

INVITATION TO HOSHI MATSURI PRAYER SERVICE

Based upon the movements of the sun and stars, we have established a year to be 365 days, a week to be seven days, a day to be 24-hours, and we count our ages and use these cycles for our daily living. The rise and fall of the tides and the phasing of the moon are important signs utilized by people engaged in agriculture, fishing and marine products. In the ancient days, calendars were based upon the phasing of the moon. The movements of the heavenly bodies have been inseparably tied with our daily lives.

We yearn for good health and good fortune; but they are influenced by our life styles, customs, natural environments, human relationships, and countless other conditions. It is not an easy task to try to maintain matters in their usual state. Having been born a human being, we are able to discern that we cannot escape the truth of birth, illness, aging and death. However, "to be happy and stay healthy" are two wishes we all hold dear in our hearts. Therefore, these wishes are realized and also to help ward off misfortune, a prayer service is held at "New Year's Setsubun," which usually falls at the beginning of February. This service is referred to as the Hoshi Matsuri Prayer Service.

At this religious service, we offer for our peace and good fortune. The stars and constellations represent the countless causes and conditions of life. The ancient horoscope using the Seven Stars (Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn and Sun), the Nine Stars (seven stars plus Eclipse and Comet), and the 28 constellations are all integral to the uniquely Shingon Esoteric Service. A scroll of Star Mandala is placed at the altar and prayers are offered to the stars and constellations to achieve the following:

For safe living, avoiding accidents
For increasing good fortune and to make our living affluent
For maintaining good health and to attain longevity

The above wishes are universal to mankind. Prayers are offered with these goals in mind, inviting good fortune and warding off misfortune. Invite your family members as well as your friends to join in the prayer service. To share happiness with others is to practice Buddha's teaching.

To request Hoshi Matsuri talismans for your home Butsudan, please complete the application form with the names of the individuals you wish to have talismans. The price per talisman is as follows:

<u>Member*</u>	<u>Nonmember</u>
\$10.00 each	\$15.00 each

* The **Member** fee applies to the immediate family of the member. If you are requesting talismans for children or family who are not dependents or living at home, the rate is \$15.00 per talisman (nonmember rate).

To help avoid a last minute rush prior to the service, please submit your Hoshi Matsuri application to the Temple by **Thursday, January 24, 2019 (postmarked).**

The 2019 Hoshi Matsuri Prayer Service will be held at the Temple on Sunday, February 3, 2019, starting at 1:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!