

The Faith Calendar Project: Jain

1. Who was interviewed? What did you learn about this person's background? About this person's faith community? How did this person introduce the faith tradition?
2. How many Jains are in the Houston area? When did they come to the Houston area? Where are other key American Jain communities located?
3. List three things about the following holidays that you learned:
 - a. *Paryushan* and *Das Lakshan*
 - b. *Pratikraman*, particularly the *Samvatsari Pratikraman*
 - c. *Diwali* (and how is it different from other faiths' celebration of Diwali?)
 - d. New Year's Day
 - e. *Gyan Panchami*
4. What is unique about fasting practices in Jainism? What is *Varshitap*?
5. What did you hear as the key elements of the Jain tradition? How did the interviewee answer the question, "What is most important about these holidays and their practices?"

Vocabulary to Define

-Svetambara Jains

-Digambara Jains

-*Tirthankara* (a "ford-maker"), particularly the first *Tirthankara* (Rishabhanatha) and the 24th *Tirthankara* (Mahavira). Note connection between Mahavira and the celebration of Diwali.