

शुभमस्तु
Subhamastu

अविघ्नमस्तु
Avighnamastu

विजयोस्तु
Vijayostu

आलय



संदेशः

[Aalaya Sandeshaha]
Sri Venkateswara Temple Newsletter

10401 McKinzie Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78410

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Volume 12 May 2011

Namaste everyone,

It has been a long time since I connected with you all. I am extremely pleased to inform everyone, especially those who could not attend the Festival of India and Health Fair, that it was a grand success as a result of dedication and hard work by several volunteers. It was very heart-warming to see the excellent planning and relentless efforts put in by our community. Thanks to all donors and sponsors, we raised a net revenue of approximately \$41,000. I am confident that we can expect continued success in our fund-raising activities such as this annual event, Diwali function and other activities we are going to plan for the welfare of community and wellbeing of the temple. I urge everyone to show keen interest and get involved in the activities in large numbers and support the temple financially as your budget permits. No contribution is small. Every contribution adds up to financial health of the temple. If we can manage to pay off mortgage, we will be in a strong position to make improvements that have been put in back burner due to paucity of funds after paying regular bills.

Please be aware of the upcoming Temple anniversary celebrations on 20th, 21st and 22nd of May 2011. It will be great if everyone attends as many pujas as possible and are encouraged to invite their friends and relatives to participate and sponsor pujas.

Change of guard is going to take place after the anniversary. Dr. Chandrasekhara Rao Katragadda will be the President. Other office bearers will be announced. I will continue to bring the newsletter to you. We are thinking of sending by mail also. If anyone wants to contribute to the newsletter, please come forward. Dr. Suresh Bilollikar agreed to contribute. He has a lot of experience in writing. In as much as possible, we would like to publish our Newsletter once every two months. I would like to continue to add other interesting information about festivals and other tid-bits. My desire is to keep it very interesting. If you have any message or a verse or a sloka and such, please send to me, it may be brief but be interesting and enlightening.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mahesh Maruvada
President

We are in "Vaisaakha Maasam". We are done with Chaitra Maasam. The last celebration was Sri Raama Navami. Let us look at the importance of Vaisaakha Maasam. Naarada asked Brahma "why do people need to perform early morning baths, pujas to devatas and do daana dharmas". To this Brahma replied, "Kaartika, Maagha and Vaisaakham are special in Maasas. Among those, Vaisaakham is utmost special. If those acts are performed, plenty of fruitful things happen to everyone".

वैशाखो माधवो मासः माधवस्यप्रियंकरः vaiSAKo mAdhavo mAsaH mAdhavasyapriyaMkara:
माधवानुग्रहं दत्ते स्नान पूजाधिकं ध्रुवम् || mAdhavAnugrahaM datte snAna pUjAdhikaM dhruvam ||

वैशाख व्रत मात्रेण जीविवर्गश्वराश्वरः vaiSAKa vrata mAtreNa jIvivargaScarAScaraH
मुच्यते सर्वपापेभ्यः प्राप्नोति परम् पदम् || mucyate sarvapApebyaH prApnoti param padam ||

भक्तिरेतैवमुख्यासा संसक्ता हरिपादयोः BaktiretaivamuKyAsA saMsaktA haripAdayoH
पिपीलिकादि ब्रह्मांतं तयामुक्तिं च गच्छति || pipIlikAdi brahmAMtaM tayAmuktiMca gaccati ||

Translates to "Vaisaakham is Maadhava's most favorite. Sri Krishna Paramaatma said "I am Vasanta Rutu (Chaitram and Vaisakham), I am Vaisaakham". by performing Vaisaakha Vratam all life forms get rid of all sins. Prostrating before Sri Hari's feet with devotion helps all, from ant to the Lord Brahma". In this month, Vishnu puja, Tulasi puja and cow puja are auspicious. During Vaisaakham auspicious days that give Punyam are—

1. Vaisaakha suddha tadiya (3rd day in first half), worshiping Sri Hari with sandalwood will be great. In Simhachalam in AP "chandantsavam" is performed.
2. Vaisaakha suddha panchami (5th day in first half), is Aadi Sankaraachaarya's birthday. He is Lord Sankara himself.
3. Vaisaakha suddha saptami (7th day in first half), the day holy Ganges river arrived. On that day bath in ganga, ganga puja and ganga stuti should be performed.
4. Vaisaakha sudha Ekaadasi and Dwaadasi (11th and 12th days in first half) are the days when one should worship Lord Vishnu and chant Sri Vishnu Sahasranaamam (1001 names of lord).
5. Vaisaakha sudha trayodasi (13th day in first half) is the day Lord Vishnu attained Nrusimhaavataar) to destroy evil and save the good people. Chanting Sri Lakshmi Nrusimha Karaavalamba stotram and reading Prahlada story is good.
6. Vaisaakha poornima, most auspicious day. Taking bath in sea or river and performing Vishnu pooja and give daanas like food cooling drinks like coconut water, butter milk etc, because that

probably the hottest day of the year.

7. Vaisaakha bahula dasami (10th day in second half), is Hanumajjayanti. Born from part LordSiva, is the strongest and the most will-powered and the number one Sri Rama Bhakta. That day perform Sri Hanuman pooja, chant stotras. Chanting or listening to Sundars Kaanda eradicates all bad things and gives great Punya.

8. Vaisaakha sukla truteeya (3rd day in second half) is the day Sri Mahaa Vishnu attained his 6th avataar Parasu Raama. According to Skanda purana—

वैशाखस्य सिते पक्षे तृतीयम् पुनर्वसौ vaiSaKasya sitE pakShE tRutlyam punarvasau
निसायाम् प्रथमेयामे रामस्यह समरे हरिहिः ॥ nisAyAm pradhAmEyAmE rAmasyaha sama^E harihiH ॥
स्वोचगैषड्वग्रहयुक्ते मिधुनेराहु सम्युते svOcgaiShaDvagrahayuktE midhunErAhu samyutE
रेनुकायास्तु ओ गर्भादावतीर्णो हरिस्वयम् ॥ rErukAyAst O garBAdAvatIrNO harisvayam ॥

meaning , on vaisaakha maasa suklapaksha truteeya at punarvasa nakshtra early part after midnight while six grahas are in high position, at Raahuyuta Midhuna lagnam Sri Hari himself was born to Renukaadevi.

According to Brahmanda Puraana—

वैशाखस्य तृतीयम् शुक्लायाम् तु जनार्धनः vaiSAKasya tRutlyam SuklAyAm tu janArdhanaH
ब्रह्मलोक त्रिपदगात् पृथिव्यामवतारयत् ॥ brahmaLOka tripadagAt pRudhivyAmavatArayat ॥
येवमुत्पादयामास रावै मधन्दिने सति YEvamutpAdayAmAsa rAvai madhandinE sati
प्रोक्ता परसुरामस्य जायन्तेच सूरिभिहि ॥ proktA parasurAmasya jAyntEca sUriBihi ॥

meaning, On Vaisaakha Sukla Truteeya, high noon time, Sri Janaardana took avataar straight from Brahmaloaka. That was birth of Parasuraama. The purpose of Parasuraamaavataaram was said to be to teach a lesson to kshatrias who were suppressing brahmanas with their strength. Parasuraama killed the kings and then Kasyapa muni expelled him. Due to need for brahmins, Parasuraama placed Janoo on tribal necks. Because tribals known as "kaivartaa" are recognized as brahmins, for some tribals, Renukaadevi became Goddess of tribes.

Another interesting point to note is that Parasuraama, Hanuman, Babhrvahana, Vibheeshana, Paraasara, Sugreeva were present both in Raamaayana and Bhaaratam, suggesting that some of these lived longer lives or they are eternal.

Well so much for now. Will come to you with next newsletter. God Bless One and All.

*** Om Tat Sat ***

Sri Venkateswara Temple – Sixth Anniversary Celebration Schedule

Friday May 20th:

6:00 pm: Ganapati Puja and Kalasavahana
8:00 pm: Aarathi followed by Dinner

Saturday May 21st:

10:00 am: Ganapati Puja & Shanti Homam
12:00 pm: Aarathi followed by Lunch
--Sponsorship \$100.

Saturday May 21st:

5:30 pm: Parvati Kalyanam
7:30 pm: Aarathi followed by Dinner
--Sponsorship \$151.

Sunday May 22nd:

10:00 am: Srinivasa Kalyanam
12:30 pm: Aarathi followed by Lunch
--Sponsorship \$151.

Note: Sponsorship for entire Anniversary celebration is \$351.

Please invite your family and friends to participate in the Celebration and sponsor the Pujas.

Donation Requests

Please consider donating puja items and other supplies for our Temple. You can contact the Priests for additional information.

Donations of any amount made in celebration of **birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions** are welcome. Please consider annual sponsorship of various **Archanas and Abhishekams** (information on website or contact Priests). You can also support our Temple by making periodic donations.

Please complete the following and make check payable to STHS (South Texas Hindu Society) and mail to 10401 McKinzie Lane, Corpus Christi, TX 78410.

Names: _____ Gothram and Nakshatrams _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount: _____

Occasion _____ Annual Sponsorship _____ Other _____

Sri Venkateswara's Blessings To All