

Konko Mission of Honolulu

2024 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



June

Dear Konko Ohana,

As we embrace the warm, sunlit days of early summer here in Honolulu, our community feels a growing sense of gratitude and enthusiasm. We look forward to another month of connection and spiritual growth with you, our cherished Konko ohana. Let's come together to celebrate the joy and blessings of this season.

JUNE

2	10:00a.m.	Sunday Service – Family Sunday: Parent's Day Celebration	
9		Monthly Service	
16		Sunday Service – Corporation Board of Directors Meeting	
23		Sunday Service – Sunday Gathering	
28	Fri.	Sixth Konko-Sama's 58 th Birthday	
30		Monthly Service, Monthly Memorial Service, & Half Year Appreciation Service	Church Clean-up

Parent's Day Celebration Potluck Party

Join the Shintokai Members Association for our Annual Parents' Day Celebration Potluck Party! This special event will take place on **Sunday, June 2, 2024**, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service. Feel free to bring your friends along for the celebration. We kindly ask that you let us know what dish you plan to bring. This gathering is not only a chance to enjoy great food and company but also an opportunity to honor and celebrate our roles as children and show appreciation for our parents. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Sunday Gathering Announcement

We invite you to join us for a special **Sunday Gathering** on **June 23, 2024**. This gathering is an enriching opportunity to deepen our faith through discussion, sharing faith stories, and expanding our knowledge. It will take place after the Sunday Service or Monthly service on dates when no other activities are scheduled, making it an occasional but impactful event. Please join us to nurture and grow our faith life together.

May Sermon Summaries

In recent sermon, conducted as part of the monthly service that also commemorated the annual memorial for the late Rev. Masahiko Yoshino, we delved deeply into the essence and power of prayer, a central practice in our faith. Rev. Yoshino was renowned for his devout dedication, leading multiple prayer sessions daily, demonstrating his unyielding faith and commitment to spiritual practice.

The sermon began by reflecting on Rev. Yoshino's rigorous prayer schedule, which exemplified his profound connection to Kami and his relentless pursuit of spiritual discipline. This introduction set

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the stage for a broader discussion on the significance of prayer in our lives, emphasizing that prayer is not just a ritual but a powerful medium of communication with the divine.

We explored the historical context of Konko Church of Ginza in Tokyo, where the first minister, Rev. Seiichi Yukawa, made it his mission to sanctify the land, the church, and his surroundings through prayer. This practice was highlighted as a form of showing reverence not only to the physical spaces but also to the divine presence in all aspects of life. The narrative recounted how, despite the adversities like the Great Kanto Earthquake, the commitment to prayer and reverence allowed the community and its faith to thrive and expand, leading to the construction of a new church.

The sermon illustrated how Rev. Yukawa's actions were rooted in an inherent belief in the omnipresence of Kami—that every place is a sacred space for worship and every moment is an opportunity to connect with the divine. This perspective was crucial in understanding that our faith and daily actions should be a continuous expression of reverence and gratitude towards Kami.

Further enriching the sermon, a personal story from Rev. Katashima was shared, detailing his journey of faith from skepticism to deep spiritual realization. This transition was sparked by an enlightening conversation with a church member who reminded him of his own miraculous recovery from a serious illness during childhood, thanks to his mother's devout prayers. This story served as a powerful testament to the unseen but profound impact of prayer and parental love, paralleling the unconditional love of Kami.

Rev. Katashima's narrative brought to light the often-overlooked daily blessings and the omnipresent divine support that shapes our lives. It underscored the idea that prayer and faith are not about altering the divine will but aligning ourselves with it, understanding that the challenges we face may also be blessings in disguise, intended to strengthen our faith and resolve.

Conclusively, the sermon called on the congregation to embrace a life of gratitude and continuous prayer, encouraging us to see and appreciate the subtle divine interventions in our daily lives. It was a reminder that through prayer, we align our hearts with Kami's will, finding strength and peace in the divine support that surrounds us.

This message of hope and faith is particularly poignant as we face our daily challenges. It reassures us that through faith, we are never alone; Kami's presence is a constant source of support and guidance. As we move forward, let us carry the spirit of this sermon into our daily lives, allowing the practice of prayer to continually shape and enrich our spiritual journey.

