice rinks, tennis centers, trains and carousels, visit www.montgomeryparks.org. Ride On - Sunday Schedule Metrobus - Sunday Schedule Metrorail - Sunday Schedule TRiPS Commuter Stores (Silver Spring and Friendship Heights) - closed Refuse/recycling pickup – no collection* Transfer Station – closed Parking at public garages, lots, curbside meters – free MCPS Administrative Offices – closed State offices & courts – closed</p> <p>*Collection provided one day later for remainder of week</p>	
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American Indian Heritage Day	11/29/2019		On November 13, 2007, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation introduced by Representative Joe Baca that encourages the designation of the Friday after Thanksgiving Day as Native American Heritage Day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to the United States. It is observed as a state holiday in Maryland.	
Bodhi Day	12/8/2019		On Bodhi day some Buddhists celebrate Gautama's attainment of enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, India.	
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	12/8/2019		The feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated in some Christian churches on December 8. A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern (Catholic) Church in the seventh century. It spread to the West in the eighth century. In the eleventh century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the eighteenth century it became a feast of the Roman Catholic Church.	
Gita Jayanti	12/8/2019		Celebrates birthday of Bhagvad Gita, the sacred text of the Hindus	

Hannukah (Chanukah)	12/22/2019	12/30/2019	<p>Hanukkah (Chanukah) is celebrated by Jewish people around the world to commemorate their victory in the Maccabean War of 162 B.C. After the war, the Temple was cleansed and rededicated and the Menorah (perpetual lamp) was relit. Hanukkah means "dedication" in Hebrew. The celebration of Hanukkah is also known as the "Feast of Lights" because one of the stories told is that the oil for the lamps was sufficient only for one day but burned miraculously for eight days. Today, Jewish families celebrate Hanukkah by lighting a special Menorah with eight candles plus a ninth shamash candle (server used to light the others). The dates of the Holiday usually fall in November or December, starting on the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar each year. Begins at sundown December 22, 2019.</p>	
Yaldaa	12/22/2019		<p>This ceremony on the eve of the winter solstice is traced to the myth of the combat between the forces of light against the forces of darkness. From this day onward, the good forces of light triumph as the days grow longer. Also considered to be the re-birth of the Sun, the celebration involves telling fairy tales and stories, recitation of poetry, the serving of traditional fare including nuts, and the lighting of a bonfire (if permitted).</p>	

Christmas Day	12/25/2019		<p>Christmas is a Christian holiday held on December 25 which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Eastern Orthodox Churches, which use the Julian Calendar to determine feast days, celebrate on January 7 by the Gregorian Calendar. The name originates from the Old English Christes Mæsse, or Christ's Mass, and the present spelling for Christmas is thought to have come into use around the 16th century. Christmas is celebrated throughout the world and is marked by different festivities including decorating fir trees, singing carols, and attending church services. Some churches practice their most elaborate festivals on January 6 (Epiphany), and in parts of the United States, this date has been observed as "Old Christmas" or "Little Christmas." Montgomery County government will observe this holiday.</p>	
Kwanzaa	12/26/2019	1/1/2020	<p>Kwanzaa (or Kwaanza) meaning "first fruits" in Swahili, is a week-long secular holiday honoring African American heritage, observed from December 26 to January 1 each year, by African Americans in the United States of America. Kwanzaa consists of seven days of celebration, featuring activities such as candle-lighting, singing, and culminating in a thanksgiving feast and gift-giving. It was founded by Ron "Maulana" Karenga, and first celebrated from December 26, 1966, to January 1, 1967. Karenga calls Kwanzaa the African American branch of "first fruits" celebrations of classical African cultures.</p>	