



Islamic Center of Greater St. Joseph

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. JOSEPH MUSLIMS MARK END OF RAMADAN WITH PRAYERS JOYOUS FESTIVAL CALLED EID AL-FITR

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. – At 9 a.m. on Thursday, August 8 the Muslim community in St. Joseph will celebrate the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan with communal prayers in a joyous festival called Eid al-Fitr. Ramadan is the month on the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims abstain from food, drink and other sensual pleasures from break of dawn to sunset.

The prayers on Thursday will at the Islamic Center of St. Joseph, 2325 Messanie St., will mark the beginning of the Eid ul-Fitr (EED-al-FITTER), or "feast of fast breaking" holiday, in which Muslims exchange social visits and seek to strengthen family and community bonds. During this holiday, Muslims greet each other by saying "Eid mubarak" (EED-moo-BAR-ak), meaning "blessed Eid," and "taqabbalallah ta'atakum," or "may God accept your deeds." Many communities also hold multicultural bazaars and other family activities following the prayers. A light breakfast will follow the prayers.

This is the third Eid-ul-Fitr for the congregation of the Islamic Center of St. Joseph at its mosque at 2325 Messanie St.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Each year, Muslims come to the prayers in colorful attire representative of different areas of the Islamic world. The prayers themselves are quite visual, with worshipers arranged in neat rows and bowing in prayer in unison. Participants exchange embraces at the conclusion of the prayers.

NOTE: Because this is a religious service, reporters and photographers of both sexes should dress modestly. Photographers should arrive early to get into position for the best shots. Photographers are also advised not to step directly in front of worshipers and to seek permission for close-up shots. Shots of shoes removed for prayer, and rear-angle shots of prostrating worshipers are considered inappropriate.