





RADIANCE

No. 105 (May 1, 2025)

May/June 2025

Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada
1600 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104-3488
Tel/Fax: (702)866-5956
www.kannon-temple-nevada.org
kannontemplenv@gmail.com

Follow us on  

SACRED WORDS

heaven is high but not at all higher than being filial

Nichiren Shonin's Words - *Kaimoku-sho*

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.

Izu Persecution and Mother's Day Service May 11, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

On May 12, 1261 Nichiren Shonin was arrested and exiled to Izu Peninsula under the indictment of disturbing the government. Instead of being dropped off on land, he was left on a rock in the bay. As the water rose, he was saved by a fisherman.



This event is considered to be the second of four major persecutions. Nichiren realized that he was living the Lotus Sutra. Let us commemorate this occasion so that we too can live the Lotus Sutra.

We will also celebrate Mother's Day. Nichiren Shonin always stressed filial piety and to show gratitude towards one's parents. Let us also show our respect to our parents, especially to all mothers on her special day. And let us not forget our fathers on Fathers Day, June 15.

Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Cemetery

May 26, 11:00 a.m. (Mon)

May 26 is Memorial Day the unofficial start of summer! But more importantly, this is the day for all Americans to show their respect and appreciation to all soldiers who sacrificed their lives for this country. The Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery is in Boulder City, southeast of Las Vegas. There are several soldiers who are buried there related to our members of Kannon Temple. We will continue the tradition began by Shokai Kanai Shonin, with Shoda Shonin visiting each one of their tombs to say prayer starting at 11:00 a.m. If you can make time, please come to the cemetery and meet him to pray together.

Electronic Newsletter

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

Honoring our Parents

Shoda Kanai

Every month Nichiren Shu Newspaper sends out a poster with this month's "Nichiren Shonin's Words." Lately I have been translating them to English and posting it to the temple's Facebook and Instagram sites. Please join to see the monthly words.

As many of you are not on Facebook or Instagram, I would like to share April's Words which is this month's Sacred Words (see above). Here is the explanation that accompanies the Words.

= Are your parents alive and well? =

When you want to be filial to your parents, they are no longer around. This proverb teaches us that we should be filial to our parents while they are still alive. We tend to put off showing our gratitude to our parents, but the teachings teach that it is important to remember to show gratitude to our parents on a daily basis and to keep on showing filial piety even after death.

Originally, priests leave their parents and home to become monks, so this may seem like an unfilial act. However, the Buddha's teachings are much deeper as they teach that "gratitude" (恩 on) is even higher than "filial piety" (孝 kō). It is said that it is important not only to save oneself, but also to save others. Nichiren Shonin teaches that it is important for humans to live each day feeling gratitude towards the teachers and Buddhas who have guided them, as well as towards their country and nature.

And even if our parents are gone, we can continue to show our filial piety by holding memorial services for them.

"Kaimoku-Sho"

A masterpiece of Nichiren Shonin. He studied books of other faiths in addition to Confucianism and Buddhism and concluded that the Lotus Sutra is the most important. He says, "Buddhist disciples must recognize gratitude and repay it."

Ninth year of Bun'ei (1272)



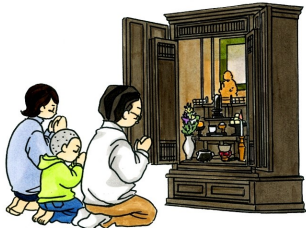
May and June have special days to honor our mothers and fathers respectively. I am sure many of you have specific traditions to honor them on their day. Please continue to show gratitude to them every day.

For some, it may be difficult to reconcile with our parents. One or both may have not been kind towards us. It becomes difficult when a parent does not care or is willing to care for you, their children. We may grow to resent and harbor negative feelings. Family dynamics can be quite difficult.

Even during these difficult times, we should have compassion for them as it is quite possible that they do not know any better. Trama can be passed down from one generation to the next. We have the power to stop this cycle through our compassion.

How can we do this? Buddha had said that it is difficult to be born as humans, yet here we are. Our parents have birthed us; therefore, we have the ability to meet the Dharma that is difficult to obtain. As such, we can cultivate the Teachings within ourselves and be able to spread it to others. Why not to our parents?

We are all fortunate to have met the Buddha just by being alive right now. This is a special gift. The best way to repay this gift is to honor our parents by placing our hands together in *gassho* and offer them the *Odaimoku*. This may be difficult for some, but as we show gratitude to them, we are purifying their karma so that one day, they too can create a connection with the Buddha. If they have passed, we can still save them in the spiritual realm by offering memorial services to offer them the merits to be able to meet the Buddha. As we save our parents, we too are saving ourselves and cultivating our Buddhahood.



New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin’s Birth
753 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **25,090,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of April 22, 2025
Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!
Money Making Machine

Shoda Kanai

The other day, my mother showed me this book that had this little blurb on the back.



“Take a five-yen coin and place it on top of the five-yen coin picture, then place your left hand on top of it and say, ‘I am great! You are great! Everyone is great!’ Instantly, an ordinary 5-yen coin turns into a ‘money maker’ that brings you happiness. It’s a good idea to keep this [coin] in your wallet.”

ご縁 “Go-en” (connection) and 五円 “go yen” (five yen) are spoken the same, just like “air” and “heir”. This is called a homophone, where words sound the same, but have different meanings.

“Go-en” and “go yen” are used quite a bit in Japan, so holding onto a five-yen coin is very special and displays the continuation of our connectedness and friendship. Holding on to the five-yen coin keeps our bonding coupled.

I am sure many of you do not have Japanese coins lying around, especially a five-yen coin that you can use and put in your wallet. For those of you who attended both or either of my “*kizanshiki*” (welcome home event) after my 100-days *Aragyo* Ascetic Training, I handed out a special amulet that the 300-day priests make that contains a special five-yen coin.

For those that would like to replace their old amulet with a newer one, as it has been several years since handing out the original, send back the old one and I will replace it with a new one. Or those wishing to receive the special amulet, please contact the temple. Donations are welcome to help the temple and cover shipping costs. A special note will be included to explain what is written on the amulet.



EVENTS

<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>	
4 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	1 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
11 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Izu Persecution/Mother’s Day	8 (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	English Service
18 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	15 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
25 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	22 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shabutsu</i> (Buddha Image Tracing)
26 (Mon) 11:00 a.m.	Cemetery Visit in Boulder City	29 (Sun) No Service	5th Sunday

*** 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 ***