

Birthday

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

In [month/day/year], [name] was born as a human being in this world with a connection to the Dharma that is rarely met. On this auspicious day, we, the [family name] family, members of the [chapter name] Chapter, [Dharma center name], conduct a service to celebrate the anniversary of [appropriate noun] birthday and to appreciate our ancestors for the gift of life as a human being.

We sincerely offer our reverence and respect to the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni and all our ancestors through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku

○ Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];

The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;

The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, on this celebration of [*name*]'s birthday, we renew our awareness that our life was inherited from countless ancestors from time immemorial, each of whom was an embodiment of the universal great life of the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni that is shared by all living beings. We appreciate the Buddha and our ancestors for what we are now, and we devote ourselves to bodhisattva practice with gratitude to them.

We reverently offer and transfer the merits of this recitation to

All our ancestors and all others who are recorded in our memorial registers;

All those whose memorial day is today;

And all those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,

so that they may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the wondrous fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, all living beings may awaken to their buddha nature and world peace may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)