



GANEŠĀNJALI



MAHĀ ŚIVARĀTRI UTSAVAM

Saturday, February 10th thru Wednesday, February 14th 2018



Śrī Arul Vallanātha Swami (Śiva) with Annai Śrī Kokilāmbal (Śakti)

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY

Śrī Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam

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THE *BILVA*



The *Bilva*, *bael*, Wood or Stone Apple, or *Aegle marmelos* is a tree filled with potent ingredients from its roots to its leaves. Each part has multiple uses. In deference, the ancient sages deemed them as sacred. The authoritative *Vedas* and the vividly descriptive *purāṇas* validate and reiterate their importance, increasing our awareness of them. The *Bilva* leaves are especially auspicious for offering to *Śrī Śiva* - especially on *Śivarātri*. Two popular collections of *ślokas* highlighting the superior benefits obtainable when offering even a single *Bilva* leaf are the *Bilvāṣṭakam* (eight *ślokas*) and the *Bilvāṣṭottara* (108 *ślokas*). The following *śloka* is extracted from the *Bilvāṣṭottara*.

BILVA SAMARPANA ŚLOKA

तेजोमयं महा भीमम् उमेशं भस्मलेपनम् ।
भवरोग-विनाशं च एकं बिल्वं शिवार्पणम् ॥

Meaning

I offer one leaf of Bilva to Lord Śiva, Who is glowing like light, is very strong, is the Lord of Umā, adorns himself with ash and is the destroyer of effect of sins and diseases.



ŚRĪ PANCHĀKSHARA MANTRA

॥ ॐ नमः शिवाय ॥
OM NAMAH ŚIVĀYA

MAHĀ ŚIVARĀTRI UTSAVAM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH THRU WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH 2018

Saturday, February 10th, 2018

- 8:00 AM Śri Mahā Ganapati Homam, Navagraha Homam, Poornāhuti, Hārati.
- 9:30 AM Śri Śiva Abhishekam, Śri Rudra Triṣati Nāma Archana, Hārati.
- 5:00 PM Kalaśa Sthāpanam, Pooja, Śri Śiva Moola Mantra Japam & Homam. (*1st Kālam*)
- 7:15 PM Poornāhuti, Hārati.

Sunday, February 11th, 2018

- 8:00 AM Śri Śiva Moola Mantra Japam & Homam. (*2nd Kālam*)
- 9:15 AM Poornāhuti, Hārati.
- 9:30 AM Śri Śiva Abhishekam, Śri Rudra Triṣati Nāma Archana, Hārati.
- 4:00 PM **ŚRI ŚIVA POOJA BY CHILDREN**
- 5:00 PM Śri Śiva Moola Mantra Japam & Homam. (*3rd Kālam*)
- 6:15 PM 108 Spatika Linga Ashtottara Nāma Pooja.
- 7:15 PM Poornāhuti, Hārati.

Monday, February 12th, 2018

- 8:00 AM Śri Śiva Moola Mantra Japam & Homam. (*4th Kālam*)
- 9:15 AM Poornāhuti, Hārati.
- 9:30 AM Śri Śiva Abhishekam, Śri Rudra Triṣati Nāma Archana.
- 4:30 PM Mahā Pradosham, Abhishekam
- 5:00 PM Śri Śiva Moola Mantra Japam & Homam. (*5th Kālam*)
- 6:45 PM Poornāhuti, Hārati.

Saturday, February 10th - Wednesday, February 14th, 2018

Scheduled Mahā Ganapati Suprabhātam will be at 7:30 AM instead of 8:00 AM
Scheduled Śri Venkateśwara Suprabhātam will be at 7:45 AM instead of 8:15 AM

Sunday, February 11th, 2018

Scheduled Śri Durga Abhishekam will be at 9:30 AM instead of 4:30 PM

PANCHĀKSHARA MANTRA

**OM NA-MA-ŚI-VĀ-YA
ŚI-VĀ-YA-NA-MA OM**

The most sacred five-lettered mantra, *NA-MA-ŚI-VĀ-YA*, occurs at the heart of *Śri Rudram*, in the chapter on *Rudra* forming part of the *Yajur Veda*.

Yajur Veda is considered to be the head of *Parameśwara*, Who is the *Veda Purusha* Himself; *Śri Rudram* is His face and the *Panchākshara Mantra* is His eye. The vedas emphatically declare that one, who chants this mantra constantly, is freed from the cycle of birth and death forever and our puranas abound with stories of devotees who had attained moksha or release by chanting this mantra alone.

The five letters of this sacred mantra stand for the five-fold functions of *Parameśwara* - Creation, Preservation, Destruction, Veiling and Blessing. Likewise, these five letters also represent the *pancha bhuta* or the five great natural elements (Earth, Water, Fire, Air & Space) out of which the entire universe is made.

One of the ancient text on *Śiva*, *Siddhanta Bodha* narrates six varied ways of chanting the *Śiva Mantra*, namely *Tāra Panchākshara*, *Prāsāda Panchākshara*, *Sthula Panchākshara*, *Sukshma Panchākshara*, *Miśra Panchākshara* and *Śuddham*.

The five-lettered mantra, if chanted with the *Pranava*, is known as *Tāra Panchākshara*. While the same mantra is recited along with *Pranava* and *Bhija mantra*, it is termed as *Prāsāda Panchākshara*.

The *Sthula Panchākshara* or gross form of the mantra is *Namah Śivāya*. *Namah* means ‘prostration’ and *Śivāya* means ‘unto Lord Śiva’. The *jiva* or the embodied soul is the servant of Lord *Śiva* from the gross or physical point of view. In its subtle form, *Sukshma Panchākshara*, the mantra is chanted as *Śivāya Namaha*. Here, *Namaha* represents the *jiva* or the embodied soul; *Śiva* represents the *Paramātmā* and *Aya* indicates the identity of the *jiva* and the *Paramātmā*.

Mantra Sangraha manuscript narrates the capability of using *Namaha mantra*, that would get endowed with great assets and prosperity (*Sampatkaram*) in the chapter “*Saptakoti Mahā Mantra*” (seven exciting great mantra).

Under *Miśra Panchākshara*, the *Sthula* and *Sukshma Panchākshara* mantras are chanted together as *Namah Śivāya Śivāya Namaha*. *Śuddham* refers to the core mantra *Śivāya*.

Chanting this *mantra* sanctifies our system, actions, behaviors, infuse positive energy, activate the inner energy centers (*chakras*) and stimulates higher states of consciousness.

Let us all chant this sacred mantra with sincere devotion on *Mahā Śivarātri* and obtain the bountiful grace of Lord *Śiva*.

NA	Veiling power of Śiva / obscuration of spiritual knowledge
MA	Malam / impurities of the soul
ŚI	Śiva
VĀ	Grace / revealing spiritual knowledge
YA	The soul



MAHĀ ŚIVARĀTRI DAY

Tuesday, February 13th, 2018



- 8:00 AM Śri Śiva Moola Mantra Japam & Homam (6th Kālam),
Mahā Poornāhuti, Hārati.
- 9:30 AM Śri Śiva Abhishekam, Śri Rudra Triśati Nāma
Archana, Hārati.

THE ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

PHASE I - 4:00 PM

- 4:00 PM MAHĀNYĀSAM
- 5:00 PM EKĀDAŚAVĀRA RUDRĀBHISHEKAM STARTS,
Special Alankāram, Pooja, Hārati.
- 7:15 PM Śri Pārvati Abhishekam, Pooja, Hārati.

PHASE II - 10:30 PM

- **Bilva Samarpana Śloka Japam, Śri Śiva Abhishekam,
Special Alankāram, Śri Rudra Triśati Nāma Archana, Hārati.**

PHASE III - 1:00 AM (on Feb. 14th)

- *Śri Panchākshara Mantra Japam, Śri Śiva Abhishekam,
Special Alankāram, Bilva Ashtottara Śata Nāma Archana, Hārati.**

PHASE IV - 3:30 AM (on Feb. 14th)

- Śri Śiva Abhishekam, **Special Alankāram**, Pooja,
Śri Nandi Abhishekam, Hārati.

PLEASE NOTE

**** Bilva Samarpana Śloka Japam will be chanted during Abhishekem in Phase II.
Only those who attend the practice sessions may participate in the Japam.**

***Śri Panchākshara Mantra Japam will be chanted during Abhishekam
in Phase III. ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.**

Tuesday, February 13th, 2018

Scheduled Śri Shamnmukha Abhishekam will be at 9:30 AM instead of 7:15 PM

Wednesday, February 14th, 2018



5:00 PM Šri Šiva Abhishekam, Sahasranāma Pooja,
Hārati.

7:15 PM **ŠRI ŠIVA-ŠRI PĀRVATI KALYĀNA
UTSAVAM**, Hārati, Prasādam.

*Scheduled Šri Saraswati Abhishekam will be at 5:00 PM
instead of 6:00 PM followed by Sahasranāma Archana*

NEXT GANEŠĀNJALI

- ✳ YUGĀDI ✳ ŠRI RĀMA NAVAMI UTSAVAM
- ✳ SATYANĀRĀYANA KALYĀNA UTSAVAM

TARIFF FOR SERVICES

✳ All 4 days	\$501.00
✳ Šri Šiva Moola Mantra Homam (Single Session)	\$ 31.00
✳ Šri Šiva Moola Mantra Homam (All Sessions)	\$101.00
✳ All 4 Phases – Abhishekam	\$251.00
✳ Ekādaśavāra Rudrābhishekam (PHASE I)	\$125.00
✳ PHASE II, III or IV Abhishekam	\$ 51.00
✳ PHASE I - Chandana Alankāram (for Šri Šiva)	\$501.00
✳ PHASE II -Vibhooti Alankāram (for Šri Šiva)	\$501.00
✳ PHASE III -Vastra Ābharana Alankāram (for Šri Šiva)	\$301.00
✳ PHASE IV - Pushpa Alankāram (for Šri Šiva)	\$2,001.00
✳ Šri Pārvati Abhishekam	\$ 51.00
✳ Šri Siva Pooja by Children (Feb. 11 th)	\$ 25.00
✳ Sphatika Linga Pooja	\$ 31.00
✳ Šri Bilva Samarpana Šloka Japam	\$ 21.00
✳ Šri Panchākshara Mantra Japam	\$ 21.00
✳ Nandi Abhishekam	\$ 31.00
✳ Bilvāśtottaraśatanāma / Triśatināma Archana	\$ 11.00
✳ Šri Šiva - Pārvati Kalyāna Utsavam	\$ 31.00

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(Pooja Sāmagri - Approx. \$ 601 per Deity per month)

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TO THE TEMPLE

By Automobile: (A) If you are driving **from Manhattan or points West**, take I-495 East (Long Island Expressway) to Exit 24 (Kissena Blvd) and turn LEFT at Kissena Blvd.

(B) If you are driving **from Long Island or points East**, take I-495 West (Long Island Expressway) to Exit 24 (Kissena Blvd) and turn RIGHT at Kissena Blvd.

Drive about a mile on Kissena Blvd and turn RIGHT into Holly Avenue. Drive 3 blocks on Holly Avenue to Bowne Street. The Temple is on the LEFT side.

(C) If you are driving **from Connecticut or points North**, take I-95 South to I-678 South (Van Wyck Expressway). After crossing Whitestone Bridge, stay on I-678 South (RIGHT lane) and take Exit 15 to 20th Ave. At the traffic light, turn LEFT into Parsons Blvd and drive about 2.5 miles. At Flushing Hospital Medical Center (on RIGHT), turn RIGHT into 45th Ave and drive to next block. At Smart Street, turn LEFT and drive to the end of the street to Temple Parking Lot behind the temple.

(D) If you are driving **from Princeton, Philadelphia or points South**, take I-278 via Staten Island and take Exit 35 to I-495 East (Long Island Expressway) and follow directions as above (A).

By Public Transportation: Take Subway **Train No. 7** from Times Square to Flushing Main Street (the last stop on 7 train). Then take MTA **Bus Q27** from Main Street to Bowne Street on Holly Avenue. The bus runs on Kissena Blvd and turns left into Holly Ave Bus Stop. The next stop is Bowne Street near the temple. The bus ride is about 5 to 10 minutes. You may also take MTA **Buses Q17, Q25 and Q34** to Kissena Blvd and Holly Avenue and walk two short blocks to the temple.

Long Island Rail Road (**LIRR**) Trains from Penn Station / Woodside to Port Washington also stop in Flushing Main Street, adjacent to 7 train.