



Islamic Center of Greater St. Joseph

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. JOSEPH'S MUSLIMS CELEBRATES EID ON TUESDAY **Key Muslim Holiday Celebrated through Prayer Service**

ST. JOSEPH, MO. - The Islamic Center of Greater St. Joseph celebrates Eid-ul-Adha, an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims around the world, on Tuesday, October 15, 2013. Eid prayers in St. Joseph will be held at 8:30 a.m.

Eid al-Adha, or Feast of Sacrifice, is the most important feast of the Muslim calendar. It lasts three days. The holiday begins after pilgrims on the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, descend from Mount Arafat.

The holiday commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael as an act of obedience to God, but instead was able to sacrifice a ram (by God's command).

“The rituals of Hajj and Eid-ul-Adha both serve as reminders of the shared Abrahamic roots of three of the world’s major religions,” said Ramadhan Washington, president of the Islamic Center of Greater St. Joseph. “We are reminded of the common values that bind us together. We extend our greetings to all residents in St. Joseph during this Hajj season. Eid Mubarak.”

During Hajj, the world’s largest and most diverse gathering, three million Muslims from all walks of life – including thousands of American Muslims – will stand in prayer on Mount Arafat. The following day, Muslims around the world will celebrate Eid-ul-Adha and distribute food to the less fortunate to commemorate Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son out of obedience to God.

The Islamic Center of St. Joseph also recently sent letters to middle, high school and college instructors in Northwest Missouri who may have a unit covering Islam during the school year. The mosque offers classroom presentations free of charge to help teachers covering challenging topics like Islam or world religions in general.