

Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, DC

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DECEMBER 2017 SCHEDULE

Minister: Swami Sarvadevananda

Resident Monks: Swami Atmajnanananda
Swami Brahmarupananda
Swami Chidbrahmananda



Ramakrishna Order of India

<u>Sunday Lecture 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Friday Class 8:00 PM</u>
3 Swami Atmajnanananda The Wheel of Life	1 <i>Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i>
10 Lecture canceled for Holy Mother Puja Please see under <u>Special Programs</u>	8 <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>
17 Swami Chidbrahmananda Crucifixion and the Godhead	15 <i>Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i>
24 Lecture canceled due to Christmas Eve Program Please see under <u>Special Programs</u>	22 <i>Life of Holy Mother</i>
31 Swami Brahmarupananda The Sage of Steady Wisdom IX	29 <i>Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna</i>
	<u>Wednesday Class 8:00 PM</u> <i>Vivekacudamani</i>

Special Programs

9 Chanting of 108 Names of Sri Sarada Devi

6:30 pm: Evening Arati

7:30 pm: Chanting

10 Holy Mother Puja

11 am: Puja, bhajans, and flower offerings

12:30 pm: Prasad lunch

24 Christmas Eve

7:30 pm: Christmas Carols and Readings

8:30 pm: Refreshments

31 New Year's Eve

11 pm: Reading from

Sri Ramakrishna the Great Master

11:20 pm: Meditation

12 Midnight: Arati

Ram Nam

Ram Nam will be held at the Center on **Saturday December 2** at 7:30 PM, immediately after evening *arati* and meditation. All are invited to stay for potluck dinner following the program.

Karma Yoga

We invite you to join us Saturday mornings from 9 am to 1 pm in performing various weekly chores of the center: maintenance, gardening and landscaping, cleaning, office work, etc.

Temple Hours

The temple will be open for morning meditation at 5 am and daily Puja at 7:45 am, and will remain open throughout the day until the close of evening meditation at 8 pm. Evening *arati* begins at 6:30 pm. Devotees may enter through the double doors at the main entrance to the temple or through the front door entrance to the Center. All are welcome.

Parents with small children are welcome to watch the Sunday lecture on the movie screen in the lower level of the temple while their children are free to quietly play.

Interviews

Those who would like to come to the Center for a private meeting with a resident swami or one of the visiting swamis may schedule an appointment either by phone or in person.

Web Site

Please visit our Web Site at www.vedantadc.org. Listen to lecture recordings, see photographs of the center, and find out about upcoming events.

Social Service

The Vedanta Center participates in a volunteer program at Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring. Please let us know if you would like to take part. Service is on the third Friday of the month.

Grocery Gift Cards

We urge all of you to take part in our gift card program. Gift cards for Giant, Shopper's, and Lotte/Assi Plaza may be purchased at the Center following the Sunday lecture or during visiting hours, and are used just like a debit card when purchasing groceries. This is an important part of our monthly income and a way to support the Center at no cost to you.

Vedanta Medical Clinic

The Vedanta Medical Clinic offers free medical services to all, regardless of income level, insurance coverage, or immigration status. Hours of operation are Wednesday morning, 9 am to 12 noon, and Sunday afternoon, 2 to 5 pm. To make an appointment, please call 240-516-6726.

Swami Vivekananda: On Bhakti

We all have to begin as dualists in the religion of love. God is to us a separate Being, and we feel ourselves to be separate beings also. Love then comes in the middle, and man begins to approach God, and God also comes nearer and nearer to man. Man takes up all the various relationships of life, as father, as mother, as son, as friend, as master, as lover, and projects them on his ideal of love, on his God. To him God exists as all these, and the last point of his progress is reached when he feels that he has become absolutely merged in the object of his worship.

We all begin with love for ourselves, and the unfair claims of the little self make even love selfish. At last, however, comes the full blaze of light, in which this little self is seen to have become one with the Infinite. Man himself is transfigured in the presence of this Light of Love, and he realizes at last the beautiful and inspiring truth that Love, the Lover, and the Beloved are One.

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