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INTERFAITH INSIDER



NEWSLETTER



Happy Diwali
festival of lights

SAIT DIWALI CELEBRATION
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STAN GRAD ATRIUM

DIWALI: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Diwali, or Deepavali, is a major festival celebrated in India and around the world, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

Diwali holds various meanings across religious communities. Hindus celebrate the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana, while others honor Lord Krishna's victory over Narakasura. For Jains, Diwali marks Lord Mahavira's spiritual enlightenment, and Sikhs commemorate the release of Guru Hargobind Ji from imprisonment.

TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Diwali is a five-day festival:

- Dhanteras: The first day focuses on wealth, with purchases of gold and utensils.
- Naraka Chaturdashi: Also known as Choti Diwali, homes are cleaned for the upcoming celebrations.
- Lakshmi Puja: The third day is the main event, with oil lamps (diyas), rangoli, and prayers to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.
- Govardhan Puja: Families honor Lord Krishna's protection of Gokul.
- Bhai Dooj: The final day celebrates sibling bonds.
- Fireworks, family gatherings, and sweets complete the festivities.

MODERN-DAY DIWALI

Today, many people celebrate Diwali using eco-friendly diyas, limit fireworks to reduce pollution, and send digital greetings. Diwali has become a global festival, bringing people together beyond religious boundaries.

THE SPIRIT OF DIWALI

At its core, Diwali represents hope, positivity, and unity. It encourages reflection on overcoming darkness and embracing light in our lives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

01	All Saints Day - Christian
02	All Souls Day - Catholic Christian
02	Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie - Rastafarian
02	Birth of the Bab - Baha'i
03	Birth of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i
11	Remembrance Day - CANADA
15	Nativity Fast begins - Greek Orthodox
24	Christ the King - Christian
24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur - Sikh
25	Day of the Covenant - Baha'i
26	Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha - Baha'i
25	Day of the Covenant - Baha'i
30	St. Andrew's Day - Christian

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.sait.ca/interfaith>

Canada's Remembrance Day

Honouring the Brave

Remembrance Day, observed on November 11th, is a solemn occasion in Canada dedicated to honouring the men and women who served in the armed forces, particularly those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. It marks the end of World War I in 1918 and serves as a tribute to all Canadian veterans who have defended freedom and peace throughout history.



The Tradition of Poppies

The red poppy, inspired by the famous poem **In Flanders Fields** by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, has become the symbol of Remembrance Day. Canadians wear poppies as a sign of respect and remembrance for those who fought and died in battle.

The Moment of Silence

At 11:00 a.m., on the 11th day of the 11th month, Canadians observe two minutes of silence. This quiet moment is dedicated to reflecting on the bravery of soldiers, their sacrifices, and the impact of war on families and communities.

Ceremonies Across the Nation

Across Canada, remembrance ceremonies are held in schools, public spaces, and military memorials. The National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa, held at the National War Memorial, is a significant event attended by veterans, military personnel, government officials, and citizens.

Why It Matters

Remembrance Day is more than just a historical commemoration. It is a time for Canadians to express their gratitude for the freedoms they enjoy today and to ensure that future generations never forget the cost of peace.

