

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 | Issue 7

July 2022 | Dhul Hijjah - Muharram 1433



“ Call (all) people to the pilgrimage. They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel from every distant path”

{Al-Hajj, 22:27}

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“ Whoever performs the pilgrimage (Hajj for God’s sake) without having marital relations or committing sin(s), he/she will return (free from sin) as on the day his mother bore him.” {Mishkat al-Masabih}

EID AL-ADHA MUBARAK

IONA Masjid will observe Eid al-Adha, on **Saturday, July 9, 2022.**

First Prayer: The takbeer will begin at **7:30 AM**, and the salah will start at **8:00 AM** sharp, followed by the Eid sermon, in sha Allah.

Second Prayer: The takbeer will begin at **9:30 AM**, and the salah will start at **10:00 AM** sharp, followed by the Eid sermon, in sha Allah.

See page 2 for more information.



More on page 4

MOTHERHOOD: A New Sense of Humility

Women give birth everyday, but the experience is enough to completely alter one’s perspective of life. Pregnancy and...



More on page 7

IONA & YOU Eid Picnic Sunday, July 17th, 2022

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Halmich Park, 3001 E Thirteen Mile Rd,
Warren, MI 48092



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IONA center is always in need of funds in order to keep the Masjid running and maintained at all times. Your continued support is always appreciated.

Announcements

Eid al-Adha

According to the authorities in Saudi Kingdom the first day of Zul-Hijjah is Thursday, June 30. Eid al-Adha will be celebrated on **Saturday, July 9** corresponding to the 10th of Zul-Hijjah.

First Prayer: The takbeer will begin at **7:30 AM**, and the salah will start at **8:00 AM** sharp, followed by the Eid sermon, in sha Allah.

Second Prayer: The takbeer will begin at **9:30 AM**, and the salah will start at **10:00 AM** sharp, followed by the Eid sermon, in sha Allah.

- Please keep your **MASK** on while on IONA premises.
- Please park in the designated parking areas only. Parking on people's driveways or streets is not allowed.
- We ask you to keep your children with you at all times.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

Registration is open for IONA's summer school. The school began on Monday, June 27th and will end on Thursday, August 25th, in sha' Allah. Children ages 5 to 13 may enroll. School hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Qur'an, Hadith, Arabic, and Sirah will be taught. The tuition per child per summer is \$400. The tuition for two siblings is \$650 and \$900 for three siblings (brothers and sisters only). There is a \$50 non-refundable registration fee. Please note that 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 (or blue jeans) and white shirts or t-shirts. Shorts are not allowed. Register now, limited seats are available. 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 Soubra at suelturk@gmail.com



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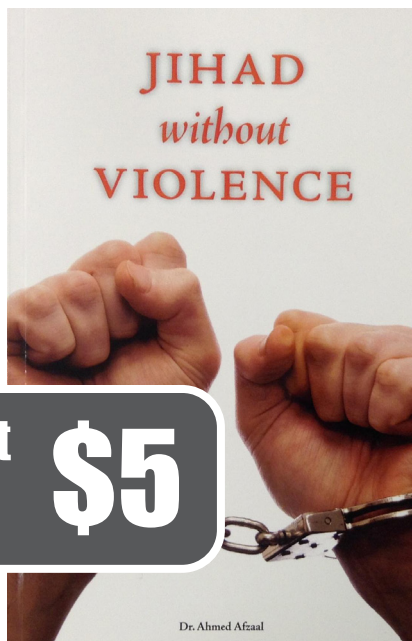
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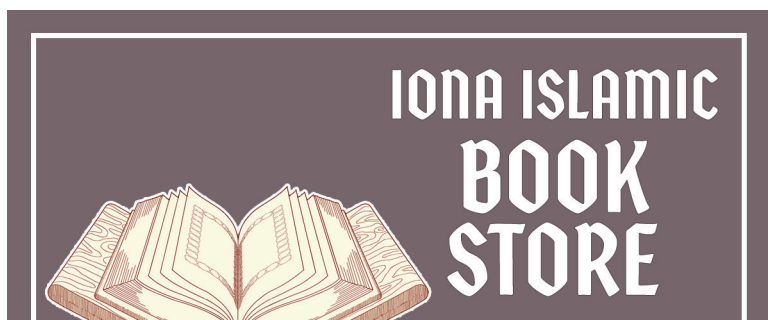
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The Hajj and the Legacy of Ibrahim (AS)

Every season of Hajj reminds us of the legacy of Ibrahim (AS), who along with his son, Ismail (AS) raised the Ancient House (al-Bayt al-Ateeq) or Ka'bah from its foundations to restore the worship of One God. ***“And We located the position of the House for Ibrahim: ‘Do not associate anything with Me and purify My House for those who circle it, and those who stand and bow and prostrate.’*** (al-Hajj, 22:26)

Ibrahim (AS)'s search of truth began when he was a teenager living in the household of Azar—his father, who was engaged in the making and worshipping of idols. Guided by his pure nature, sound intellect and rationalist mind, Ibrahim (AS) questioned his father about idol-worship pointing out to him that he and his people were in clear error. “Remember when Ibrahim said to his father, Azar, *“Do you take idols as gods? I see that you and your people are clearly misguided”* (al-An'am, 6:74).

Testifying to Ibrahim (AS)'s firm belief in tawhid, Allah likens him to an entire nation or community (ummah), and affirms more than once that he was not from among the polytheists (mushrikeen). *“Ibrahim was a community in himself devoted to Allah and true in faith, He was not one of the polytheists”* (al-Nahl, 16:120). Another ayah says, *“Then We revealed to you: ‘Follow the religion of Ibrahim, a man of pure natural belief. He was not one of the polytheists’* (al-Nahl, 16:123). Ibrahim (AS)'s firm stand led him eventually to distance himself from his household and his people. *“When Ibrahim said to his father and his people, ‘I am free of everything you worship, except for Him who brought me into being. He will certainly guide me’* (al-Zukhruf, 43:26-27).

Allah (SWT) had blessed Ibrahim (AS) with a discerning mind. He clearly distinguished between the Creator and His creation. Observing keenly the heavenly bodies, especially the stars, the moon, and the sun, and using his intellect, Ibrahim (AS) reinforced his faith in the Creator of everything, who alone should be worshipped. This story of Ibrahim (AS)'s search is beautifully depicted in Surat al-An'am. *“When night descended on him, he saw a star. He said, ‘This is my Lord!’ Then when it set he said, ‘I do not love things that set.’ When he saw the moon rise and spread its light, he said, ‘This is my Lord.’ But when it set, he said, ‘If my Lord does not guide me, I will be one of the misguided people.’ Then, when he saw the sun shining, he said, ‘This is my Lord! This is the greatest of all!’ Then when it set, he said, ‘My people, I disown all that you worship besides Allah’”* (al-An'am, 6:76-78)

Possessing an intuitive and unflinching faith in Allah, Ibrahim (AS) now discovers God even through his rational faculty, and cannot help but cry out, *“I have set my face with sincere devotion, towards Him who has created the heavens and the earth, and I am not one of the polytheists”* (al-An'am, 6:79). He rebuts those who argue with him, *“Are you arguing with me about Allah, while He has guided me?”* (al-An'am, 6:79).

As evident from the Qur'an, Ibrahim (AS) was put to severe trials and tribulations along his journey in search of truth. He succeeded in all the tests he was subjected to. As a result, Allah (SWT) made him the leader of humanity (Imam un-Nas). ***“And remember when Ibrahim was tested by his Lord with certain commandments which he carried out completely. He said, ‘I will make you a leader for mankind.’”*** (al-Baqarah, 2:124) Being concerned about his progeny, Ibrahim (AS) implored Allah, *“And what of my descendants?”* (al-Baqarah, 2:124), and Allah replied him by saying, *“My contract does not include the wrongdoers”* (al-Baqarah, 2:124). This reply implied that as long as Ibrahim (AS)'s children would be on the path shown by him, they would be leaders of mankind, but when they indulge in wrongdoing and injustice, they would be deprived of their leadership role.

Being disgusted with idols and idol-worship, and in his anxiousness to teach a lesson to the people that their false deities were absolutely powerless, Ibrahim (AS) smashed them. This story is described graphically in Surat al-Baqarah, *“He broke them all into pieces, except for the biggest one of them, so that they might return to it. They said, ‘Who has done this to our gods? He is surely an evil-doer.’ Some said, ‘We heard a young man, called Ibrahim, talking about them.’ Others said, ‘Bring him before the people’s eyes so they may witness (against him).’ They said, ‘Did you do this to our gods O Ibrahim.’ He answered, ‘Rather this biggest one of them did it. Ask them, if they can speak.’ They turned to one another and said, ‘You yourselves are the wrongdoers.’ But then they lapsed again and said, ‘(O Ibrahim!) You know very well that they cannot speak.’ He said, ‘Do you then worship, instead of Allah, what cannot help or harm you in any way? Shame on you and what you worship besides Allah! Will you not use your intellect’”* (al-Anbiya', 21:58-67). We too have to be concerned if we have enslaved ourselves to modern-day idolatry—consumerism and materialism, in all their different ramifications. Our salvation lies in extricating ourselves from the grip of these and other modern-day idols, and become true, humble, and

SISTERS CORNER

Motherhood : A New Sense of Humility

Women give birth everyday, but the experience is enough to completely alter one's perspective of life.

Pregnancy and delivery might make some women feel a sense of power, of creating life, of being the medium for someone's arrival into this world.

But for me, it did the complete opposite.

I am extremely humbled. Delivery in all actuality is a near-death experience, and for me, ready to go under the knife as I was out cold from full anesthesia, and came back due to His will, I felt the immense, harrowing, yet assuring realization that my life is not in my hands.

It was all Him. My Rabb was the One guiding my body, the doctor's hands, to bring out the baby alive and breathing. I had spent months researching about the process, about what foods to eat, what exercises to do. But at that moment, everything seemed useless.

And then, in a state of complete weakness, unable to focus, unable to walk on my own, I was handed this tiny, living, breathing, being. As I started to recover, I became terrified, because I was falling in love too suddenly.

I'd never before lied awake watching someone breathe. But here I was, observing his nostrils flaring and hearing the soft gurgling sounds, and it was as if I was brought into this world just for this.

My son was having some stomach pain in the middle of the night, and my husband and I were trying our best to soothe him. If anyone was to peek in from the window, they would seriously think we'd lost it - shaking random objects, crumpling bags of chips, whatever would make the appropriate noise that would distract him from his pain. And I know at some point all parents do hilarious things for their kids, potentially embarrassing, just to make them happy.

Motherhood does give you a new set of superpowers. I can tell from the pitch of his cries whether he's sleepy or whether he's just whining for attention. My sixth sense can sometimes tell me if he's about to wake up, even before I hear the rustling through the baby

monitor. I've only practiced on a couple babies before, but changing diapers and feeding him just took a few days and I felt like a natural.

I'd like to think that it was all because of my prior preparation, but it wasn't. When my son is fully fed, changed, clean, and sound asleep, I'm sitting there wondering how in the world I'm able to care for a human being when I couldn't even keep my own room clean a couple years back.

Allah doesn't leave you to your own devices.

And I was thinking about all of this one night, as I was yet again doing everything in my power to soothe my baby to sleep. It's a fact that whatever children do later on in their life for their parents, they will never be able to pay back everything, commensurate with their parents' love, pain, continuous effort, selfless dedication. And to compare any type of love in this world with the love given by a mother, is terribly unjust.

Yet Allah did compare something with a mother's love.

His love.

He said He loves His creations more than the combined love of 70 mothers. I never quite deeply understood the meaning of this comparison until now. Just as a mother's love is selfless, Allah's love is entirely one-sided as well. But the immense difference between these two types of love, is that a mother can receive some benefit for caring for her child in this world - emotional, physical, financial.

But what can we ever do for Allah? Compared to what He's given us? Allah doesn't need us at all, not our support, not our worship, not our dedication. A servant's complete dependency is on His Master, and the Master can do what He wills, regardless of whether the servant obeys or not, and He isn't affected by anything the tiniest bit.

When my son displays his pouty lip, when he becomes frightened by something or suddenly feels a pang of hunger or pain, sometimes it's



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too much for my heart to handle.

When it becomes nearly impossible to go on supporting this tide of emotions inside of me, I remember the Lord Who calms the tumultuous tides of billions of mothers, day and night, as they welcome their children into the world, or as they say farewell. He Who is the pure definition of unconditional love, only He knows how to soothe the wounded hearts of the women who are exhausted, drained from loving and caring too much.

But my real sense of humility comes from this: I can boast of my sacrifices to my child all I want. I can say I stayed awake all night for him, I endured horrible pain, I starved myself.

But the reality is – I'm just a means. Through me, someone else envelops this little boy with love.

If I really love him, I would teach him about the One Who loves him infinitely more. Regardless of what any society teaches, I want this love to be constant. I don't want him to do anything just to build an image to satisfy society. What I should want most of all, is for my son and I to help each other

be better people, to help each other become better servants of Allah, so that we could all reunite in Paradise.

Eternal.

That's the word that pops into my mind whenever I feel a sudden rush of motherly love. I want it to be eternal. I don't want it to die along with this worldly life. I want this love to never be suffocating, to never be selfish, to never be a reason to commit injustice.

I pray that I always feel humbled whenever I look at my son with love. As he grows older into a man, may Allah keep my ego and pride at bay, may He always remind me that this little boy was given to me as a gift and a responsibility – to raise him to be a righteous leader.

Oh our Lord, gift us from our spouses and our offspring coolness of the eyes, and make us leaders of the righteous. Ameen.

Ammarah Usmani

Courtesy of: Soundvision.com

KIDS CORNER

A YOUTH REALIZES THE TRUTH

Many Muslims from the Arab regions migrated to various parts of South America in the last few hundred years. After few generations have passed, the Muslims there slowly started going away from Islam due to the lack of an Islamic environment. To remind these people to be steadfast in Islam, a group of brothers from Toronto, Canada were sent to Venezuela in 2002. Due to their strong effort, some amazing changes took place in the lives of Muslims in Venezuela who were in the verge of leaving Islam. One such incidents is mentioned below.

As the brothers were looking for Muslims one day, they noticed a young boy of about 16 years of age who looked like an Arab. So they approached him and asked what his name was and if he was a Muslim. The youth replied that he is Muslim and his name is Darwin. Islam was so much out of their lives that their names became the names of famous atheists! The brothers gave him dawah and asked if he could join them for some time. The youth took his mother's permission and joined them for few days. Within 3 days, Darwin learned Surah Fatiha and started feeling the sweetness of iman. Then he asked his mother if he could join them for some more time and the permission was granted. Within two weeks, Darwin started

getting up for Tahajjud on his own. Then one day after Maghrib prayer, he went to the front and mentioned that he had something to say. He told the worshippers that, "From today, I am not Darwin any more, I am Abdullah (the meaning of this name is Servant of Allah)."

These are the results that come forth by the effort of those who give their time and energy for the sake of Islam. The brothers have gone back to South America last month to cover more areas. May Allah make them successful.

Courtesy of: <https://www.islamcan.com/islamic-stories/a-youth-realizes-the-truth.shtml>



The Hajj and the Legacy of Ibrahim (AS) (cont'd)

obedient slaves of Allah (SWT) alone.

The story goes on that Ibrahim (AS) was thrown into a blazing fire. *“They said, Burn him and help your gods, if you are resolved to do something. But We said, ‘Fire! Be cool and safe for Ibrahim” (al-Anbiya’, 21:58-69).* Allah (SWT) in His infinite mercy ordered the fire to become cool and safe for Ibrahim, and hence he miraculously remained unscathed.

This story about remaining safe in the face of extreme danger is reminiscent of the story of Musa (AS) and his people when they were caught between Firaun’s army and the sea—visible danger from both sides. Hearing his people cry out, Musa (AS) simply said, *“No, my Lord is with me and He will guide me.” (al-Shura, 26:62)* It also brings to memory the incident of the hijrah of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) along with Abu Bakr (RA). While hiding themselves in the cave, Abu Bakr (RA) saw that the enemy was just to get a glimpse of them to be able to pounce upon them. He was agrieved about the safety of Muhammad (SAW). At that moment Muhammad (SAW) in his usual calm and composure said to him not to worry, for Allah was with them. ***“When they were both in the cave, he (Muhammad – SAW) told his companion (Abu Bakr – RA), Do not worry; for Allah is with us.” (al-Taubah, 9:40)*** These real stories of the prophets are meant to reinforce our faith in and strengthen our reliance on the One whose power is limitless. Allah (SWT) will always support those who are on Haq.

In his youth, Ibrahim (AS) used his power of logical reasoning when confronting Nimrod, the king, in an argument. The Qur’an depicts this incident as follows: *“Have you not (O prophet) thought about the one who argued with Ibrahim about his Lord, on the basis that Allah had given him sovereignty? Ibrahim said, ‘My Lord is He who gives life and causes to die.’ He said, ‘I too give life and cause to die.’ Ibrahim said, ‘Allah brings the sun from the East, so bring it come from the West.’ And the one who denied faith (Nimrod) was dumb-founded. Allah does not guide those who are unjust.” (al-Baqarah, 2:258)* Islam makes sense. There is no dispute between reason and revelation. There are occasions when we have to use our logical reasoning more than our intuition. This story also tells us about confronting falsehood (Batil) with truth (Haq).

Despite his firm conviction in Allah’s powers (qudrah), Ibrahim (AS) expressed his desire to Allah to show him how He brought the dead to life. Ibrahim (AS)’s curiosity and Allah’s response thereto is mentioned in Surat al-Baqarah. *“When Ibrahim said, ‘My Lord, show me how You bring the*

dead to life.’ He asked, ‘Do you not then have faith?’ He replied, ‘Indeed I do! But so that my heart may be at peace.’ He said, ‘Take four birds and train them to come back to you, cut their bodies to pieces, scatter them over mountain-tops, then call them back, they will swiftly come to you. And know that Allah is Mighty, Wise.’” (al-Baqarah, 2:260)

In compliance of Allah’s orders, another severe trial for Ibrahim (AS) was to leave his wife Hagar and their infant son Ismail in the harsh, desolate, and desert land of Mecca, where there was no water, no cultivation, and no humans. He knew exactly what he was doing. His human side made him cry out, ***“O Lord! I have settled some of my offspring in an uncultivable valley near Your Sacred House, Lord, so that they may say their prayers regularly. So, make people’s hearts incline towards them and provide them with fruits so that they may be grateful.” (Ibrahim, 14:37)*** Again in His infinite mercy, Allah (SWT) saved both mother and child by making the spring of zamzam gush forth from that desert land. The seven rounds (al-Sai’) between the hillocks of Safa and Marwa that Hagar took to search for water for her baby son has become one of the important rituals (manasik) that pilgrims have to perform at Hajj.

Finally, Ibrahim (AS) was tested all the more severely by having to sacrifice his young son Ismail at Allah’s command. *“When he (Ismail) was old enough to work with him (Ibrahim), he said, ‘My son, I saw myself sacrificing you in a dream. What do you think?’ He said, ‘Father, do as you are commanded. You shall, In sha Allah (God-willing) find me among those who are patient (and steadfast).” (al-Saffat, 37:102)* Both father and son displaying submissive obedience and steadfastness willingly complied with Allah’s command. Again miraculously, Allah replaced the person of Ismail with a lamb which was slain instead, making henceforth the offering of a sacrificial animal an important ritual of Hajj.

In reality, the Hajj season traces back the legacy of Ibrahim (AS) and his quest for *the* truth. He established the center of tawhid that remains till this day the Qiblah for all Muslims in every nook and corner of the world.

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JULY 2022

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqama Timing

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Fri 1	4:09	5:15	5:59	1:41	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:16	9:21	10:34	10:45
Sat 2	4:09	5:15	5:59	1:41	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:16	9:21	10:33	10:45
Sun 3	4:10	5:15	6:00	1:42	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:16	9:21	10:33	10:45
Mon 4	4:11	5:15	6:00	1:42	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:16	9:21	10:32	10:45
Tue 5	4:12	5:15	6:01	1:42	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:15	9:20	10:32	10:45
Wed 6	4:13	5:15	6:01	1:42	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:15	9:20	10:31	10:45
Thu 7	4:13	5:15	6:02	1:42	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:15	9:20	10:31	10:45
Fri 8	4:14	5:15	6:03	1:42	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:14	9:19	10:30	10:45
Sat 9	4:15	5:15	6:03	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:53	7:15	9:14	9:19	10:29	10:45
Sun 10	4:16	5:15	6:04	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:52	7:15	9:13	9:18	10:29	10:45
Mon 11	4:17	5:15	6:05	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:52	7:15	9:13	9:18	10:28	10:45
Tue 12	4:18	5:15	6:06	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:52	7:15	9:12	9:17	10:27	10:45
Wed 13	4:19	5:15	6:06	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:52	7:15	9:12	9:17	10:26	10:45
Thu 14	4:20	5:15	6:07	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:52	7:15	9:11	9:16	10:25	10:45
Fri 15	4:21	5:15	6:08	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:51	7:15	9:11	9:16	10:24	10:45
Sat 16	4:22	5:15	6:09	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:51	7:15	9:10	9:15	10:24	10:45
Sun 17	4:24	5:15	6:10	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:51	7:15	9:09	9:14	10:23	10:45
Mon 18	4:25	5:15	6:11	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:50	7:15	9:08	9:13	10:22	10:45
Tue 19	4:26	5:15	6:12	1:43	2:00	5:40	6:50	7:15	9:08	9:13	10:21	10:45
Wed 20	4:27	5:30	6:12	1:43	2:00	5:39	6:49	7:00	9:07	9:12	10:20	10:30
Thu 21	4:28	5:30	6:13	1:44	2:00	5:39	6:49	7:00	9:06	9:11	10:19	10:30
Fri 22	4:29	5:30	6:14	1:44	2:00	5:39	6:49	7:00	9:05	9:10	10:17	10:30
Sat 23	4:30	5:30	6:15	1:44	2:00	5:39	6:48	7:00	9:04	9:09	10:16	10:30
Sun 24	4:32	5:30	6:16	1:44	2:00	5:38	6:48	7:00	9:03	9:08	10:15	10:30
Mon 25	4:33	5:30	6:17	1:44	2:00	5:38	6:47	7:00	9:02	9:07	10:14	10:30
Tue 26	4:34	5:30	6:18	1:44	2:00	5:38	6:46	7:00	9:01	9:06	10:13	10:30
Wed 27	4:35	5:30	6:19	1:44	2:00	5:38	6:46	7:00	9:00	9:05	10:11	10:30
Thu 28	4:36	5:30	6:20	1:44	2:00	5:37	6:45	7:00	8:59	9:04	10:10	10:30
Fri 29	4:38	5:30	6:21	1:44	2:00	5:37	6:45	7:00	8:58	9:03	10:09	10:30
Sat 30	4:39	5:30	6:22	1:44	2:00	5:37	6:44	7:00	8:57	9:02	10:07	10:30
Sun 31	4:40	5:30	6:23	1:44	2:00	5:36	6:43	7:00	8:56	9:01	10:06	10:30
Mon 1	4:41	5:45	6:24	1:43	2:00	5:36	6:43	6:50	8:55	9:00	10:05	10:15

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi

First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and second sermon is at 1:30 PM



IONA's objective is to help the Muslims of North America understand and fulfill their divinely ordained obligations, in order to please Allah (SWT) and thereby achieve success and salvation in the Hereafter. The aim is to seek the forgiveness and mercy of Allah (SWT) in the hereafter.

On the basis of the best scholarly understandings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah IONA has recognized that our divinely ordained obligations are as follows:

- the cultivation of a strong and authentic faith;
- the loving and sincere obedience to the will of Allah (SWT);
- calling all of humankind towards Islam in the most beautiful and convincing way; and,
- engaging in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.