

2024 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



January

Happy New Year! As we welcome the promising beginnings of 2024, we are delighted to share with you the January schedule for our church services and events. Embrace the start of this new year with us in spirit and community.

In addition, we'd like to offer a brief summary of our December sermons, which focused on themes of gratitude, reflection, and spiritual renewal as we concluded the year. These messages, filled with wisdom and compassion, have set a profound tone as we transition into the new year.

JANUARY SCHEDULE

1	Mon. 9:00a.m.	New Year's Day Service
7		Sunday Service – Shintokai Meeting
14		Monthly Service
21		Sunday Service – Church Goyo
28		Monthly Service & Monthly Memorial Service Church Clean-up

December Sermon Summaries:

As we step into another month filled with opportunities for spiritual growth, I would like to share with you summaries of the sermons we experienced in December. These teachings serve as a guiding light for our daily lives and reinforce the core values of our faith.

December 3, 2023



Gratitude for Life's Blessings: The Fourth Konko-Sama, Rev. Kagamitaro Konko, expressed gratitude for the gift of life and the joy of waking each day. He highlighted that every morning we wake up is a blessing from Kami, something we should cherish and be thankful for. This mindset helps us start our day with joy and appreciation for the little things we often take for granted, like our automatic bodily functions that keep us alive and well.

Recognizing Kami's Intentions in Our Challenges: We should focus on how Kami thinks only of saving people and that every experience has a meaningful purpose. A minister in Japan shared a personal story of experiencing cancer and glaucoma. Through these challenges, the minister realized that these were not just hardships but lessons from Kami, teaching the value of every aspect of life, including health and sight. The minister's story was a powerful testament to the idea that our



The Fourth Konko-Sama

Continued on the back

struggles can become sources of gratitude and deeper connection with Kami.

Embracing Each Day with Positivity: The message emphasized finding joy and pleasure in every encounter throughout the day. It's a reminder to approach life with a positive outlook, seeking happiness in our interactions and experiences.

Conclusion: We are all children of Tenchi Kane No Kami, surrounded by divine blessings. Recognizing and appreciating these blessings, even during hard times, allows us to grow and connect more deeply with Kami. Our practice of faith isn't just about receiving blessings but about earning trust from Kami, which in turn brings more blessings into our lives.

December 17 ,2023

1. Gratitude in Ordinary Life (Based on Voice of the Universe, Pg.

105): A powerful reminder from the Voice of the Universe teaches us the importance of gratitude, not only when we recover from illnesses but also for the continuous blessing of good health. This teaching came to life in a story shared by the head of the Ginza Church in Tokyo. He experienced a severe back pain, rendering him unable to perform basic actions like rolling over or getting up from bed. This ordeal taught him how valuable normal health is – a gift we often overlook in our daily lives.



2. The Blessing of Each Breath: A heartfelt story from a minister revolved around his struggle with asthma as a child. During an asthma attack, he decided to pray on his own. As he concentrated on his breathing, he realized that each breath, though labored and difficult, was a precious sign of life. This moment of awareness brought him closer to understanding the continuous presence and blessings of Kami in his life.

3. Recognizing Kami's Blessings in Challenges: The teachings further emphasize that while we easily remember the blessings received during dire situations, we tend to overlook the continuous, daily blessings bestowed upon us. The story of a person who could only eat peanuts at a feast, due to their picky eating habits, illustrated this point. It showed how failing to recognize and appreciate everyday blessings can lead to a less fulfilling life.

Conclusion: In conclusion, these sermons encourage us to shift our perspective and recognize the blessings we receive in our daily lives. Whether it's overcoming an illness, appreciating the ability to breathe, or acknowledging the smaller joys of life, each moment is a testament to Kami's continuous grace. By practicing gratitude and mindfulness, we not only align ourselves more closely with Kami's teachings but also open our hearts to a more fulfilling and joyful existence.

Let us carry these teachings into our upcoming services and activities in January. Your presence and participation enrich our community, and we look forward to sharing more moments of spiritual growth together.

May the blessings of Kami be with you throughout this new year.

Warm regards,