

In the name of Allah, the most Compassionate, the ever Merciful



IONA
REPENTANCE
REVITALIZATION OF FAITH
RENEWAL OF COVENANT

IONA MASJID COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2021 | Dhul Qadah - Dhul Hijjah 1442

Volume 15, No 7

Image: Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) first revelation was in the cave of Hira' on the Mount of Light (Jabal an-Nur)

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From His Glorious Book

"Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to God by people who are able to undertake it. Those who reject this [should know that] God has no need of anyone."

[Aal Imran, 3:97]

From the Tradition of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

"Whoever performs Hajj for Allah's pleasure and does not have sexual relations with his wife, And does not do evil or sins then he will return (after Hajj free from all sins) as if he were born anew."

[Riyad as-Salihin]

IONA
wishes everyone
Eid MUBARAK
Eid al-Adha is on
Tuesday, July 20th

11TH ANNUAL ISLAM CONFERENCE

The Prophet's
Farwell Sermon
Lessons Learned

Saturday
JULY 17th
7:15 PM

IONA Center

encourages you to continue supporting the Center during the pandemic by donating to the Masjid Budget



PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

for 2021/2022
is back
Starting
Tuesday, September 14th

See page 2

Join us **Live** for both Virtual Friday Sermons 12:10 & 1:30 PM





Mustapha Elturk
Ameer

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Announcements

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Assalamu Alaikum WRWB,

Eidul Adha will be following Yaum 'Arafah as determined by the Supreme Court of Saudi Arabia.

IONA Masjid will observe Eid al-Adha as anticipated, in sha Allah, on **Tuesday, July 20, 2020**. We will inform you of any changes.

IONA will be conducting two Eid prayers:

The takbeer for the **first Eid prayer** begins at **7:30 AM** and the salah will start at **8:00 AM sharp**, followed by the Eid sermon

The takbeer for the **second Eid prayer** begins at **9:00 AM** and the salah will start at **9:30 AM sharp**, followed by the Eid sermon.

We wish you and your families a blessed Eid al-Adha.
Celebrating EID at IONA Center

IONA wishes everyone EID MUBARAK

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La ilaha illal-lah,
wa Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, wa lil-lahil-hamd

We are BACK

IONA is pleased to announce its PRESCHOOL PROGRAM for 2021/2022

The preschool program is a weekly program, Tuesday through Thursday, and will begin on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in sha Allah. The tuition per child is \$200 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 \$200 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 14, 2021 and end on Thursday, May 26, 2022. IONA is committed to helping the community with their educational needs. Let us help you develop your child right from the start.

REGISTER ONLINE at IONAMASJID.ORG

July 2021						
Dhul Qadah 1442 - Dhul Hijjah 1442						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				21	22	23
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1st	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

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The Prophet's Farewell Sermon

The Farwell sermon or, Khutbatul Wada' is the Prophet's last sermon delivered on the day of hajj on Friday, the 9th of Dhu al-Hijjah, (12th month of the Islamic Calendar) 10 A.H., corresponding to March 6, 632 C.E. in the Uranah valley of Mount Arafat. The Prophet (SAW) concluded his 23 years of unflinching, backbreaking effort of propagating and establishing the deen of Allah (SWT) with a sermon replete with gems of wisdom that deserve to be constantly reflected upon.

After praising, and thanking Allah, the Prophet (SAW) said, **"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore, listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today."**

The Prophet (SAW) had realized that his mission had been accomplished in Arabia. *"Today I have perfected your deen for you and completed My blessing upon you and I am pleased with Islam as a deen for you..."* (al-Ma'idah, 5:3). Thus, he urged his audience to listen to him attentively as he realized that he may not live long, and that the global message of Islam had to be spread far and wide beyond the boundaries of the Arabian Peninsula. Speaking about the sanctity of the life and property of human beings, the Prophet (SAW) went on to say, **"O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds."** The life and property of human beings are sacred trusts that are to be honored. The Qur'an describes true believers as *"those who honor their trusts and their contracts"* (al-Mu'minun, 23:8). It is reported that whenever the Prophet (SAW) preached his companions, he used to say: "The person who does not keep trust has no faith and the person who does not respect his covenant (and promise) has no religion."

The Prophet (SAW) then touched upon the

protection of wealth and warned against the unjust, oppressive, and exploitive economic system based on usury, which went towards widening the gap between the rich and the poor. He set an example by announcing that henceforth, all interest obligations due to his uncle, Abbas ibn Abd al-Muttalib had been waived. *Riba* (usury) was rampant in Arabia during the pre-Islamic era, and Abbas ibn Abd al-Muttalib was one of those who were in the business of usury. The Qur'anic injunctions regarding prohibition of interest or usury are many, such as, *"Those who practice usury will not rise from the grave except as someone driven mad by Satan's touch. That is because they say, 'Trade is the same as usury.' But Allah has permitted trade and He has forbidden usury. Whoever is given a warning by his Lord and then desists, may keep what he received in the past and his affair is Allah's concern. But all who return to it will be the Companions of the Fire, remaining in it timelessly, forever"* (al-Baqarah, 2:275). Usury is one of the most devastating practices in the world economy and accounts for the whole global economic crisis. It is in gross violation of the divine injunction, which clearly prohibits dealing in it. Thus, the Prophet (SAW) categorically stated in his farewell sermon, **"Allah has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has judged that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn 'Abd al Muttalib shall henceforth be waived..."**

The Prophet (SAW) was well aware of the ploys and plots of satan; so he continued to say, **"Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things."** Some Muslims even though they do not worship idols or other deities fall into Satan's trap by making their lustful desires their god. Allah (SWT) describes their condition by stating, *"Have you seen him who takes his whims and desires to be his god..."* (al-Jathiyah, 45:23). Remember the



"Today I have perfected your deen for you and completed My blessings upon you and I am pleased with Islam as a deen for you..."

(Al-Ma'idah, 5:3)



Continues on page 6



Repentance

Revitalization of Faith

Renewal of Covenant

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The Essence of Islam

Iwant you to not look at this as an essay contest entry. Look at each word, every sentence, and think about the deeper meaning. What does it mean to you? What can you take from it? How can you change for the better?

*We say we're Muslims
"But what does that really mean?"
It's that path in between
neither little, nor extreme.*

*We say with our tongue and our heart: we believe,
we pray morning and eve,
we fast eagerly,
we give in charity,
and we perform hajj.*

"Yes, I know that. But like you see a nice gift box, I want to see what's inside."

A true Muslim isn't rotten inside: just like the wrapping paper, it's all good inside. In fact, even better! You're happy with your fate. Although you may not like difficulty, you take it on with a smile. After all, patience goes more than a mile: it goes to the next life! We accept our challenges with courage, eagerly expecting a good reward, one that's forever.

"Ok. But...There needs to be something that puts it all together!" Well think about a king. His servant does anything he's told. "Break the diamond!" the king shouts. All shake their heads, but the servant readily takes the hammer. When questioned, he says, "I had two choices. I break the diamond, and uphold my master's command or I save the diamond, and break the command of my king. So, I can't break his command."

And we are Muslims. Muslim is one who submits. We all know that we "submit." But what does it mean to submit?

You bow down to your Master's Command. Listen, and obey. When given the choice, you think: This is my Master's command, and He has Wisdom. He Knows what He is doing. I must obey. I put my desires, whims, others' ideas aside: This is MY MASTER, and no one is above.

He is the one who gave me clothes. No one can

nurture me like Him, no one else can help me like He can. So shouldn't I be grateful and thankful, and submit to His Will, the One Most Deserving of my servitude? Even The One Most Capable and even Willing to reward me for it, even though He doesn't have to? Even though I didn't earn it?

But sometimes we forget our identity. We turn to our jobs and people in times of difficulty, while we leave the One who can easily solve them. If only we could turn back, He would Solve our problems. Even though Ramadan may have passed, it is not too late to turn back. You don't need to wait till next Ramadan to change.

"I agree! But what do you mean? How do I get back to Allah and my Deen?"

Think about this: Even when her son is gone, the mother is waiting anxiously for his arrival. At odd hours of the night, she sits awake, waiting. The same way, Allah is just waiting, wanting us to turn back to Him.

So to get back to Allah, we need to restart the "obeying." Make tawbah and repent for sins.

"I can't think of a specific sin. I don't know where to begin!"

Behold, Allah is so Merciful, it's so easy. Make true tawbah, shed a tear or few, and ask Allah, "Ya Allah, I don't remember the sins I've done. I disobeyed you so much, but I can't remember so many sins. I ran away, but O Allah, my Lord, I'm here and I have no one else. No one else to turn to, no one to help me, no one to forgive me. Ya Arhamur-rahimeen (O the Most Merciful One), I ask you to help me stop doing these sins, I need you to help me make true tawbah. Just one glance of rahma, and that will be enough to help me from my sins."

Any dua, any tawbah, choose anything! Just be true, and turn back to Allah- a true Muslim.

Zaynab Meraj

About the author: Zaynab Meraj is a 9th grader. She is an avid reader, loves to play basketball and is studying Arabic in her free time. The essay was submitted recently for a contest on the meaning of "The Essence of Islam"





THE SIGHT OF KABAH

One never tires of gazing at the sight of the House of Allah, the Kaa'ba. The site upon which the mercy and blessings of Allah are constantly descending. There is truly nothing comparable to the House of Allah on this Earth. People wish time would stand still so they could keep gazing at the Kaa'ba; their thirst is never quenched, rather it increases.

Once, while on a visit to Washington, people told me that a woman had accepted Islam and had some questions for me. They told me that many non-practicing Muslim women had started practicing again due to her. At prayer time she would dress in her best clothes as if readying herself for someone special, and would become oblivious to everything around her as soon she started praying.

After a brief question and answer session, I asked her what prompted her to accept Islam. She sighed and started explaining; "I was a Jew and my husband was a Christian who was posted in Saudi Arabia for some technical work. Everyday I used to see Muslim men and women dressed in white on their way somewhere. I asked my husband where they were going and he told me that they go to perform pilgrimage at the

Muslim shrine of Kaa'ba. I expressed a desire to go but he told me that non-Muslims were not allowed. However, I was determined and so we both bought white clothes and set out. Fortunately no one stopped us and we reached Makkah, from where we found directions to the Kaa'ba. Upon seeing the Kaa'ba our eyes froze and time seemed to stand still. When we turned to look at each other after some time, we were both crying. With our eyes we told each other that this was the Truth and we should accept Islam. No one ever told me about Islam, but there were so many blessings descending on that House that they changed my life forever."

The blessings of Tawhid descend in Makkah, and the blessings of Prophethood descend in Madinah. One has seen nothing in life if he has not seen these two holy sites. May Allah give all Muslims the opportunity to visit to His House.

Source: Excerpt from a speech of Shaikh Zulfikar - sacredlearning.com
Courtesy of : <https://islamcan.com/islamic-stories/the-sight-of-kabah.shtml>



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fight against Satan must continue as he will continue to lead people astray until judgment day. He declared war against us when he told Allah (SWT), *"Now that You have sent me astray, I shall most certainly lie in ambush for them all along Your straight path"* (al-A'raf, 7:16).

The Prophet (SAW) then discussed the rights of women. He made sure that their rights are protected; that they are honored, and that they are given the right to decent living. In the pre-Islamic era, women were mistreated and enjoyed no rights. They were looked upon as chattel and sex objects. The birth of a female was undesirable. A female child was even buried alive. The Qur'an refers to this inhuman abhorrent practice. *"When the baby girl buried alive will be asked; for what sin was she killed"* (al-Takwir, 81:8-9). The Prophet (SAW) abolished the practice of infanticide and allowed women to maintain their maiden name and lineage, to own property and business, and to enjoy the right of inheritance as per the divine law. His sermon spelt out his advice as regards treatment of women: **"O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste."** There are numerous ahadith that advise men to be nice and kind to women.

Speaking about the importance of protecting one's religion, which is the first and foremost objective of Shari'ah, the Prophet (SAW) went on to say, **"O People, listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, say your five daily prayers, fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakah. Perform Hajj if you can afford to."** We know through an authentic hadith that Islam is based on the shahadah (testimony of faith), salah, zakah, siyam, and hajj. While other faiths have changed their doctrines and modes of worship to accommodate people's changing ways of life, the Muslims (as a community), however weak they may be, have held on to their faith even after fourteen centuries, and have not allowed their desire (*hawa*) to interfere with the way ordained by Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAW). This indeed is the greatest blessing for Muslims.

Next the Prophet (SAW) advised about the equality of human beings and stated, **"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor does a black**

have any superiority over white except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves." Allah says, *"And hold fast all together to the rope of Allah and never be divided"* (Aal 'Imran, 3:103). And we have in Surat al-Anbiya', *"So, this community of yours is one single community of the same faith, and I am your Lord; so worship Me alone"* (21:92). The Prophet (SAW) then reminded the audience about the accountability of one's deeds on the Day of Judgment, and said, **"Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone."** Through this message, the Prophet (SAW) asked us not to get lost in the life of this world and to stay on course, being mindful all the time of the reality, that our destination is the hereafter (*al-Akhirah*), and that we will be held responsible and accountable for whatever we do in this worldly life. *"O you who believe; you are only responsible for yourselves. The misguided cannot harm you as long as you are guided. All of you will return to Allah and He will inform you about what you were doing"* (al-Ma'idah, 5:105).

The Prophet (SAW) concluded by saying, **"O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the Qur'an and my example, the Sunnah, and if you follow these you will never go astray. All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O Allah, that I have conveyed your message to your people."**

The message of Islam has to be conveyed until the end of times. It is our duty as Muslims to convey the message, which can be summarized in one statement: *La ilaha illallah (there is no god but God)*. This is the work of *da'wah* that has to be practiced and preached for all times to come.



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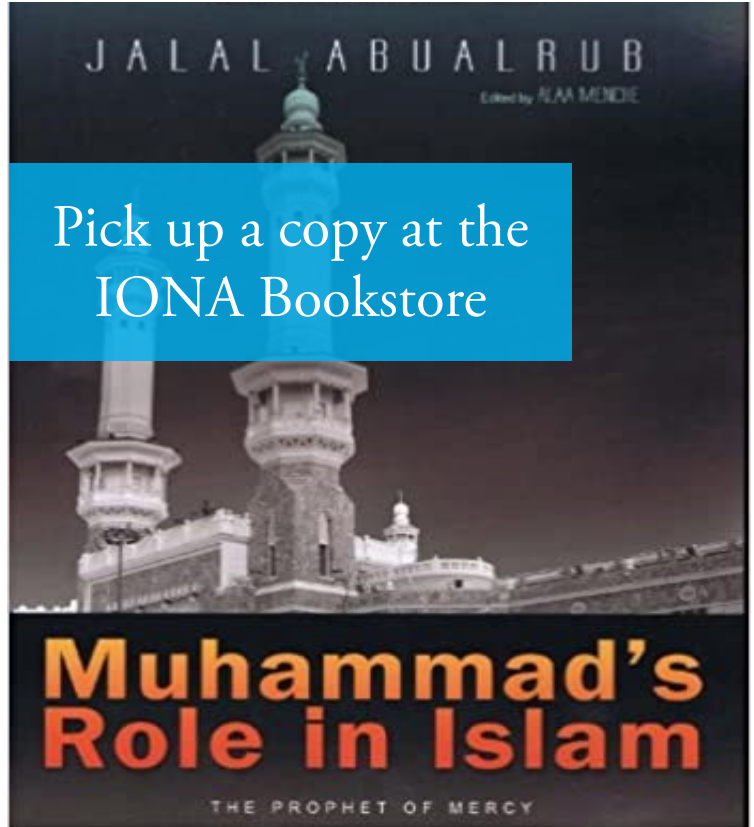
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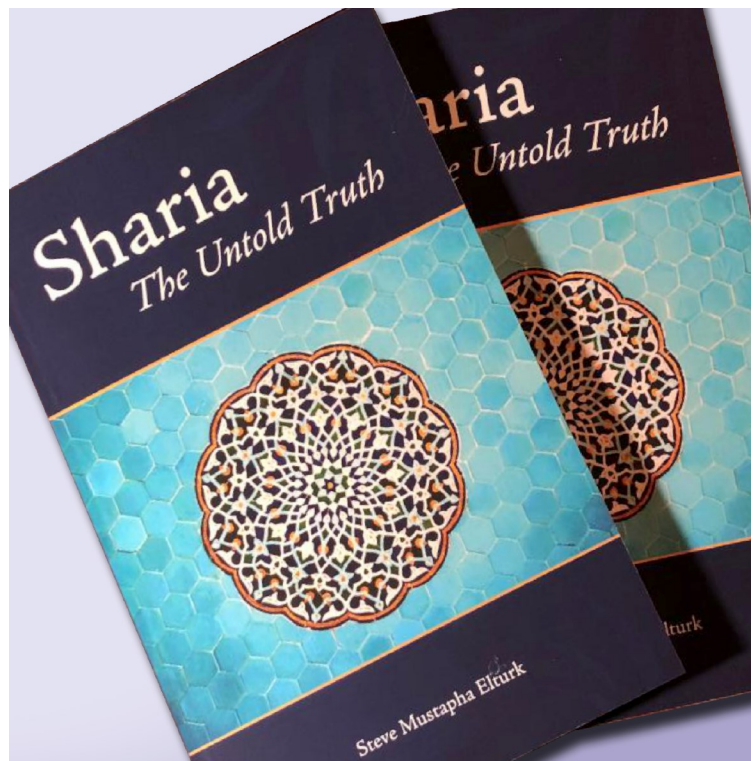
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IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqama Timings for July 2021

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

Join us LIVE on YouTube for Friday Sermons at 12:10 PM and 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:

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