Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada)

Sixth Annual Offering to the Buddha and Sangha Ceremony

The Offering to the Sangha Event originates from the Buddha’s time, when supporters would make offerings to the Sangha Assembly on the final day of their Summer Retreat, the fifteenth day of the seventh lunar month, as a way to sow seeds on the field of blessings. The *Ullambana Sutra* states that Venerable Maudgalyayana, one of the Buddha’s ten chief disciples, observed in meditation that his deceased mother had fallen into the realm of hungry ghosts, and was suffering immensely. He asked the Buddha how to help his mother be liberated from this suffering. The Buddha instructed him to prepare all kinds of food and drink and place them in a bowl, and offer it to all Sangha members of the Ten Directions on the final day of their Summer Retreat. The merits generated by doing so will help all of our living parents enjoy long and healthy lives, and our parents from our past seven lifetimes to be free from the suffering of the Lower Realms and enjoy blessings and happiness. By following the Buddha’s instructions, Venerable Maudgalyayana helped his mother be freed from her suffering in the realm of hungry ghosts.

The Buddha also compassionately instructed, “As Buddhist disciples who practice filial piety, you should always be mindful of your parents, and your parents of past lifetimes. Every year on this day, you should remember your parents with a sense of compassion and filiality, and perform the Ullambana Offering to the Buddhas and the Sangha, as a way of repaying the kindness of your parents for their compassionate, loving care and nurturing.” Most monasteries will have the Ullambana Ceremony on this day, recite sutras and offer food, hold an Offering to the Sangha Dharma Service, and prepare food for all Sangha members of the Ten Directions. The merits generated by making offerings to the Sangha will increase the blessings and longevity of those who are living, and help those who have deceased transcend to the Pure Land.

This year, we have respectfully invited Dharma Masters from monasteries in the Greater Vancouver area to come and accept offerings in-person at the temple, as an opportunity for all lay followers of the Ten Directions to sow seeds in the field of blessings, welcome in auspiciousness and bring in blessings. We will dedicate the merits of the Offering to the Sangha Event towards the transcendence of our parents of the past seven lifetimes, and the health and happiness of our parents in this life. Both self and others, living and deceased will receive the benefits. May all sentient beings be free from the Lower Realms and always be happy, and ultimately realize the Wisdom of All Modes.

Date and Time: August 17, 2024 (Saturday)

1. 09:00AM ~ 12:00PM: Offering to the Sangha Event

Recitation of the *Ullambana Sutra*, Grand Offering before the Buddhas, Offering to the Sangha Ceremony, Musical Offerings to the Sangha, Lunch

2. 01:30 ~ 02:45 PM Recitation of the *Medicine Master Sutra*

3. 03:00 ~ 06:30 PM Grand Meng Mountain Food Bestowal Service

We are inviting Dharma Masters currently residing in monasteries of the Greater Vancouver area to participate in this year’s Offering to the Sangha Event. If you wish to make an offering to the Sangha, please come to the temple or make a donation online. Please register as early as possible. The temple will set up one longevity plaque and one memorial plaque for all donors of this event, and recite their names as part of the Dedication of Merits Prayer during the ceremony.