



Fo Guang Shan Temple of Toronto

Monthly Events

December 2017

People with a beautiful face do not necessarily have a life that is full of happiness. People with a pure mind will be able to have a life that is full of joy."

慶祝加拿大建國150週年 150th Anniversary of Canada



全國佛學會考

FGS COUNTRYWIDE BUDDHIST EXAMINATION

2017/12/3 2:00pm-4:00pm

December Classes

Yoga Winter Classes

Date & Time Wednesdays – December 6, 13, 20 – 10:00am-11:30am

Fo Guang Shan Temple – Children Chinese School (conducted in Mandarin)

Date & Time Sundays – December 10, 17 – 9:30am-11:45am

Buddha's Light Scouts

Date & Time Sundays – December 10, 17 – 2:00pm-4:00pm

Temple Tours

Get to know your neighbour and learn something new! Free guided tours of the temple are offered to the community every Sunday afternoon from 1pm-3pm. No advance booking is necessary. Do come by to see us!



Upcoming Events – December 2017

Date & Time

Sundays

December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

10:00am–12:30pm

Events

Sunday Dharma Service

A way to cultivate and practice the purification of body and mind. The services include recitation of Sutra and practice of mindful prostrations.

Saturday, December 2
Monday, December 18
10:00am–12:30pm

Bright Light Chanting Service

Offerings to Buddha Ceremony on every 1st & 15th day of the lunar month. All merits will be transferred to the devotees, auspicious wishes to the family and fulfilment of wishes. The services include Sutras chanting as well as paying homage to the Buddha.

Sunday, December 3
10:00am-12:30pm

Enlightenment Day Chanting Service – Laba Congee

Sakyamuni Buddha attained enlightenment on the diamond lotus throne under the Bodhi tree on the auspicious day of 8th in lunar December. This day has come to be known as Buddha Treasure Festival.

During this day, Buddhist monasteries around the world will prepare Laba congee for the public to enjoy while organising many activities to celebrate the momentous day. The idea of Laba congee originated from the incidents which occurred during Buddha's six years of asceticism. At one stage, the Buddha became thin to the bones, and near death. At that time, a shepherd girl offered Buddha a bowl of milk; it was sustenance that saved his life. After regaining strength, Buddha sat meditating under the Bodhi Tree, gazed at the stars and attained enlightenment.

It was the bowl of milk which has given us the conditions to have Sakyamuni Buddha as our teacher, and to commemorate this momentous event, special eight-grain congee is prepared as an offering to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas and a chance to form affinities with the ten directions.

Sunday, December 3
2:00pm-4:00pm
(Registration at 1:30pm)

FGS Countrywide Buddhist Examination

A great opportunity to improve our understanding about Buddhism. The exam is open to all ages and welcome all family and friends to take it. For more information and how to register, please go to this [website](#). The English study guide book can be downloaded from [here](#).

Sunday, December 10
2:00pm-4:00pm

BLIA Toronto Annual General Meeting & Humanistic College Annual Commencement Ceremony

Every year, the Humanistic College students showcase their work. There will be award presentations. All members, friends and family are welcome to attend and witness the ceremony.

Saturday, December 16
9:30am-9:00pm

Eight Precepts Retreat

The Eight Precepts Retreat offers peace, tranquility and mindfulness in daily life and allows lay Buddhist a chance to practice traditional Buddhist etiquettes, experience the monastic lifestyle and purify the mind and encourage self-cultivation.

Observing precepts for even such a short time has tremendous benefits: one accumulates a great amount of positive potential (merit) in a short time. One will receive pleasant rebirths and eventually will attain enlightenment. One is protected from harm and the place where one lives becomes peaceful and prosperous. One's mind is peaceful and calm; one gains control over one's bad habits; there will be fewer distractions when meditating. One gets along better with others. One will meet the Buddha's teachings in the future and can be born as a disciple of Maitreya Buddha.

The 8 precepts must be undertaken by all participants for the duration of retreat:

1. To refrain from causing harm and taking life (both human and non-human).
2. To refrain from taking that what is not given (e.g.: stealing, displacements that may cause misunderstandings)
3. To refrain from sexual activity.
4. To refrain from false and incorrect speech: telling lies, deceiving and manipulating others, using hurtful words.
5. To refrain from using intoxicating drinks and drugs.
6. To refrain from eating after midday (except if necessary for medical reasons).
7. To refrain from sensual entertainment, wearing perfume, and using cosmetics and accessories.
8. To refrain from luxurious places for sitting or sleeping, and overindulging in sleep.