The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. One of the upcoming religious celebrations is the Hindu festival of Diwali, which celebrates the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. Diwali begins on the first new moon following the harvest festival of Karva Chauth and spans the first 15 days of the first month of the lunar calendar—until the full moon arrives.

Tied to the lunar calendar, the holiday began as a time for feasting and to honor household and heavenly deities, ancestors, and divine powers. The New Year typically begins with the first new moon that occurs between the end of January and the beginning of February. The event is celebrated with the lighting of diyas (oil lamps), crackers, and fireworks to symbolize the triumph of light over darkness.

Harvard Divinity School. To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, please follow the link to [Information sourced from Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diwali) for details.

In the course REL 66: Contemporary Catholicism, students will also theorize the dynamic exchange between gods, societies, and subjectivities. This course offers a pluralistic perspective on theology as an academic discipline amidst the push and pull of unity and diversity, continuity and change, gain and loss, in the context of religious globalization. Key considerations include the rise of new religious movements, the impact of religious fundamentalism and extremism, the changing role of women, the transformation of religious institutions and structures, the impact of social media and digital technologies, the challenges of religious pluralism in Europe and the U.S., and the contemporary presentation of ancient religious traditions such as Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. We will study basic Catholic beliefs and practices, and the evolution of Catholic religious thought and practice in a world undergoing rapid transformation. The course explores the impact of Vatican Council II (1962-65) on the Church, the emergence of feminist and other liberation-theological and social justice initiatives, parish closings, and other trends such as the ordination of women and married priests, the acceptance of divorce, and the development of a meaningful dialogue on ethical issues such as contraception, abortion, diverse sexual identities, and the ongoing role of women in the Church. We will also examine the impact of Vatican II on the Church's understanding of religious diversity, the global reach of religious faiths, and Catholicism's ongoing engagement with contemporary philosophy, religious studies, and the arts.

The StAAR Center is hiring Tutors and Writing Fellows for the 2023-2024 academic year! These positions are paid peer tutors who work with Tufts students. Undergrads and graduate students are encouraged to apply. We are looking for individuals with strong writing and tutoring skills who are interested in working with students to improve their academic performance. More information is available on the [StAAR Center website](https://www.staarcenter.tufts.edu) and applications can be submitted through the [University Jobs portal](https://www.tufts.edu/jobs).

The annual Rev. Martin Luther King Celebration takes place on the third Wednesday of January. Join the Africana Center, Tisch College of Civic Life, and the University Chaplaincy for this annual event honoring Dr. King's legacy. The event will take place in person at Breed Memorial Hall, and will include dinner. Please email [africana.center@tufts.edu](mailto:africana.center@tufts.edu) for more information.

The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Régine Michelle Jean-Charles, a leading scholar of Afrodiaspora studies. Dr. Jean-Charles is Director of Africana Studies, Dean's Professor of Culture and Social Justice, and Professor of English. Her research focuses on the intersection of race, gender, and sexuality in African American and Caribbean contexts. She is the author of several books including "We Don't Have Much Time: Raising Consciousness and Building the Future Now," which explores the urgency of addressing social and environmental issues in the context of Dr. King's famous speech "I Have a Dream." Dr. Jean-Charles' keynote address will be followed by facilitated table discussions to encourage reflection on the relevance of Dr. King's legacy in modern activism and social justice movements.

Looking for an opportunity to serve others and engage in activities that align with Tufts University's mission of social justice and community service? Join the Service Corps Sunday event! This year's theme is "calling all orthodox christians!" who are interested in advocacy opportunities with local organizations working to address issues in our very own metro Boston neighborhoods. Locally sourced lunch and dinner meals will be provided. Registration is required and can be completed through the [University Chaplaincy website](https://chaplaincy.tufts.edu).

If you are interested in attending or volunteering, please contact [servicecorps@tufts.edu](mailto:servicecorps@tufts.edu) for more information.

Register for the MLK Celebration today through [this link](https://www.tufts.edu/).