

# Rituals and Practices of Hongwanji Shin Buddhism

Wednesday evenings: May 7, 14, 21 from 6-7pm  
Hongwanji Lounge and Main Temple  
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

## About the Class

**Intended for:** Members and non-members who want to learn about Hongwanji objects of worship, traditions, services and the connection to Shinran Shonin's teachings.

## Course Objective

The primary goal of this course is to describe and explain what occurs at Hongwanji services and how they connect to Jodo Shinshu teachings. Standard and special services will be explained and the specific rituals described. Shin Buddhist approaches to rites of passage (birth, adulthood, membership, marriage, death) will be described and explained.

## Course Learning Opportunities

By the end of the course we will have had the opportunity to:

1. Understand the elements of a Jodo Shinshu Sunday service
2. Understand and describe objects of worship on the altar
3. Describe the major services and know their significance
4. Understand the major rites of passage: Birth, Death, Adulthood, Marriage, Membership
5. Learn the connection between ritual and teachings

## Textbook

There is no required textbook for the course. Suggested readings to further understanding:  
TRADITIONS of JODOSHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA by Rev. Masao Kodani and Rev. Russell Hamada

## Class Etiquette

All questions and inquiries are welcome. There is no such thing as a "silly" question or irrelevant point of view so feel free to ask questions, comment on, or even challenge the material presented in class.

## Class Schedule (Three 1 hour classes)

May 6	Introduction: Why rituals and practices are important Oshoku, Calling Bell, Vandana Ti-Sarana, Sutra Chanting, Gathas, Nembutsu Elements of the Altar: Objects of worship
May 13	Major Hongwanji Services: New Year Eve (Joya-E), New Year's Day (Shusho-e), Shinran's Memorial Day (Hoonko), Hongwanji Day, Spring Higan, Buddha Day (Hanamatsuri), Eshinni Day, Shinran's Birthday, (Gotan-e), Obon, Autumn Higan, Sangha Memorial (Eitaikyo), Bodhi Day (Jodo-E)
May 20	Rites of Passage: Births, Adulthood, Marriage, Membership, Death

*Class schedule is subject to change and may be adapted to suit the interest of the course participants.*