



# RADIANCE

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March/April 2024

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## SACRED WORDS

*Repentance is the mysterious medicine which cures illness and the Secret Dharma to changes one's fate.  
If we wish to cure our terrible disease or transform evil karma, then we should repent our sins.*

*Prayer of Repentance*

### Weekly Services

We will continue to hold services with limited in-person attendance and broadcast online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating online, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made either by check payable to **Kannon Temple of Nevada** or **Zellepay.com** to [kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com).

### Spring Higan Memorial Service Mar. 17, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

*Higan* means the “other shore” (Buddha Land) while *Shigan* means “this shore” (worldly land of the material). The world we can see is “this shore” while the “other shore” is the spiritual realm that we can see only through our faith. *Higan* Memorial Service is held to show our appreciation to those in the “other shore” by offering our chanting so that our ancestors can attain Buddhahood.

Please write your name and family names of your ancestors or their individual names on the enclosed prayer form and return to Kannon Temple of Nevada with your donation. Let us chant the sutra and *Odaimoku* together for them.

### Buddha's Birthday Celebration Blessing New Born Babies Apr. 7, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

Happy Birthday Sakyamuni Buddha!

According to legend, the baby Buddha, soon after his birth, stood firmly, and walked seven steps and proclaimed, “From heaven to the earth, I alone am the most honored One!” by pointing his right index finger to heaven and his left index finger to the earth. This means the Buddha is the only person who has attained such precepts, meditation and good roots of virtue. It also means there is no person just like you in this world who have the same appearance, character, and karma. Therefore, you are the most honored one as well as any other person.

We will pour the sweet tea, representing heavenly rain to help wash the baby Buddha.

Newborn babies will receive Shoda Kanai Shonin's blessing and special amulets. Please let him know the name of any new born ahead of time.



### Electronic Newsletter

If you wish to receive this bi-monthly newsletter electronically, please email temple with your request at [kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com). We are in the process of moving many processes online, which will help reduce temple expense.

### Hina Matsuri

March 3rd is *Hina Matsuri* or Girl's Day. This is the time to display special dolls representing the Imperial Court and coming of spring. Let us create a special display to honor this occasion at home and temple.



### Repentance Shoda Kanai

Those of you who attend the monthly *Kito Blessing* Service are familiar with this month's “Sacred Words.” This is from the beginning of “Prayer of Repentance” that we chant during service. What is repentance and what should we do?

Here in the west, we are influenced by the Abrahamic tradition of “sin” where an immoral act is considered a transgression against the divine being. We are going against their rules. Just as you break your father's rules, there is someone there to punish you for breaking said rule. Sin would not make sense if there was no judge.

We may be remorseful, which will keep us from doing wrong action again, but we can become attached to the remorse and not take action to correct. We rely upon a greater being for redemption, as it is easier for someone else to help us, than for us to help ourselves.

Another aspect of “sin” is the shame and guilt that is placed upon us for doing such action. We may feel regret and punish ourselves by saying, “I am a bad person,” or “I do not deserve to be happy.” This type of thinking trends towards selfishness and keeps us locked in the past. Instead of moving forward, we continually are stuck in the whirlpool going round and round.



⇐ Instead of using the term “sin” which is a loaded word, let’s try using “misdeed” or “negative action.” We are human and we make mistakes. The key is to not focus on the mistake and be ashamed about it, but rather to recognize the mistake and correct it by finding a remedy and solution. If we have harmed someone, we should immediately apologize and take responsibility for our actions. Upon later reflection, look deeply inside to figure out what caused you to act in a certain way and try to fix it or adjust your thought process. This will be difficult as most do not truly self-reflect, but we can try.

There are many ways to change our conduct. Other traditions have their own special way of conducting the ritual of repentance through chanting their own “Prayer of Repentance” and special mantras. In Nichiren Shu, some temples recite the version noted in “Sacred Words.” If you wish to have a copy, please contact the temple. This can be incorporated into daily practice along with a personal prayer of atonement.

The best way to repent besides chanting the “Prayer of Repentance,” is to continually chant the Lotus Sutra and *Odaimoku*. What this does is bring an understanding of the Buddha’s Teaching to help you realize your Buddha nature. The more we grow and develop, we start to realize our behavior and how it affects others. We naturally act in ways that align with the Buddha. We also acknowledge not only our current transgressions, but from our previous lives that we are not aware of. Past actions may cultivate in this life; thus, we must accept this to change for the better.

The “Prayer of Repentance further states, “The Sutra states that the vast sea of evil karma is created from illusion to the truth. If I embrace the desire to repent my [misdeeds] and sit erect in observance of the *true aspect of life*, I will see that the offenses of mankind are just as frost and dew which dissipate in the warm rays of the sun.” Let us reflect upon all our transgressions and convert them into nothing.



**New Building Fund** commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin’s Birth

752 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,740,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of February 23, 2024  
*Thank you very much! Please continue your support.*

*From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!*

## My Garden

Shoda Kanai

As we move into spring, I must update on the progress of my garden. Winter in Las Vegas was rather wet with many rain showers. To protect my plants from cold and wind, I purchased a small green house to store some of my plants, thinking that I might be able to plant some seeds in autumn and hopefully from the insulation, my plants can grow.

I planted parsley again in the autumn like I did the previous year, and it stayed strong. It really started to grow in late January. Unfortunately, my basil did not survive this year, even after placing them in the greenhouse. I am thinking that I might have to plant it every year.



Another success though is my eggplant. I planted the seeds last spring which have finally able to sprout one bud in late autumn. Instead of picking it, I let it keep growing to see if the winter in the greenhouse will have any effect. It has grown a little bit rounder. I am still debating if I should pick it soon.

As I gain more experience, I think I will start to expand what I cultivate. It is difficult as I challenge myself to grow from seeds instead of getting pre-grown herbs and vegetables. Some of the pre-grown plants in previous years did not survive when I repotted them. So, starting this year, I am working on getting a seed starter kit so that I can start the process so that when the weather warms up, I can replant the seedlings and watch them grow all summer. If you have any tips, please let me know!



## EVENTS

<u>March</u>		<u>April</u>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Mon) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	7 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Hanamatsuri</i> (Buddha’s Birthday)
10 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	14 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
17 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Ohigan</i> Memorial Service	21 <sup>st</sup> (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	English Service
24 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	28 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
31 <sup>st</sup> (Sun) <b>No Service</b>	<b>5th Sunday</b>		

\*\*\* Join in every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for **Tea Time with a Priest** to have your questions answered. Email temple for zoom ID and password \*\*\*

\*\*\* Those interested in Study Class and/or Counseling, please contact the temple to make arrangements \*\*\*