

शुभमस्तु
Subhamastu

अविघ्नमस्तु
Avighnamastu

विजयोस्तु
Vijayostu



आलय संदेशः

[Aalaya Sandeshaha] Sri Venkateswara Temple Newsletter

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Dear fellow devotees,

As you all are aware, the leadership of the Temple has changed but the mission and course have not. Sri Venkateswara Temple continues to be the spiritual home for all Hindus, no matter whom they believe in, fostering our traditions and culture. Temple doors have been and continue to be open for persons of other faiths and religions as well if they like to understand our religion with respect.

The Board welcomes everyone to utilize temple services and facilities to the utmost.

God (any name we choose to address Him) has been kind and generous to all of us. PLEASE donate generously (nothing is too little) to take care of the God's residence (Temple).

SRI VENKATESWARA'S BLESSINGS TO ALL

Chandra Katragadda
President
Board of Trustees

We entered “Sraavana Maasam”. This month is most auspicious among all ‘maasaas’ because, Weddings, ‘Vrataas’ and ‘Nomus’ are plenty. Vrata or Nomu is some important ritualistic puja, traditionally performed by women. Whole month of Sraavana Maasam is pleasant spectacle with beautiful women all around, wearing colorful saris shining with jewelry, for weddings and vratams. Front doors are decorated with mango leaves, haldi and kumkum and flowers giving “Lakshmi Kala” to the house.

1. **Mangala Gouri Vratam**—Performed on Tuesdays in Sraavana Maasam by women for health and prosperity of their husbands. It used to be performed by newly married women for the first five years. Important part is chanting—

मंगळे मंगळाधारे	maMgaLE maMgaLAdhArE
मांगल्ये मंगळप्रदे	mAMgalyE maMgaLapradE
मंगळाधारं मंजलेशि	maMgaLAdhAraM maMjalESi
मांगळ्यं देहिमे सदा	mAMgaLyaM dEhimE sada

2. **Naaga Panchami Vratam**—Performed on “Panchami” (5th day) before “Pournami”, women go to snake pits and pray “Naaga Devatha.
3. **Vara Lakshmi Vratam**---In Sravana Maasam, Sukla paksham (first fortnight), the Friday before Pournami (usually the second Friday of Sraavana Maasam) is the day Vara Lakshmi Vratam is celebrated. There are puranic references of Varalakshmi Vratam. According to Skanda Puraanam, Lord Shiva told Parvathi about this Vratam. Sree Mahaa Vishnu’s wife Sree Lakshmi Devi is worshiped by women seeking “Sarva Mangala Sampraapti”. They pray for prosperity, to be “Nitya Sumangali” (to live to live with out being widowed), for the welfare of husbands, and for the welfare of children and grandchildren. Lakshmi Devi represents eight “sampadas” (wealth): 1. money, 2. property, 3. education, 4. preeti, 5. popularity, 6. shanti, satisfaction, and 8. health. Requisition for all the eight Varalakshmi is worshipped as “Ashta Lakshmi.”
4. **Sraavana Pournami** --- By Pournami, Lakshmi Devi emanates 16 “Kalas,” due to extensive worship. “Rakhi” festival is on this day, celebrated as Rakshaa Bandhan. This day is also celebrated as “Jandhyaala Pournami.” Old “Janu” is removed and new “Janu” is worn. In Maharashtra and Karnataka, people go to the sea and offer coconuts, hence it is known as “Naarikela Pournima” and “Narli Punnami.” While tying “Raakhi,” sisters chant this slokam to brothers.

येन बद्धो बले राजा	yEna baddhO balE rAjA
दानवेन्द्रो महाबलः	dAnavEndrO mahAbalaH
तेन वामाभिः बध्नामि	tEna vAmABiH bdhnAmi
रक्षा माचल माचल	rakShA mAcala mAcala

(I am tying you by Vishnu Shakti that which tied very strong Bali chakravarti. So, Rakshaa bandhan, don't move, don't move, praying for brothers to be healthy, happy and prosperous.)

Performing Satyanaaraayana Vratam is very auspicious, because it is known as "Saratpournima." It is so named because the moon shines with 16 kalaas, sprinkling "Amrutam."

For Sai Baba devotees, Sraavana Pournima is a very auspicious day. In 1912 on Sraavana Pournami day, Baba's "Paadukas" (wooden footwear) touched by Sri Baba himself, were installed at the tree in Shirdi, where Baba sat for the first time. Touching Baabaa's Paadukas with eyes, devotees chant:

सदानिंब वृक्षस्य मूलादिवासात्	sadAniMba vRukShasya mUIAdivAsAt
सुधाश्राविणं तिक्तमप्रियन्तम्	sudhASrAviNaM tiktamapriyantam
तरुम् कल्पवृक्षादियन्कम् साधुयन्तम्	tarum kalpavRukShAdiyankam sAdhuyantam
नममीश्वरम् सद्गुरुम् सायि नाधम्	namamISvaram sadgurum sAyi nAdham

5. Krishnaashtami --- Sraavana Bahula Ashtami (8th day in 2nd fortnight) is "Srikrishna Jayanti." The number 8 is pertinent to Lord Krishna. "Om Namo Naaraayanaya" mantra has 8 syllables. "Krishnaavataram" is 8th of "Dasaavataaras." He is the 8th son of Devaki Devi, born in the 8th month. The prison he was born in had 8 doors. He has 8 wives. The word "Krishna" means one who removes sorrows and gives wealth and attracted the whole universe with his appearance and wisdom.

In "Dwaapara yuga," many rakshasa kings were torturing people. For "Dushta Sikhshana" and "Sishta Rakshana," Sri Mahaa Vishnu attained "Sri Krishnaavataar." Mahaarishis and devataas were born as gopa, gopis, and "Aadishesu" became Krishna's brother "Balaraama". Sri Krishna was born on "Rohini Yukta Ashtami." It is said that one who fasts on this day will be cleansed of all sins.

There are stories about how Krishna married his 8 wives. The wives names are Rukmini, Satyabhaama, Jaambavati, Bhadra, Mitravinda, Kaalindi, Naagnajiti, and Lakshana. There is an interesting story in the Maha Bhaaratam. When Dharmaraja performed "Raja Suya Yaagam," the "Yaaga Phalam" can be taken by only an Askhalita Brahmachari," a Bhramachari in the strictest sense possible. In the "Maya Sabha," there were brahmacharis like Bheeshma, Narada Maharishi. Each one of them had a doubt in mind that there might have been a weak moment in which his mind might have strayed even for a split second. Hence, no one came forward to receive the honor. Then, Lord Krishna was invited. Except for a few who knew Lord Krishna, others were surprised as to how a king of romance with 8 wives, Radha and 16,000 gopikas can be eligible for the honor. Then Sri Krisna showed his "viswa roopam" and revealed the truth about how the "illusion" made all of them believe that their devotion was love and romance, though actually it is not real.

Krishnaarpanam

Sarve Janaaha Sukhino Bhavantu

UP Coming Temple Events

THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES OF TEMPLE PUJAS ARE BASED ON THIDIS AND NAKHASTRS
BASED ON MYPANCHANG.COM (HOUSTON, TX)

8-1-11, 8-8-11, 8-15-11, 8-22-11, 8-29-11 MONDAYS Sri Shiva Abhishekam 6-30 to 7-30pm
(Samuhika Abhishekam on each day can be sponsored at \$25-00 each. All 5 Abhishekams can
be sponsored at \$101-00.)

8-2-11 Tuesday Aandal Jayanti 6-30 to 7-00pm

8-3-11 Wednesday Nagapanchami

8-5-11 Friday Sri Lakshmi Abhishekam 10-30 to 12-00noon

8-6-11 Saturday Sri Balaji Abhishekam 9-00am

8-12-11 Friday Venkatewara Abhishekam (Bhogamurthy) (Shravana Nakshatrm)

9-00 to 10-30am

8-12-11 Friday Sri Balaji Abhishekam 9-00 to 10-10-30am

Sri Lakshmi Abhishekam 10-30 to 12-00noon

Sri Varal Akshmi Puja 6-30 to 7-30pm (Sponsorship @\$31-00)

Sri Ashtalakshmi Puja 7-30 to 8-00pm

8-13-11 Satuday Raksha Bhandanam Sravana Pournami

8-13-11 Saturday Upaveeta Karma 8-30 to 10-30am

Yajurveda Upakarma

Vikhanasa Jayanti

8-14-11 Sunday Sri Ganapati Abhishekam 10-30am

8-18-11 Thursday Sri SAibaba Abhishekam 6-30pm

8-19-11 Friday Lakshmi Abhishekam 10-30am

8-21-11 Sunday Sri Krishna Janmashtami

Sri Subrhamanya Abhishekam 10-30am

5-30 to 6-30pm Puja And Homam

6-30 to 8-00pm Matka Aalaya Utsavam and

Harati(sponsorship@\$3100)

8-26-11 Friday Sri Lakshmi Abhishekam 10-30am

Sri Shiva Abhishekam 6-00pm

8-27-11 Saturday Sri Mahnyasa Shiva Abhishekam 9-00 to 11-00am

(sponsorship @ \$101-00)

Sri Hanuman Abhshekam 6-00 to 7-30pm

8-28-11 Sravana Masam Ends

8-31-11 Wednesday Ganesha Chaturdi Sri Ganapati Puja 10-30 to 11-00am

Vidya Ganapati And Siddhi Ganapati Puja 6-30 to 7-30pm

8-31-11, 9-1-11, 9-2-11, 9-3-11, 9-4-11 Sri Ganapati Puja 10-30 to 11-00am

Sri Ganapati Puja 6-30 to 7-00pm

9-4-11 Sunday 4-00 to 5-00pm Ganapati Visarjanam