

2008 LIST OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

- NOTES:**
1. The Ontario Public Service religious holiday Policy allows classified and OPSEU unclassified employees up to two days paid leave to observe holy days identified on the following list
 2. Leaders and representatives of each religion shown on the list have identified holidays and dates for their respective religious
 3. When the religious holidays fall on a Saturday or Sunday, religious holiday accommodation is necessary only if these dates are scheduled work days.

*** Dates same every year**

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS (WHOSE RELIGIOUS LEADERS COMPLY WITH SECTION 20 OF MARRIAGE ACT)	RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS REQUIRING ABSENCE FROM WORK FOR OBSERVANCE	2008
Anglican	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays. However, depending on the congregation, some members observe Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day and All Saints' Day, but would not likely require a full day off (half day, perhaps, to attend AM or PM service).	
Antiochian Orthodox Christian	Theophany	January 6, 2008
	Annunciation	March 25, 2008
	Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Easter Sunday	April 27, 2008
	Pentecost	June 15, 2008
	Christmas	December 25, 2008
Apostolic Church in Canada	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond Statutory Holidays.	
Armenian Church <i>Note: Remaining Religious Observances follow Gregorian calendar</i>	Christmas	January 6, 2008
	Good Friday	March 21, 2008
	Easter	March 23, 2008
	Martyrs Day	April 24, 2008
Associated Gospel	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond Statutory Holidays.	
Baptist	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond Statutory Holidays.	
Baha'i	Baha'i New Year	March 21, 2008
	First Day of the Festival of Ridvan	April 21, 2008
	Ninth Day of the Festival of Ridvan	April 29, 2008
	Twelfth day of the Festival of Ridvan	May 2, 2008
	The Declaration of the Bab	May 23, 2008
	The Ascension of Baha'u'llah	May 29, 2008
	The Martyrdom of the Bab	July 9, 2008

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RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS (WHOSE RELIGIOUS LEADERS COMPLY WITH SECTION 20 OF MARRIAGE ACT)	RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS REQUIRING ABSENCE FROM WORK FOR OBSERVANCE	2008
	The Birth of the Bab	October 20, 2008
	The Birth of the Baha'u'llah	November 12, 2008
Belarusian Autocephalous Orthodox	Christmas	January 7, 2008
	Epiphany	January 19, 2008
	Annunciation	April 7, 2008
	Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Easter	April 27, 2008
	Ascension	June 5, 2008
	Dormition	August 28, 2008
Buddhist (Tibetan/Tengye Ling)	Tibetan's New Year (Losar)/Chinese New Year	February 7, 2008
	Tibetan Uprising Day	March 10, 2008
	Buddha's Enlightenment (Saka Dawa) Wesak	May 19, 2008
	His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Birthday *	July 6, 2008
	Buddha's Descent from the Celestial Realm	November 19, 2008
	Festival of Lights	December 8, 2008
Buddhist (Hinayana)	Temple Day (Canada)	January 1, 2008
	Shaka Day	April 14, 2008
	Buddha Day Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away of BUDDHA	May 19, 2008
	Dhamma Cakka Day (Invitation for Vassa, The Three Months Rainy Retreat)	July 12, 2008
	Pavarana Day Ending of Vassa, The Rainy Retreat	October 15, 2008

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Buddhist (Mahayana) <i>Note: In the Western world, festivals are generally celebrated on the Sunday nearest the actual date.</i>	Buddha's Enlightenment (Mahayana)	January 15, 2008
	Lunar New Year(World Peace Prayer Service)/Chinese New Year	February 9, 2008
	Buddha's Parnivana	March 23, 2008
	Buddha's Birthday (Wesak)	May 12, 2008
	Ullambana (Ancestor's Day) *	July 17, 2008 *
Buddhist (Riwoche Tibet)	Tibetan's New Year (Losar)/Chinese New Year	February 7, 2008
	Day of Offering (1 st full moon day of Tibetan New Year)	TBC
	Buddha's Enlightenment (Saka Dawa)	TBC
	Buddha's Birth (Wesak)	TBC
	Buddha's Death (Pari Nirvana)	TBC
	His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Birthday	July 6, 2008
	Chokor Korway Ducchen (1 st Turning of the Wheel of Dharma)	TBC
	Lhabab Duche	TBC
Catholic: Polish Catholic	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond Statutory Holidays	
Catholic: Roman Catholic	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond Statutory Holidays	
Catholic: Ukrainian Catholic	Christmas (Nativity)	January 7, 2008
	Epiphany (Theophany)	January 19, 2008
	Annunciation	April 7, 2008
	Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Easter (Resurrection)	April 27, 2008
	Ascension (40 days after Easter, always on a Thursday)	June 5, 2008
	Pentecost	June 15, 2008
	St. Peter and Paul	July 12, 2008
	Dormition	August 28, 2008
Christadelphian	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Christian Assembly of Taiwam	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Christian Reformed Church of North America	Good Friday	March 21, 2008
	Easter Sunday	March 23, 2008
	Thanksgiving Day	October 13, 2008

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	Christmas Day	December 25, 2008
Church of United Brethren in Christ	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Churches of Christ (includes Disciples of Christ and Christian Church)	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Church of the Nazarene	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Church of Scientology	Birthday of Founder, L. Ron Hubbard*	March 13, 2008
Community of Christ (formerly Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints)	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Egyptian (Coptic) Orthodox	Christmas	January 7, 2008
	Baptism of Christ	January 20, 2008
	Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Easter Eve	April 26, 2008
	Easter	April 27, 2008
	St. Mark's Feast (Patron Saint)	May 8, 2008
	Pentecost	June 15, 2008
	Coptic New Year	September 11, 2008
Ethiopian Orthodox	Ethiopian Christmas	January 7, 2008
	Epiphany	January 20, 2008
	Feast of Cana of Galilee	January 21, 2008
	Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Easter	April 27, 2008
	Ethiopian New Year	September 11, 2008
	Founding of the True Cross	September 27, 2008
Evangelical Baptist	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays. However churches elect members to attend Fellowship Convention Day (first Wednesday in November) and Ontario Fellowship Day (first Tuesday in May) – members, if elected to attend, may request time off.	
Evangelical Fellowship	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Evangelical Lutheran	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays. However, depending on the congregation, some members observe Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day, Reformation Day and All Saints' Day. These would not likely require a full day off but may involve an AM or PM worship service.	
Greek Orthodox	Epiphany Day	January 6, 2008
	<i>Note: Date given follow Gregorian calendar; some members may choose to follow Julian Calendar</i> Lent (begins – 7 th Monday before Easter)	March 10, 2008
	Annunciation	March 25, 2008
	Palm Sunday (one Sunday before Easter)	April 20, 2008

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	Orthodox Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Orthodox Easter	April 27, 2008
	Orthodox Easter Monday	April 28, 2008
	Ascension Day (6 th Thursday after Easter)	June 5, 2008
	Pentecost	June 15, 2008
	Dormition	August 15, 2008
	Holy Cross Day	September 14, 2008
	Christmas	December 25, 2008
Hindu	Lohri (Punjab)	January 13, 2008
<i>Note: Specific dates may vary year to year based on the solar or lunar calendars. Dates can also vary depending on the time differential between Canada and India.</i>	Makarāsankranti and Thai Pongal	January 14, 2008
	Vasanta Panchmi or Saraswati Puja (N. India)	February 11, 2008
	Mahashivarati (Lord Shiva)	March 5, 2008
	Holi	March 21, 2008
	Rama Navami	April 13, 2008
	Hanuman Jayanti	April 19, 2008
	Guru Purnima	July 17, 2008
	Raksha Bandhan (N. India)	August 16, 2008
	Sri Krisna Janam-Ashtmi	August 23, 2008
	Vinayaka Chaturthi for Lord Ganesha	September 2, 2008
	Durga Puja (Mahastami)	October 7, 2008
	Vitaya Dasami/Dussera	October 9, 2008
	Karva Chouth	October 17, 2008
	Diwali/Lakshmi Puja	October 28, 2008
Islam: Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam	Jalsa Salana Canada (Annual Convention)	June 27, 28, 29, 2008
<i>Note: Muslim holidays based on Lunar Calendar and observances may vary by a day before or after from dates given, depending on the community. Every Friday 12:15 – 2 pm-Congregation Prayers</i>	Jumatul Wida (The last Friday in the month of Ramadan)	September 26, 2008
	Eid-ul-Fitr (Conclusion of the month of Fasting-Ramadan)	October 1, 2008
	Eid-ul-Adhia (Festival of Sacrifices-Next Day of the Pilgrimage (Hajj))	December 8, 2008

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Islam: Dawoodi Bohora <i>Note: Muslim holidays based on Lunar Calendar and observances may vary by a day before or after from dates given, depending on the community.</i>	First of Muharram (New Year's Day)	January 8 and December 26, 2008
	Ashura	January 17, 2008
	Mi'raj al-Naby	January 29, 2008
	Mawlid un-Nabi	March 18, 2008
	Nisf Sha'ban	August 16, 2008
	First of Ramadan	September 1, 2008
	Lailat-ul-Qadr	September 21, 2008
	Jum'atul-Wida(Akhar Juma)	September 26, 2008
	Eid-ul-Fitr (1 st day after Ramadan)	September 30, 2008
	Day of Hajj (Day at Arafat)	December 6, 2008
	Eid-ul-Adha	December 9, 2008
	Islam: Shi-'ah <i>Note: Muslim holidays based on Lunar Calendar and observances may vary by a day before or after from dates given, depending on the community. Every Friday 12:15 – 2 pm-Congregation Prayers</i>	First of Muharram (New Year's Day)
Ashura		January 19, 2008
Mawlid-un-Nabi		March 25, 2008
Mawlid Iman Zamana		August 18, 2008
Martydom of Iman Ali		September 23, 2008
Laylatyl Qadr		September 25, 2008
Jum'atull-Wida		September 26, 2008
Eid-UI-Fitr (1 st day after Ramadan)		October 2, 2008
Day of Hajj (Day at Arafat)		December 8, 2008
Eid-ul-Adha		December 9, 2008
Eid-e-Ghadir		December 17, 2008

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Islam: Sunni <i>Note: Muslim holidays based on Lunar Calendar and observances may vary by a day before or after from dates given, depending on the community. Every Friday 12:15 – 2 pm-Congregation Prayers</i>	Fasting Begins – 1 st day of Ramadan	September 1, 2008
	Eid-ul-Fitr (one day) (At the end of Ramadan)	October 1, 2008
	Eid-ul-Adha	December 8, 2008
Islam: Ismaili <i>Note: Muslim holidays based on Lunar Calendar and observances may vary by a day before or after from dates given, depending on the community. Every Friday 12:15 – 2 pm-Congregation Prayers</i>	Eid-e-Milad (Birth of Prophet Muhammad)	March 19, 2008
	Eid-e-Navroz *	Always on March 21*
	Imamat (fixed date – unless it falls within month of mourning, then may vary)	Always on July 11*
	Lial-dul-Qadr (Night of Ascension 23 rd Day of Ramadan – day preceding or following Night of Prayers may be taken)	September 23, 2008 (night)
	Eid-ul-Fitr (1 st after Ramadan)	October 1, 2008
	Eid-ul-Adha	December 8, 2008
	Birth Of Imam*	Always on December 13*
Jain Society of Toronto <i>Based on Lunar Calendar for Toronto</i>	Mahavir Janma Kalyanak	April 18, 2008
	Akshaya Tritiya	May 8, 2008
	Guru Purnima	July 18, 2008
	Paryushan Parva Begins	August 28, 2008
	Samvantsari (Day of Forgiveness) Paryushan Ends	September 4, 2008
	Dashlaxana Parva Begins	September 4, 2008
	Ananta Chaturdasi	September 14, 2008
	Kshmavani (Day of Forgiveness) Daslakshana Ends	September 15, 2008
	Mahavir Nirvan-Diwali	October 28, 2008
	Gnan Panchami (Day of Knowledge)	November 3, 2008
	Dev Diwali	November 13, 2008
	Maun Jiyaras (Agiyaras)	December 9, 2008
Jehovah's Witnesses <i>Note: Members participate in the Annual District International Assembly (3-4 days) and two Annual Circuit Assemblies. Dates are scheduled locally; while not religious holidays they would require accommodation.</i>	Memorial of Christ's Death (follows the Jewish Calendar-Nisan 14 th) April 17, 1992	March 22, 2008

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Jewish: Conservative <i>Note: Sabbath Starts Friday Sundown. All holy days start sundown the night preceding the holiday</i>	Pesach/Passover (1 st , 2 nd , 7 th & 8 th Days)	April 20, 21, 26 & 27, 2008
	Shavuot/Pentecost (2 days)	June 9 & 10, 2008
	Rosh Hashanah / New Year (2 days)	September 30 and October 1, 2008
	Yom Kippur / Day of Atonement (1 day)	October 9, 2008
	Sukkot (Tabernacles 1 st , 2 nd , 8 th , 9 th Days)	October 14, 15, 21 & 22, 2008
Jewish: Orthodox <i>Note: Sabbath Starts Friday Sundown. All holy days start sundown the night preceding the holiday</i>	Purim	March 21, 2008
	Pesach/Passover (1 st , 2 nd , 7 th & 8 th Days)	April 20, 21, 26, 27, 2008
	Yom ha-Shoah	May 1, 2008
	Shavuot/Pentecost (2 days)	June 9 and 10, 2008
	Tisha B'Ar	August 10, 2008
	Rosh Hashanah / New Year (2 days)	September 30 and October 1, 2008
	Yom Kippur /Day of Atonement (1 day)	October 9, 2008
	Succot (1 st , 2 nd Days)	October 14 and 15, 2008
	Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah (2 days)	October 21 and 22, 2008
	Hanukkah	December 22-29, 2008
Jewish: Reform <i>Note: Sabbath Starts Friday Sundown. All holy days start sundown the night preceding the holiday</i>	Purim	March 21, 2008
	Pesach/Passover (1 st , 2 nd , 7 th Days)	April 20, 21, 26, 27, 2008
	Yom ha-Shoah	May 1, 2008
	Shavuot/Pentecost	June 9 and 10, 2008
	Rosh Hashanah / New Year (2 days)	September 30, October 1, 2008
	Yom Kippur / Day of Atonement (1 day)	October 9, 2008
	Succot	October 14 and 15, 2008
	Simchat Torah	October 21 and 22, 2008
	Hanukkah	December 22 to 29, 2008
Lutheran	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Macedonian Orthodox	New Year	January 14, 2008
	Christmas	January 7, 2008
	Theophany – Baptism of our Lord	January 20, 2008
	Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Easter Sunday	April 27, 2008

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	Easter Monday	April 28, 2008
	Pentecost Holy Trinity	June 15, 2008
	St. Clement of Oris – Patron Day	December 8, 2008
Mennonite	Ash Wednesday Evening	February 6, 2008
	Maundy Thursday Evening	March 20, 2008
	Good Friday	March 21, 2008
	Easter Sunday	March 23, 2008
	Christman Eve	December 24, 2008
	Christmas	December 25, 2008
Methodist Churches (e.g. Free Methodist, Evangelical)	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Missionary Church	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Native Peoples	First Nation's Day	June 21, 2008
New Dawn Moravian Church	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
New Apostolic	No reply to consultation requests.	
Pentecostal	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
People's Church	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Presbyterian	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays. Holy days other than Christmas, Good Friday and Easter celebrated on the nearest Sunday	
Quakers	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Reformed Church of Canada	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays. However, depending on the congregation, some members observe Ascension Day, but would not require a full day off to attend the service.	
Romanian St. George Orthodox Church	Epiphany *	January 6, 2008
	St. John The Baptist *	January 7, 2008
	The Three Holy Hierarchs: Basil, Gregory and John *	January 30, 2008
	Presentation of our Lord in the Temple *	February 2, 2008
	Annunciation *	March 25, 2008
	Orthodox Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Orthodox Easter	April 27, 2008
	Orthodox Easter Monday & Tuesday	April 28 and 29, 2008
	St. Constantine and his Mother Helen *	May 21, 2008
	Ascension Day	June 5, 2008
	Pentecost	June 15, 2008

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	Nativity of St. John the Baptist *	June 24, 2008
	St. Peter and Paul *	June 29, 2008
	Prophet Elijah *	July 20, 2008
	Transfiguration *	August 6, 2008
	Dormition *	August 15, 2008
	Nativity of the Birth Giver of God *	September 8, 2008
	Holy Cross Day *	September 14, 2008
	Ven. Mother Parascheva of Jassy *	October 14, 2008
	Great Martir Demetrios *	October 26, 2008
	Arch Angels Michael and Gabriel *	November 8, 2008
	Presentation of the Mother of God in the temple *	November 21, 2008
	Holy Apostle Andrew *	November 30, 2008
	St. Nicholas *	December 6, 2008
	Christmas * (three days)	December 25 to 27, 2008
Russian Orthodox Church Dates as per Julian (Old) Calendar	Christmas Eve *	January 6, 2008
	Christmas *	January 7, 200
	Epiphany Day *	January 19, 2008
	Meeting of Our Lord *	February 15, 2008
	Annunciation *	April 7, 2008
	Palm Sunday	April 20, 2008
	Orthodox Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Orthodox Easter	April 27, 2008
	Orthodox Easter Monday	April 28, 2008
	Ascension Day	June 5, 2008
	Pentecost	June 15, 2008
	St. Apostles or Peter and Paul Day *	July 12, 2008
	Transfiguration *	August 19, 2008
	Dormition *	August 28, 2008
	Nativity of the Mother of God *	September 21, 2008
	Holy Cross Day *	September 27, 2008
	Protection of the Holy Virgin *	October 14, 2008

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	Arch Angel Michael *	November 21, 2008
	Entry of the Holy Virgin into the Temple *	December 4, 2008
	St. Nicholas *	December 19, 2008
Salvation Army	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Serbian Orthodox	Christmas Eve	January 6, 2008
<i>"Slava" – St. Patron Day, one day per year; a religious observance between priest and parishioners. Most common are: St. John the Baptist – Jan 20; St. George – May 6, St. Michael Archangel – Nov. 21; St. Nicholas – Dec 19</i>	Christmas	January 7, 2008
	Serbian New Year's Eve	January 13, 2008
	Epiphany	January 19, 2008
	St. Sava	January 27, 2008
	Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Easter Sunday (Pascha)	April 27, 2008
	Easter Monday	April 28, 2008
	Pentecost	June 15, 2008
	Seventh Day Adventists	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.
Sikh	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	January 5, 2008
	Maghi	January 13, 2008
	Hola Mohalla	March 22, 2008
	Baisakhi	April 14, 2008
	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	June 16, 2008
	Parkash	September 1, 2008
	Installation of Holy Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib	September 1, 2008
	Diwali	October 28, 2008
	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev	November 13, 2008
	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	November 24, 2008

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Ukrainian Orthodox	Christmas Eve *	January 6, 2008
	Christmas *	January 7, 2008
	New Year (Julian)	January 14, 2008
	Feast of Epiphany/Eve	January 18, 2008
	Epiphany Day	January 19, 2008
	Palm Sunday	April 20, 2008
	Good Friday	April 25, 2008
	Easter Sunday	April 27, 2008
	Easter Monday	April 28, 2008
	Pentecost	June 15, 2008
Unitarian	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
United Church	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Wesleyan	No religious holidays requiring absence from work beyond existing Statutory Holidays.	
Wiccan <i>Note: Evening observances commence at sundown. Solstice observances commence at sunrise</i>	Imbolc	February 2, 2008
	Ladyday	March 20, 2008
	Beltane	Sunset April 30-Sunset May 1, 2008
	Litha	June 20, 2008
	Lammas	August 2, 2008 (Sunset July 31-Sunset Aug 1 for BTW)
	Harvestide	September 22, 2008
	Samhain (Sunset to Sunset)	Sunset October 31-Sunset November 1, 2008
	Yule	December 21, 2008
Worldwide Church of God	Lord's Supper – Evening	March 21, 2008
	Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection	March 23, 2008
	First Day of Unleavened Bread	April 20, 2008
	Last Day of Unleavened Bread	April 26, 2008
	Day of Pentecost	June 9, 2008
	Feast of Trumpets	September 30, 2008
	Day of Atonement	October 9, 2008
	First Day of the Festival of Tabernacles	October 14, 2008
	Last Great Day of the Festival	October 21, 2008

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	Celebration of Jesus' Birth	December 25, 2008
<p>Zoroastrian</p> <p><i>Note: Nowruz occurs on one day between the 19th and 22nd, traditionally it is listed as the 21st but it can be celebrated on one of the other days instead.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Dates will change as Zoroastrians follow a 365-day calendar without leap year day.</i></p> <p>(F) Fasli – Seasonal (S) Shenshahi – Royal</p>	Jashn-E-Sadeh (F)	January 26, 2008
	Nowruz (F)	March 19-22, 2008
	Birthday of Prophet Ashu Zarthusht (F)	March 26, 2008
	Farvardingan (F)	April 8, 2008
	Death Anniversary of Prophet Ashu Zarthusht (S)	May 26, 2008
	Norooz (New Year) (S)	August 19, 2008
	Birthday of Prophet Ashu Zarathushtra (S)	August 24, 2008
	Farvardingan (S)	September 6, 2008
	Mehregan (F)	October 4, 2008
	Death Anniversary of Prophet Ashu Zarathushtra (F)	December 26, 2008