

# 2012 MABA Calendar

B.E. 2555-2556

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Monastic Winter Retreat						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
MLK Day						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Chinese New Year Celebration						
29	30	31				

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
Monastic Winter Retreat						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sangha Day Nirvana Day						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
President's Day						
26	27	28	29			

## March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
Monastic Winter Retreat						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Samantabhadra Day St. Patrick's Day						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Guanyin Birthday						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Bodhisattva Retreat 3-Day Retreat						

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Easter Passover						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Qingming Ancestor's Memorial						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Children's Half-Day Beginner Retreat						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Manjushri Day						
29	30					

## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
Dharma Retreat						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Vesak Day at MABA						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day Children's Half-Day						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Vesak Day at FGS						
27	28	29	30	31		
Memorial Day Shavov'ot						

## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Children's Half-Day						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Refuge & Precepts Retreat						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Father's Day						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dharma Day 4th of July						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Children's Half-Day Ramadan						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Joyful Mindful Play Retreat						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Children's Half-Day						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Tai Chi Retreat						
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
Labor Day Chinese/American Retreat						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Blessing at Dizang Hall						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Family & Children's Retreat						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Yom Kippur						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
Rosh Hashana						

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			Guanyin Day			
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Bodhidharma Retreat						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Blessing at Guan Yin Pavilion						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Diwali						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Children's Half-Day 12 Links						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
3-Day Retreat Thanksgiving						
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
Buddha's Day						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Teacher Retreat						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Children's Half-Day						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Christmas						
30						
New Year's Blessing						



# MABA Retreats and Information 2012



## Sunday Schedule

Every Sunday MABA is open to the public for meditation and study. Our schedule includes the following program. People are encouraged to come early so that they can begin meditation without disturbing others. Noble silence is also encouraged on the grounds during the meditation period. Cushions (Zafus) and chairs are available. (Jan 2 thru Mar 29 no formal Dharma talks. Meditation Instruction at 10am.) Sitting and walking meditation instruction is available for beginners who come early by 9:15 am. It is helpful to let MABA know ahead of time if you would like some private meditation instruction. A Dharma talk on Buddhist practice is offered each week either by Master Jiru, by a visiting teacher, or by one of the Master's senior students. These talks are also available online through our website. Chanting is done primarily in English with some Pali and Chinese added. Booklets are provided.

**Sunday Mornings**  
10:00 ~ Sitting Meditation  
10:40 ~ Walking Meditation  
11:00 ~ Dharma Talk  
11:35 ~ Chanting  
11:45 ~ Vegetarian Lunch



## Children's Programs

In addition to the Family and Children's retreat in September, we will be offering a half-day program for children one Sunday a month. Activities will include Buddhist stories, art projects, and short meditation practice. Pre-registration required.

## Study Groups

From January to the end of March, people will have the option to have two sessions of meditation or participate from 10:00 - 10:40 am Sunday morning in our study group. Starting in April, the Study Group will meet at MABA on Sundays from 8:40 to 9:50 am, where we will be studying the basics of Buddhism for beginners and intermediate students.



## To Contact Us

For more information about the Mid-America Buddhist Association, any of our events, or to sign up for the weekly MABA e-News letter, please visit us at [www.maba-usa.org](http://www.maba-usa.org) or email us at [office@maba-usa.org](mailto:office@maba-usa.org).

## Retreats

MABA is located on 60 secluded acres on the hills overlooking the Missouri River Valley. Such a setting is provided for the benefit of those seeking a peaceful place to practice meditation and to study for both short and extended periods. A number of retreats are offered each year. See our calendar for scheduled retreats.

### Monastic Winter Retreat Three months - Jan. 2-March 29, 2012

For 2500 years since the time of the Buddha, monastics have traditionally taken three months every year to meditate and study. This was called the Rains Retreat because it took place in India during the rainy season. In our region the best time to practice is during the winter season. Alternate weeks focus on meditation and study. Lay practitioners are welcome to join the monastics for a week or longer. Reservations are required.

During the Winter Retreat from January through March, instead of formal Dharma talks, at 10 am we will offer beginning meditation instructions. More experienced meditators will have the opportunity to deepen their practice with a 10 am sitting, followed by walking meditation, and a second period of sitting meditation.

## Beginner's Retreats

Between April and November, MABA offers a series of retreats for beginner and intermediate meditators. Each month covers a different theme. These one to three day retreats allow participants to better realize our true Buddha-Nature. We strive to cultivate loving kindness, compassion, altruistic joy, and equanimity. This year's retreats include:

- April 21: Beginner's Retreat
- Jun 16: Refuge and Precepts
- Jul 21: Joyful Mindful Play Retreat
- Aug 18-19: Taichi Retreat
- Sept 15: Family & Children's Retreat
- Oct 5-7: Mindfulness Retreat
- Nov 16-18: Three Jewels Retreat

## Taking Refuge and Precepts

MABA offers a series of retreats from April to June, that allow participants to have an opportunity to study the Three Refuges and the Five Precepts. Those who wish to take formal vows, may arrange to do so. Those who have already taken the Refuge and Precept Vows and who wish to take Bodhisattva Vows, may do so by joining those who have already taken their vows with Master Jiru.

## Blessing Ceremonies

There are a number of yearly Blessing Ceremonies commemorating significant Buddhist practices: Qingming Festival (Ancestor Memorial Day) on April 8, Offerings to the Sangha on November 18, and special Dharma talks will be given for Samantabhadra on March 11, and Manjushri on April 22.

## Buddha Day at MABA

Vesak Day is the celebration of the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and parinirvana. This year MABA will have its Buddha Day and Bathing the Buddha Celebration on Sunday, May 6. All groups that are members of the Buddhist Council of Greater St. Louis will come together to celebrate Vesak Day at Fo Guang Shan on Sunday, May 20. Dharma talks, meditation, food, and entertainment are all part of the day's festivities.

## Blessing Ceremony at Dizang Hall

The largest Buddhist Mausoleum in the Midwest is located at MABA. On Sunday, Sept. 9 we gather to recite the scripture concerning Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva's Fundamental Vows and give blessings to those who are departed.



## Blessing Ceremony at Guanyin Pavilion

Guanyin is the Bodhisattva of compassion. On Sunday, Oct. 14 we gather together to recite the Heart Sutra and Chapter 25 from the Lotus Sutra at MABA's Guanyin Pavilion.



## Humble Cottage/Monk House Completed



Thanks to the effort of many people, the new men's dormitory has been completed. This new structure uses geothermal energy for heating and cooling and has a rain collection system for watering the garden. In addition to having quarters for the Master, the facilities are fully equipped to house well over twenty people for retreats.

## New Year's Blessing

On the evening of Dec. 31, we gather together for sitting and walking meditation through the midnight hour. Vegetarian snacks and other activities are planned.