



NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 | Issue 4

April 2024 | Ramadan - Shawwal, 1445

"And make your Lord Supreme!"
[al-Muddathir,74:3]

"Whoever fasts Ramadan out of faith and in hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven." [al-Bukhari]

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Eid Mubarak

EID 2024

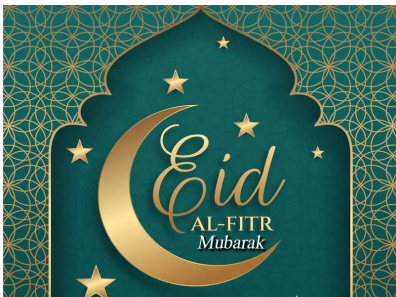
IONA is pleased to announce,
Eid-al-Fitr (First day of Shawwal): Wednesday, April 10 | More on page 2

URGENT APPEAL

IONA is in dire NEED for Funds for Expansion

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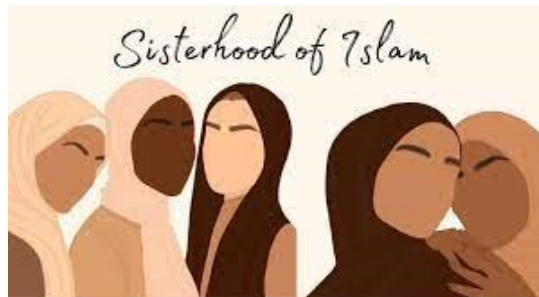
First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and the second sermon starts at 1:20 PM



Important Dates

Check out the dates for IONA's Fundraising events, Eid date and Eid prayer times.

| More on page 2



The Joy of Sisterhood

Throughout Ramadan, sisters have stood side by side, fasting, praying, and supporting one another in their spiritual journey...

| More on page 5



Registration is Open NOW

We are accepting students ages 5 to 13 (limited space available.) Monday, July 1st, ends on August 22nd.

| More on page 2



Mustapha Elturk
Ameer

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Announcements

SUMMER SCHOOL 2024

Registration is open for IONA's Summer School

- The school begins on Monday, July 1st, and ends on Thursday, August 22nd.
- We are accepting students ages 5 to 13 (limited space available.)
- **Tuition and Fees:**
 - \$450 per child per year plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
 - \$675 for two siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
 - \$950 for three siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.
- **School Hours:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- **Subjects Taught:** Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies (Hadith, Sirah, etc.)
- **Dress Code:** Proper Islamic dress is required for both boys and girls. Girls must wear a navy Jilbab and a white scarf and boys must wear navy pants (blue jeans allowed) and white shirts or T-shirts. No shorts allowed.

Registration forms may be obtained from the IONA Center and submitted to the Principal, Sr. Souad Soubra, who is available on Sundays between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the IONA Center. You may also register online at ionamasjid.org

For more information, please call: 248-872-2169 or e-mail Sr. Souad at suelturk@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, April 5: IONA's Masjid Maintenance Fundraising.

Sunday, April 7 - Ramadan 29 (Lailatul Qadr): IONA's Expansion Fundraising and Khatm al-Qur'an. A host of speakers and Imams are invited.

Eid al-Fitr: Wednesday, April 10 - Shawwal 1

First Eid Prayer: Takbeer 7:30 am - Iqama 8:00 am SHARP

Second Eid Prayer: Takbeer 9:30 am - Iqama 10:00 am SHARP

Zakatul-Fitr (Fitra)/Fidya: \$15 per person.

Zakatul-Fitr (Fitra) MUST be paid before Eid day.

IONA's Friday Lunch

Visit the IONA Cafe every Friday from 12 PM to 2:30 PM and indulge in our freshly prepared lunch for just \$10.00. Your purchase directly supports the Masjid. Thank you for backing your Masjid!



IONA Food Catering Service

IONA is thrilled to announce the launch of our exclusive catering service for substantial orders, perfect for private gatherings and major events like weddings and graduations. Our culinary team, led by experienced commercial chefs, will expertly prepare a delightful selection of Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Indian cuisine.

Enjoy the convenience of having our delectable dishes delivered to your doorstep, whether it's your home, mosque, banquet hall, or any other venue of your choice. Please note that we are currently accepting orders for a minimum of 50 people per order.

All proceeds generated from this catering service will directly contribute to the IONA Masjid. For inquiries or to place your order, please feel free to call us at 248-462-6244.



An Urgent Appeal from Imam Mustapha

Dear community members,

As we enjoy the blessings of the last ten days and nights of the sacred month of Ramadan, we turn to you with a heartfelt plea.

Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah, our Expansion Project has commenced, but we need your urgent support to bring it to completion.

Our community is facing an urgent financial challenge in completing our Expansion Project. **We are currently facing a shortfall of \$700,000 to realize our vision**, and we humbly seek your support in this crucial endeavor.

Our Expansion Project aims to add 10,000 square feet to our facilities, including a special prayer area dedicated to our sisters. This addition will not only accommodate our growing community but will also provide a safe and welcoming and inclusive space for our sisters and all members to come together, worship, learn, and grow in faith.

Every contribution you make towards this noble cause will count as a perpetual charity (Sadaqah Jariyah), ensuring ongoing blessings for you and your loved ones. Your donation, no matter the amount, will make a significant difference in reaching our fundraising goal and completing this vital project.

Ramadan is a time of immense blessings and opportunities for multiplied rewards. Let us come together as a community and seize this blessed month to support our Expansion Project. By contributing towards this endeavor, you will leave a lasting legacy of faith, unity, and service to future generations.

Please donate generously and help us reach our target. Together, we can make our vision a reality and create a thriving space for worship, education, and community building.

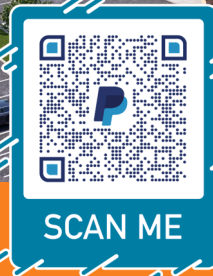
Every penny you contribute brings us closer to our goal. Give for the sake of Allah (SWT).

To donate or learn more about our project, please visit <https://ionamasjid.org/donate> or contact Br. Naveed Ashraf at director@ionaonline.org or (248) 210-4156.

May Allah reward you abundantly for your generosity and bless you and your families with blessings in this world and the Hereafter.

With sincere gratitude,

Imam Mustapha Elturk



By giving your generous contribution to IONA masjid, you can empower the heart of our community, fostering spiritual growth, educational opportunities, and a place of solace for all. Together, let's build a stronger foundation of faith and service. Donate to the masjid today and make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals. _____

Charity in Ramadan and Common Zakat Errors

Ramadan is indeed a special month. We are grateful to Allah (SWT) for such a blessed and holy month where a fasting person enjoys the physical and spiritual benefits among other blessings. Ramadan is indeed a purifier.

It is the month that extinguishes sins. Allah (SWT) invites, *"And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a Garden as vast as the heavens and the earth prepared for the God-conscious."* (Aal Imran, 3:133) The ayah that follows describes the God-conscious believers. They are the ones, *"Who spend in times of prosperity and hardship, control their anger and pardon people. Indeed, God loves those who do good."* (Aal Imran, 3:134) So let us pardon those who wronged us, control our anger and spend for the sake of Allah (SWT).

Allah commands those who have the means to share their wealth with others. As for those who don't have the means, the Prophet (SAW) insists that even such people should give a very small amount that may equal to a half a date, *"Save yourself from the Hellfire even with half of a date in charity. If he cannot find it, then with a kind word."* One never knows how far such a small charity goes. Because of it, Allah (SWT) may very well open up the gates of goodness for the believer. Quality is what counts, not quantity, as it is the intention behind the act of giving that determines the outcome.

Many people tend to believe that giving in charity will diminish wealth. One may rationalize this concept using logic. However, divine law does not hinge on logic. What we need to understand is that, *"Whoever is conscious of God (gives with the purest intention solely for His sake), He will find a way out for him and provides him sustenance from ways he could not have imagined."* (al-Talaq, 65:2-3) The Prophet (SAW) is certain when he said, *"Charity does not decrease wealth."*

Among the many qualities God-conscious believers possess is that they spend in times of prosperity and in times of hardship. The Prophet (SAW) was very generous throughout the year and most generous in Ramadan.

There are two types of charity, the obligatory and supererogatory charity. The obligatory charity is called zakat. Zakat is one of the main modes of worship in Islam. Zakat is due on Muslims who have sufficient means with an accumulation of wealth that equals or exceeds the equivalent of three ounces of Gold (~85 grams). Every year Muslims who have the means must fulfill their obligation of zakat by distributing 2.5% of their wealth to those who qualify. *"Alms (zakat) are for the poor, the needy, those who administer them, those whose hearts are inclined (towards Islam), to free slaves and help those in debt, for God's cause, and for travelers (in need). (This is) an ordinance from God; God is all knowing and wise."* (al-Tawbah, 9:60)

There is another type of zakat that was instituted by the Prophet (SAW) called zakt al-Fitr. This type of charity is given to the poor at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. This duty is required of every Muslim, male and female, minor or

adult as long as one has the means to do so. Typically, the head of the household pays the equivalent of a one Saa' (~6.5 lbs) of dried dates or barley (roughly \$15) on behalf of every member of his household including babies, parents, grandparents or whomever he may have under his care.

Zakay is mentioned throughout the Qur'an thirty times mostly together with prayer. If prayer is that important, so is zakat. Unfortunately, most Muslims are oblivious of this mode of worship as if it does not exist when in reality, it is the central mode worship among the five pillars of Islam. How can one offer daily prayers and remain heedless of zakat?

Another error is, some Muslims consider the tax they pay to the government as zakat. Sadly, this notion is found among some wealthy Muslims too. They defend their position by claiming that the government through its welfare system helps the poor and since zakat is to help the poor, taxes are considered zakat. This perverted logic doesn't work with Allah. This justification as a means to avoid paying additional sums of money and enjoy hoarding wealth is indeed improper and imprudent.

The taxes we pay to the government is not a substitute for zakat. Zakat must be calculated and paid separately. Additionally, only Muslims qualify for receiving zakat funds with the exception of the one category that describes those whose hearts are inclined towards Islam. Non-Muslims who are poor and needy are also worthy of our charity and indeed they have a right over it. The Prophet (SAW) taught us, *"Indeed, there is an obligation on wealth aside from zakat."* This optional charity is to help all people who are needy regardless of their faith or religious affiliation.

The third error many Muslims commit is not calculating the correct zakat. They simply write a check or give away cash to poor and needy people. How does one know exactly how much he/she owes? An estimated amount is not good enough. Just as it is our responsibility to make sure that our tax returns are prepared before April 15 of each year by filling out many forms disclosing everything we own and possess, we must assume the same responsibility and prepare our zakat as best as possible. The tax-returns may help you identify your assets, be it 401K, IRA, mutual funds, stocks and other investments including gold and silver.

It is our duty to include all liquid (cash) and non-liquid assets. One may deduct any fees, penalties and taxes on any invested amount of money if one were to withdraw or cash in on the investments. The net amount is zakatable. Similarly, an owner of a business must take into account all inventory items designated for sale, while capital equipment is exempted. Furthermore, money lent to others shall be included in the zakat preparation if one expects a payment within the next year. On the other hand, one may deduct any amount owed and to be paid within the next year. To ease the calculation

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Celebrating Eid: Embracing the Joy of Sisterhood After Ramadan

As the blessed month of Ramadan draws to a close, Muslims around the world prepare to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, a joyous occasion marking the culmination of a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection. For sisters in the community, Eid represents not only a time of spiritual renewal but also an opportunity to come together in sisterhood and celebration.

Throughout Ramadan, sisters have stood side by side, fasting, praying, and supporting one another in their spiritual journey. Now, as Eid approaches, it is time to celebrate the bonds of sisterhood that have been strengthened during this sacred month.

Eid is a time of joy, gratitude, and unity. It is a time to rejoice in the blessings of Allah (SWT) and to express gratitude for the strength and guidance received during Ramadan. For sisters, Eid offers a chance to come together in celebration, to share laughter and joy, and to reaffirm their commitment to each other and to their faith.

As we prepare for Eid, let us reflect on the lessons learned during Ramadan and carry them forward into our celebrations. Let us remember the importance of compassion, generosity, and empathy towards others, especially those less fortunate. Let us

extend a hand of kindness to our sisters in need, ensuring that no one is left behind during this joyous occasion.

One of the most beautiful aspects of Eid is the opportunity to adorn ourselves in our finest attire, to beautify our homes, and to prepare delicious meals to share with loved ones. For sisters, this is a time to express their creativity and individuality through their clothing and decorations, while also honoring the traditions and customs of their faith.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Eid, let us remember the importance of sisterhood and unity within the Muslim community. Let us reach out to our sisters, both near and far, and extend our love and support to them during this special time. Whether through a simple phone call, a heartfelt message, or a kind gesture, let us show our sisters that they are valued and cherished members of our community.

As we bid farewell to Ramadan and welcome the arrival of Eid, let us do so with hearts full of gratitude, love, and hope. May this Eid be a time of joy, peace, and blessings for all our sisters around the world. Eid Mubarak!

With love and sisterhood,

Lili



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YOUTH OF UMMAH PROGRAMS *At a glance*



The Man Who Showed Mercy to a Thirsty Dog

A man was once passing through a jungle. He began to feel very thirsty, so he went down a well to quench his thirst, by drinking some water. When he came out, he saw a very thirsty dog panting and licking the mud. The man felt very sorry for the dog, but had nothing with which to draw water from the well. He decided that the only way to help the dog, would be to use his leather socks and go down the well to fetch water. This is exactly what he did.



As he came up, he held the socks filled with water in his mouth. He then gave the water to the dog to drink.

What a happy ending to this of a brave man, isn't it? But that's not all. Allah was pleased with this man's deed and forgave him.

Courtesy Islamcan.com

Charity in Ramadan and Common Zakat Errors (cont'd)

of zakat, forms may be obtained from the internet. Ignorance is not a valid excuse before any court of law what to speak of the court of Allah (SWT). Check with your local Imam in case you have any question about zakat.

Zakat is the right of Allah (SWT) and it is more meritorious to give to relatives before giving to non-relatives. One not only enjoys the reward of zakat but also the reward of joining womb relations. Islam is quite stringent on maintaining ties of kinship. The Prophet (SAW) once said, "Whoever desires for Allah to multiply his provision and increase his age, he should maintain good relations with his kin." To safeguard the dignity of the recipient, one may not boast about their giving. And remember, fathers, mothers, grandparents, etc. are not eligible for zakat. It is the responsibility of those in charge to care for them.

Paying zakat is a means of earning the mercy of Allah (SWT). The Prophet (SAW) informs us that unless Allah (SWT) bestows His Grace and Mercy upon us, our deeds alone will not help us enter Paradise. There are many ayat in the Qur'an that discuss ways to earn the mercy of Allah. The obligatory charity, alms or zakat is one of those ways. *"My mercy encompasses everything. I will therefore decree it for those who are righteous, give zakah and those who believe in Our revelations."* (al-A'raf, 7:156)

Zakat is the legal form of charity. There is, however, another form of charity, or spending at the spiritual level. Unlike zakat where the percentage on zakatable wealth is 2.5%, optional or supererogatory charity has no limit. *"They ask you (O Prophet) how much they should spend, say: all that is surplus."* (al-Baqarah 2:219) The more charitable a person is the more blessings he/she receives from God. Indeed, charity is a means to purify our souls and wealth.

The Prophet (SAW) was asked, "Which charity renders the best reward?" The Prophet (SAW) replied, "The charity you give while you are in good health and feeling miserly, fearful of poverty and wishing you become rich." It is an undeniable fact that people, in general, are greedy and desire wealth. *"Attractive for people are the love and desire for women, children, heaped up treasures of gold and silver, branded horses, cattle and farmland. These are the pleasures of this life, but God has the best place to return to."* (Aal Imran, 3:14) Allah (SWT) informed us how much we love money, *"And you love wealth immensely."* (al-Fajr, 89:20)

This obsession and passion for hoarding wealth may indeed ruin a person. *"Woe to every slanderer, backbiter, who amasses wealth and keeps count of it, thinking that his wealth will make him live forever. Nay! He shall most certainly be thrown into the Crusher. And what do you know what the Crusher is? It is the kindled fire of God, which rises above the hearts. It closes in on them, in extended columns."* (al-Humazah, 104:1-9)

Therefore, it is noteworthy to acknowledge that all we have including all the material possessions in the world belong to Allah (SWT), *"And to Allah belongs the treasures of the heavens and the earth."* (al-Munafiqoon, 67:7) We should never for a moment think that what we have is from our own earning. Rather, it is a bounty. In reality, it is a favor from Allah. *"And when the (jumu'ah) prayer is concluded, disperse in the land and seek from the bounty (fadl) of Allah."* (al-Jumu'ah, 62:11) What we have is a

| Continued on the next page

Charity in Ramadan and Common Zakat Errors (cont'd)

trust (*amanah*) from Allah. Hence, one needs to be faithful to the owner of this trust.

Ramadan is the month of charity. The Prophet (SAW), speaking on behalf of Allah (SWT), instructed, "Spend O son of Adam and I will spend on you." Let us be more generous during Ramadan as the Prophet (SAW) was. Support your relatives, charitable organizations, and your Islamic centers among other deserving institutions. Give with an open heart and the best of intentions. Give for the sake and love of Allah (SWT).

Please consider donating to IONA's budget and expansion project. No amount is too small. It is the quality that counts. Of course, don't deprive us from your dua during this holy and blessed month. May Allah (SWT) accept our fasting, prayers, and all righteous deeds. May He (SWT) forgive us all, guide us to what pleases Him and bestow His Grace upon us all, amen.

End.

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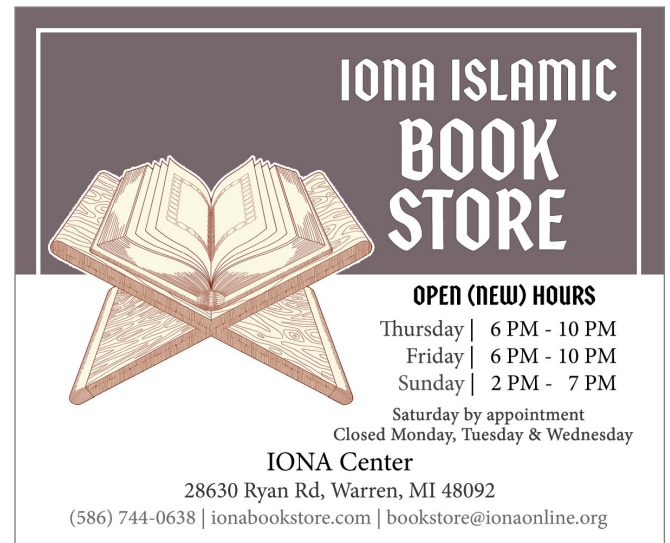
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APRIL 2024

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqamah Timing

Ramadan

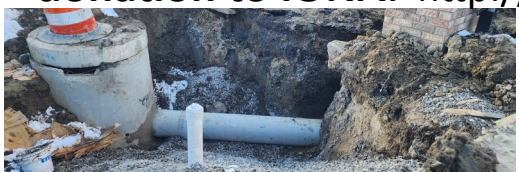
Date		Imsak~	Fajr	Iqamah	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqamah	Asr (S)*	Asr (H)*	Iqamah	Maghrib	Iqamah	Isha	Iqamah	
Mon	1	22	5:36	5:41	6:15	7:13	1:41	2:00	5:11	6:06	6:30	8:01	8:07	9:13	9:45
Tue	2	23	5:34	5:39	6:15	7:11	1:41	2:00	5:11	6:07	6:30	8:02	8:08	9:14	9:45
Wed	3	24	5:32	5:37	6:15	7:10	1:40	2:00	5:12	6:07	6:30	8:03	8:09	9:15	9:45
Thu	4	25	5:30	5:35	6:15	7:08	1:40	2:00	5:12	6:08	6:30	8:05	8:10	9:16	9:45
Fri	5	26	5:28	5:33	6:15	7:06	1:40	2:00	5:13	6:09	6:30	8:06	8:11	9:17	9:45
Sat	6	27	5:26	5:31	6:15	7:04	1:39	2:00	5:13	6:10	6:30	8:07	8:13	9:18	9:45
Sun	7	28	5:25	5:30	6:00	7:03	1:39	2:00	5:14	6:10	6:30	8:08	8:14	9:19	9:45
Mon	8	29	5:23	5:28	6:00	7:01	1:39	2:00	5:14	6:11	6:30	8:09	8:15	9:20	9:45
Tue	9	30	5:21	5:26	6:00	6:59	1:39	2:00	5:15	6:12	6:30	8:10	8:16	9:21	9:45
Wed	10	EID al-Fitr	5:24	6:00	6:58	1:38	2:00	5:15	6:13	6:30	8:11	8:17	9:22	9:45	

Date	Fajr	Iqamah	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqamah	Asr (S)*	Asr (H)*	Iqamah	Maghrib	Iqamah	Isha	Iqamah	
Thu	11	5:22	6:00	6:56	1:38	2:00	5:15	6:13	6:30	8:13	8:18	9:23	9:45
Fri	12	5:20	6:00	6:54	1:38	2:00	5:16	6:14	6:30	8:14	8:19	9:24	9:45
Sat	13	5:18	6:00	6:53	1:38	2:00	5:16	6:15	6:30	8:15	8:20	9:25	9:45
Sun	14	5:16	6:00	6:51	1:37	2:00	5:17	6:15	6:45	8:17	8:21	9:26	9:45
Mon	15	5:15	6:00	6:50	1:37	2:00	5:17	6:16	6:45	8:18	8:22	9:27	9:45
Tue	16	5:13	6:00	6:48	1:37	2:00	5:17	6:17	6:45	8:19	8:24	9:28	9:45
Wed	17	5:11	6:00	6:46	1:37	2:00	5:18	6:18	6:45	8:20	8:25	9:28	9:45
Thu	18	5:09	6:00	6:45	1:36	2:00	5:18	6:18	6:45	8:21	8:26	9:29	9:45
Fri	19	5:07	6:00	6:43	1:36	2:00	5:19	6:19	6:45	8:22	8:27	9:30	9:45
Sat	20	5:06	6:00	6:42	1:36	2:00	5:19	6:20	6:45	8:23	8:28	9:31	9:45
Sun	21	5:04	6:00	6:40	1:36	2:00	5:19	6:20	6:45	8:25	8:30	9:32	9:45
Mon	22	5:02	6:00	6:39	1:36	2:00	5:20	6:21	6:45	8:26	8:31	9:33	9:45
Tue	23	5:00	5:45	6:37	1:35	2:00	5:20	6:22	6:45	8:27	8:32	9:34	9:45
Wed	24	4:59	5:45	6:36	1:35	2:00	5:20	6:22	6:45	8:28	8:33	9:35	9:45
Thu	25	4:57	5:45	6:34	1:35	2:00	5:21	6:23	6:45	8:29	8:34	9:36	10:00
Fri	26	4:55	5:45	6:33	1:35	2:00	5:21	6:24	6:45	8:30	8:35	9:37	10:00
Sat	27	4:54	5:45	6:31	1:35	2:00	5:22	6:24	6:45	8:31	8:36	9:38	10:00
Sun	28	4:52	5:45	6:30	1:35	2:00	5:22	6:25	6:45	8:32	8:37	9:39	10:00
Mon	29	4:50	5:45	6:29	1:34	2:00	5:22	6:26	6:45	8:34	8:38	9:40	10:00
Tue	30	4:49	5:45	6:27	1:34	2:00	5:23	6:26	6:45	8:35	8:39	9:41	10:00
Wed	1	4:47	5:30	6:26	1:34	2:00	5:23	6:27	6:45	8:36	8:41	9:42	10:00

First Eid Prayer: Takbeer 730 am - Iqama 8:00 am SHARP | Second Eid Prayer: Takbeer 9:30 am - Iqama 10:00 am SHARP

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi | Athan is 10 minutes before Iqamah except for Maghrib

Phase I of the Expansion has Begun, al-Hamdulillah.
Please consider a portion of your zakah or donation to IONA. <http://www.ionamasjid.org>



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