



NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 | Issue 9

September 2022 | Safar - Rabi' al-Awwal 1444

“*And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided...*” (The Qur'an, 3:103)

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“*The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever.*” {Bukhari}

STATEMENT FROM THE IMAMS COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN

The Imams Council of Michigan condemns the serial killings of four Muslim Men in Albuquerque, NM, that horrifically began in late 2021 and ended earlier this month.

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UPCOMING EVENT

IONA's Annual Sirah Conference
October 8, 2022

Save the Date



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Kids Corner : The Mother's Hand

My mother was visiting, she asked me to go shopping with her because she needed a new dress. I don't normally...



More on page 2

Sunday School Starting September 11, 2022

Now accepting students ages 5-17 for the 2022/2023 Sunday school year. For more info contact Sr. Souad at (248) 872-2169



More on page 2

Register Early for the 2022 - 2023 Preschool Program

The preschool program is a weekly program, Tuesday through Thursday, and will begin on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022**, in sha Allah.

Announcements

Reserve a spot for your child(ren). Register Early.

2022 - 2023 SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school begins on **September 11, 2022** in sha Allah and ends on June 11, 2023. We are accepting students ages 5 to 17 (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 are from **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.

To apply, please visit ionamasjid.org and click on Education tab and follow the link to Sunday School.

For more information, please contact the principal, **Sr. Souad**, at **248-872-2169**.

REGISTER ONLINE at IONAMASJID.ORG

2022 - 2023 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The preschool program is a weekly program, Tuesday through Thursday, and will begin on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022**, in sha Allah.

The tuition per child is \$225 per month.

Sr. Souad Soubra, the Sunday and Summer School Principal, has designed a wonderful program for preschoolers. The curriculum includes Personal Development, Literacy Skills, Numbers and Math, and Art in addition to learning Islamic manners, dua's, Memorizing Qur'an, and Arabic. The preschool is the first step to schooling and our goal is to build confidence in the students, get them acquainted with the educational environment, teach them good manners, and help them develop the concepts of sharing and charity. Students will receive a certificate at the end of the year marking their first memorable school year.

Children **ages 3 to 5** from all cultures are welcome. The preschool program is from **9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**, Tuesday through Thursday, and the tuition per child is **\$225** with a discount for siblings. For more information, please contact **Sr. Souad** at **248-872-2169**.

The school will, in sha Allah, start on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022** and end on **Thursday, May 31, 2023**. IONA is committed to helping the community with their educational needs. Let us help you develop your child right from the start.

IONA MASJID APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

Your ongoing donation of \$1 a day helps us maintain our operation costs and be the voice of Islam and Muslims through IONA's dawa and outreach efforts.

Please consider a monthly donation by visiting our website ionamasjid.org/donate or scan the QR Code.

May Allah bless you and your wealth.



Mustapha Elturk
Ameer

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STATEMENT FROM THE IMAMS COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN

Statement from the Imams Council of Michigan on the Serial Killings of Four Shia Muslims in Albuquerque, New Mexico

August 10, 2022

The Imams Council of Michigan condemns the serial killings of four Muslim Men in Albuquerque, NM, that horrifically began in late 2021 and ended earlier this month. We offer our prayers and condolences upon the victims, their families, and their community. No one should ever be harmed, or killed, for their religious beliefs, ethnicity, or personal and/or political persuasions. We commend the Muslim community in Albuquerque for coming together to identify a suspect. We also, commend the Albuquerque Police Department for successfully apprehending the suspect. Even though a motive has not yet been established, we do recognize the reported sectarian differences between the victims and suspect in custody, who all have been identified as Muslims. However uncommon such events may be in the Muslim community, the all-time high of gun violence in America greatly increases the potential for deadly results from those with bad intentions. We call on all Muslims of all sects and affiliations to come together and reflect on these words of Allah, Most High:

“O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So, follow not

inclination, lest you not be just....”(The Qur’an, 4:135).

*“The believers are but brothers...”
(The Qur’an, 49:10).*

It is in this spirit, that we the Sunni and Shia Imams of the Imams Council of Michigan signed into The Muslim Code of Honor of 2007. The Muslim Code Honor is an agreement that codifies our commitment to mutual respect and cooperation. We have recently recommitted ourselves to this agreement. We encourage all Muslim American communities to make similar attempts at establishing firm bonds of brother/sisterhood and collaboration. It is important to reiterate, although the motives behind the Albuquerque slayings is still unknown, the Imams Council of Michigan stands in solidarity with the Shia Community of Muslims that has produced some of the finest that America has to offer. Lastly, we disavow any suppression of religious freedoms committed against all peoples and we offer our assistance to anyone who feels unsafe or seeks resolution.

“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided...”(The Qur’an, 3:103)

-Imams Council of Michigan

NEWS RELEASE: AUGUST 9, 2022

Imam Elturk Joins the Interfaith Power and Light Webinar on the Importance of Voting

On Tuesday (August 9), Imam Mustapha Elturk, Ameer of the Islamic Organization of North America (IONA), participated in an important interfaith webinar titled “Encouraging Faith Communities to Vote - Sermons on the

Importance of Voting.” The webinar was hosted by the Interfaith Power & Light whose mission is to inspire and equip people of faith to exercise stewardship of and love for all Creation. Imam Elturk representing the Islamic faith was joined with the Rev.

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SISTERS CORNER

From the Midwife's Desk: Infertility and Faith Part 1



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"And those who say, 'Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us a leader [i.e., example] for the righteous.'" (Surah Al-Furqan, 25:74)

It has happened, you have found your partner, Alhamdulillah. You are married, and now you are hoping for children. For many Muslim couples this is the dream. Not only is marriage a way to protect ourselves from unlawful sexual acts, but it is a way to have our own offspring. It is such a desired and naturally human activity that Allah provides us with stories of parents and children and couples wanting children throughout the Quran.

While most couples may be granted an easy path to conception, some, like our beloved Prophet Ibrahim, peace be upon him, and his wife Sara, may Allah be pleased with her, will struggle with infertility. This of course can become distressing to the couple. While we will not all be fertile, fertility is an overall desired characteristic in Islam.

It was narrated by Anas ibn Maalik, may Allaah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

"Marry the one who is loving and fertile, for I will feel proud of your large numbers before the other Prophets on the Day of Resurrection." Narrated by Ahmad (12202)

This emphasis on fertility in Islam can make some couples dealing with infertility feel depressed and incomplete. Allah, in His mercy, not only stresses the importance of childbearing and rearing in the Quran, but also lets us know about the issue of infertility and how we can approach it as Muslims.

In this article we will cover the meaning of infertility, medical causes, and some options available to help couples conceive.

My Lord, grant me from Yourself a good offspring. Indeed, You are the Hearer of supplication." (Surah Ali 'Imran, 3:38)

What is infertility?

Technically speaking, infertility is the inability to become pregnant after 1 year of regular unprotected sexual intercourse for women under the age of 35. Each month, a healthy couple has a 20-25% chance of conceiving. Since fertility reduces with age, women 35 and older may be considered to be dealing with infertility after 6 months of regular sex. "Regular sex" means that sex is not infrequent.

Impaired fecundity is also a form of infertility. This is when women have difficulty getting pregnant or have difficulty carrying a pregnancy to term or to the delivery of a viable infant.

Infertility can be female or male based. We will pursue this further later in the article.

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions.

How common is infertility?

According to the CDC, about 1 in 5 women of reproductive age (15 to 49) will deal with infertility. That is

about 19% of women. Infertility can also occur to women who have had one or more children, however, the statistical odds are much less. About 6% of women who have previously had children will deal with infertility. As Muslims we understand that we bear children by the will of Allah. This does not make it haram though to try to find ways to conceive that have been deemed as halal.

What general factors impact infertility?

There are many factors that can contribute to infertility for both men and women. They include:

- Age
- Being over or underweight
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Lifestyle issues – stress, poor diet, intense athletic training, smoking, excessive alcohol and drug use
- Medical conditions causing hormonal imbalance or disruption in reproductive organs
- Exposure to radiation
- Male or female sexual dysfunction, for example erectile dysfunction in men or dyspareunia (painful sex) in women
- Frequent exposure of the testes to high temperatures for instance hot tub or sauna use. Exposure to steroids, certain medications, environmental toxins, and/or testosterone

What does it take to get pregnant?

Though it may seem simple for some to become pregnancy, many steps need to occur in order for pregnancy to be achieved. Infertility can occur when one or several of the steps don't occur or receive interference.

1. An egg must be released from the ovaries (ovulation).
2. Sperm must join the egg (fertilization).
3. A fertilized egg must travel through the fallopian tubes and to the uterus (migration).
4. The embryo needs to implant itself into the lining of the uterus (implantation).

An interruption in these steps can be associated with the female, male or both.

What causes female infertility?

In order to achieve a pregnancy, a woman must have properly functioning ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus and hormonal balance. There are a variety of medical causations for female infertility including:

- Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) is the leading cause of infertility for women during the reproduction years. It is a hormone imbalance problem that can interfere with ovulation. Women with PCOS may not ovulate monthly. A sign of this is very irregular or infrequent menstrual periods. For instance, a woman with PCOS may only experience menstrual bleeding every few months or suddenly stop having periods all together without being menopausal.
- Diminished Ovarian Reserve is when a woman has less eggs than what would be expected of a woman during her reproductive years. Women with this condition may be able to conceive naturally, but it may not happen as quickly due to the reduced quantity of eggs.
- Primary Ovarian Insufficiency (POI) is another cause

of infertility. This is when the ovarian reserve of a woman is lower than normal before the age of 40. This can also cause a lack of periods due to the ovaries not functioning properly.

- Physical causes include blocked fallopian tubes, absence or abnormality of the uterus. Fallopian tubes can become blocked due to infection, endometriosis, or if a woman has previously had surgery due to an ectopic pregnancy.
- An ectopic pregnancy is one in which an embryo does not migrate to the uterus and instead gets stuck in the fallopian tubes. As the fallopian tubes are not large enough to carry a pregnancy this condition is life threatening to the mother and embryo and may need a medication or surgical response to remove the embryo. The surgical response sometimes can cause scarring that can damage the fallopian tubes or necessitate the removal of one of the entire tubes. This can interfere with fertilization and cause infertility.
- Painful sex can contribute to infertility. When sex is painful, women may not be able to tolerate sex long enough for their partner to achieve ejaculation. Painful sex can also be an indicator to other problems with

the pelvis or uterus that can interfere with fertility, such as pelvic inflammatory disease, endometriosis or physical abnormalities of the uterus or vagina.

- The uterus or lack thereof, can also contribute to infertility. Some women may have fibroids, which are non-cancerous masses that can be found in the uterus. While many women may still get pregnant with fibroids present, some may experience infertility due to the masses blocking implantation of a fertilized egg. A woman who has previously needed a partial or full hysterectomy due to abnormal uterine bleeding, or concern for cancer will also face infertility.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of causes of female infertility but covers some of the most common reasons. Please see your medical provider if you are experiencing a lack of periods, very heavy or painful periods, or painful sex. Even if you do not desire a pregnancy these can all be signs of medical conditions that should be managed.

(To be continued)

Melissa Fleming

Courtesy of: soundvision.com

KIDS CORNER

THE MOTHER'S HAND

My mother was visiting, she asked me to go shopping with her because she needed a new dress. I don't normally like to go shopping and I'm not a patient person, but we set off for the mall together. We visited nearly every store that carried ladies' dresses, and my mother tried on dress after dress, rejecting them all. As the day wore on, I grew weary.

Finally, at our last stop, my mother tried on a lovely blue three-piece dress. The blouse had a bow at the neckline, and as I stood in the dressing room with her, I watched as she tried, with much difficulty, to tie the bow. Her hands were so badly crippled from arthritis that she couldn't do it. Immediately, my impatience gave way to an overwhelming wave of compassion for her. I turned away to try and hide the tears that welled up involuntarily. Regaining my composure, I turned back to tie the bow for her.

Our shopping trip was over, but the event was etched indelibly in my memory. For the rest of the day, my mind kept returning to that moment in the dressing room and to the vision of my mother's hands trying to tie that bow. Those loving hands that had fed me, bathed me, dressed me, caressed and comforted me, and,



“Those loving hands that had fed me, bathed me, dressed me, caressed and comforted”

most of all, prayed for me, were now touching me in the most remarkable manner.

Later in the evening, I went to my mother's room, took her hands in mine, kissed them and, much to her surprise, told her that to me they were the most beautiful hands in the world.

I can only pray that some day my hands, and my heart, will have earned such a beauty of their own.

Courtesy of : <https://www.islamcan.com/islamic-stories/the-mothers-hand.shtml>

Dr. Gerald Durley and Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb from Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation. Rev. Susan Hendershot, President of IPL, led the discussion.

In response to, how do the Quran and Muhammad speak to voting in a 21st century American democracy? Imam Elturk stated that Muhammad (peace be upon him) in the 7th century established Islam based on Divine Justice and aside from being a Prophet, he was the political leader and head of the Islamic State. In comparison to modern day elections, the system of Bai'ah or allegiance was an expression of the collective vote or people's acceptance to the election of the Caliph.

The Imam gave examples from two great scholars who wrote on Islamic polity, Al-Farabi, who in his famous work on 'The Virtuous City' considered democracy to be closest to the ideal state as practiced during the times of the rightly guided caliphs, and Muhammad Iqbal, who wrote 'The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam', also viewed the early Islamic caliphate as being compatible with democracy.

Imam Elturk mentioned how he stresses to those who are registered to vote to actually vote. Also, the need to register to vote for those who are citizens but not yet registered. Civic engagement is an obligation, it is not a choice, according to Imam Elturk.

The Imam cited the verse, ***"O you who believe! Stand out firmly for Justice as witnesses to Allah, even if it is against yourselves, your parents and close relatives..."*** (al-Nisa', 4:135). He also shared the well known hadith (saying of the Prophet) on stopping evil, "Whoever among you sees an evil action, let him change it with his hand [by taking action]; and if he cannot, then with his tongue [by speaking out]; and if he cannot, then with his heart [by feeling that it is wrong] – and that is the weakest of faith." (Narrated by Muslim)

When asked about faith leaders being apprehensive about voting, Imam Elturk admitted that some faith

leaders and Muslims believe that participating in the electoral process and voting is against Islam. However, the Imam believes that most Islamic Centers do actually encourage voting in the U.S. and that, "The narrative of whether Muslim American citizens are permitted to vote in the national or local elections has been debated and the overwhelming majority of scholars domestically and abroad have permitted the participation in the political electoral process" said Imam Elturk. He also acknowledged that 501 (C) 3 non-profit organizations are non-partisan and are not allowed to endorse a particular candidate or party. However, Imams and community leaders may invite candidates to their mosques and present themselves and what they have to offer. One needs to be informed on issues and on those running for office. Imam Elturk encourages his community to vote their conscience.

Rev. Durley and Rabbi Dobb weighed in on the subject citing verses from the Bible and Talmud.

The webinar ended with each religious leader making a supplication for justice.

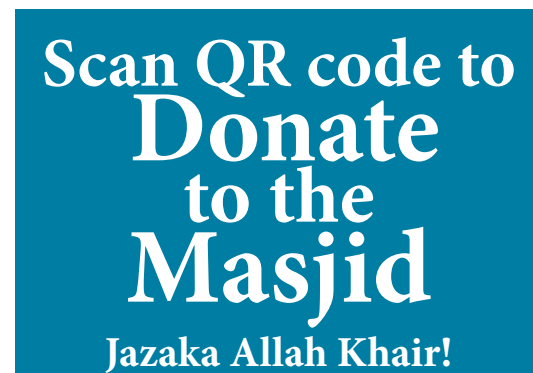
Clips from the webinar may be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWf5jLk-QBk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y46aQKGdC94>


For the entire webinar go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMTI_hLP-Jco&list=PLzxikWFj5QcPaa2bIlMZ67Ixz-FRIMerKZ&index=1

END



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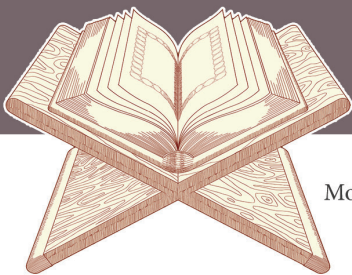
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SEPTEMBER 2022

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqama Timing

Date	Fajr	Iqama	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqama	Asr(S)*	Asr(H)*	Iqama	Maghrib	Azan	Isha	Iqama
Thu 1	5:23	6:15	6:57	1:37	2:00	5:13	6:10	6:30	8:09	8:14	9:19	9:30
Fri 2	5:24	6:15	6:58	1:37	2:00	5:12	6:09	6:30	8:07	8:12	9:17	9:30
Sat 3	5:25	6:15	6:59	1:36	2:00	5:11	6:08	6:30	8:06	8:11	9:16	9:30
Sun 4	5:27	6:15	7:00	1:36	2:00	5:10	6:06	6:30	8:04	8:09	9:14	9:30
Mon 5	5:28	6:15	7:01	1:36	2:00	5:09	6:05	6:30	8:02	8:07	9:12	9:30
Tue 6	5:29	6:15	7:02	1:35	2:00	5:08	6:04	6:15	8:00	8:05	9:11	9:30
Wed 7	5:31	6:15	7:03	1:35	2:00	5:07	6:02	6:15	7:59	8:04	9:09	9:30
Thu 8	5:32	6:15	7:04	1:35	2:00	5:06	6:01	6:15	7:57	8:02	9:08	9:30
Fri 9	5:33	6:15	7:05	1:34	2:00	5:05	6:00	6:15	7:55	8:00	9:06	9:30
Sat 10	5:34	6:15	7:06	1:34	2:00	5:04	5:58	6:15	7:53	7:58	9:05	9:15
Sun 11	5:36	6:15	7:07	1:34	2:00	5:02	5:57	6:15	7:52	7:57	9:03	9:15
Mon 12	5:37	6:15	7:08	1:33	2:00	5:01	5:55	6:15	7:50	7:55	9:01	9:15
Tue 13	5:38	6:15	7:10	1:33	2:00	5:00	5:54	6:15	7:48	7:53	9:00	9:15
Wed 14	5:40	6:15	7:11	1:33	2:00	4:59	5:52	6:15	7:46	7:51	8:58	9:15
Thu 15	5:41	6:15	7:12	1:32	2:00	4:58	5:51	6:15	7:44	7:49	8:57	9:15
Fri 16	5:42	6:15	7:13	1:32	2:00	4:57	5:49	6:15	7:43	7:48	8:55	9:15
Sat 17	5:43	6:30	7:14	1:32	2:00	4:55	5:48	6:00	7:41	7:46	8:54	9:15
Sun 18	5:45	6:30	7:15	1:31	2:00	4:54	5:46	6:00	7:39	7:44	8:52	9:15
Mon 19	5:46	6:30	7:16	1:31	2:00	4:53	5:45	6:00	7:37	7:42	8:50	9:00
Tue 20	5:47	6:30	7:17	1:31	2:00	4:52	5:43	6:00	7:36	7:41	8:49	9:00
Wed 21	5:49	6:30	7:18	1:30	2:00	4:51	5:42	6:00	7:34	7:39	8:47	9:00
Thu 22	5:50	6:30	7:19	1:30	2:00	4:49	5:40	6:00	7:32	7:37	8:46	9:00
Fri 23	5:51	6:30	7:20	1:29	2:00	4:48	5:39	6:00	7:30	7:35	8:44	9:00
Sat 24	5:52	6:30	7:21	1:29	2:00	4:47	5:37	6:00	7:28	7:33	8:42	9:00
Sun 25	5:53	6:30	7:22	1:29	2:00	4:46	5:36	6:00	7:27	7:32	8:41	9:00
Mon 26	5:54	6:30	7:23	1:28	2:00	4:44	5:34	6:00	7:25	7:30	8:39	9:00
Tue 27	5:55	6:45	7:24	1:28	2:00	4:43	5:33	5:45	7:23	7:28	8:38	9:00
Wed 28	5:56	6:45	7:26	1:28	2:00	4:42	5:31	5:45	7:21	7:26	8:36	9:00
Thu 29	5:57	6:45	7:27	1:27	2:00	4:41	5:30	5:45	7:20	7:25	8:35	8:45
Fri 30	5:58	6:45	7:28	1:27	2:00	4:39	5:28	5:45	7:18	7:23	8:33	8:45
Sat 1	5:59	6:45	7:29	1:27	2:00	4:38	5:27	5:45	7:16	7:21	8:32	8:45

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi

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



IONA aims at transforming its members and surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek God's forgiveness to earn His pleasure. IONA members seek His mercy and grace in this life and in the hereafter. They rejuvenate their souls through internal struggle (jihad) and spiritual exercise in worship of the Creator, God most glorified. The strength of their belief in God almighty gives them the courage to promote good and forbid evil, and to engage in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.



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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.