

GA NE Š Ā NJ ALI

MAHĀ ŠIVARĀTRI MAHOTSAVAM

Tuesday, February 18th thru Saturday, February 22nd, 2020



Šri Vrishabhāruda Murthy

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, NY

Šri 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 *Bilvāshtakam* (eight *ślokas*) and the *Bilvāshtottara* (108 *ślokas*). The following *śloka* is extracted from the *Bilvāshtottara*.

BILVA SAMARPANA ŚLOKA

सच्चिदानन्द-रूपं च परानन्द-मयं शिवम् |
वागीश्वरं, चिदाकाशम्, एकबिल्वं शिवार्पणम् ||

Meaning

One Bilva leaf is offered to Lord Śiva, Who has the form of divine bliss, is full of Supreme bliss, is peaceful, is the Lord of speech and is the divine sky.



ŚRĪ PANCHĀKSHARA MANTRA

॥ ॐ नमः शिवाय ॥
OM NAMAH ŚIVĀYA

MAHĀ ŚIVARĀTRI MAHOTSAVAM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH THRU SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2020

Tuesday, February 18th, 2020

- 8:00 AM Śri Mahā Ganapati Homam, Navagraha Homam,
Poornāhuti, Hārati.
- 9:30 AM Śri Śiva Abhishekam, Śri Rudra Triṣati Nāma Archana,
Hārati.
- 4:30 PM Kalaśa Sthāpanam, Pooja.
- 5:00 PM Śri Śiva Moola Mantra Japam & Homam. (1st Kālam)
- 7:15 PM Poornāhuti, Hārati.

Scheduled Śri Hanumān Abhishekam will be at 8:15 AM instead of 9:00 AM

Wednesday, February 19th, 2020

- 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.
- 5:00 PM Śri Śiva Moola Mantra Japam & Homam. (3rd Kālam)
- 7:15 PM Poornāhuti, Hārati.

Thursday, February 20th, 2020

- 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)
- 6:30 PM 108 Spatika Linga Ashtottara Nāma Pooja.
- 7:15 PM Poornāhuti, Hārati.

Tuesday, February 18th - Friday, February 21st, 2020

Scheduled Mahā Ganapati Suprabhātām will be at 7:30 AM instead of 8:00 AM
Scheduled Śri Venkateśwara Suprabhātām will be at 7:45 AM instead of 8:15 AM
Scheduled Śri Śiva Abhishekam will be at 9:30 AM instead of 8:15 AM

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 Puruṣa* 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*, *Śiddhanta 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 *Paramātmān* and *Aya* indicates the identity of the *jiva* and the *Paramātmān*.

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

Friday, February 21st, 2020



- 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 RUDRĀBHSHEKAM 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. 22nd)

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

PHASE IV - 3:30 AM (on Feb. 22nd)

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

PLEASE NOTE

**** Bilva Samarpana Śloka Japam will be chanted during Abhishekam in Phase II.
Only those who attend the practice sessions will be eligible to be
included in the Japa count.**

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

Friday, February 21st, 2020

**Scheduled Śri Pārvati Abhishekam will be at 7:15 PM instead of 10:00 AM
Scheduled Śri Mahā Lakshmi Abhishekam will be at 9:00 AM instead of 7:15 PM**

Saturday, February 22nd, 2020



9:00 AM ŠRI ŠIVA POOJA BY CHILDREN

**4:00 PM Šri Šiva Abhishekam, Sahasranāma Pooja,
Hārati.**

**5:30 PM ŠRI ŠIVA-ŠRI PĀRVATI KALYĀNA
UTSAVAM, Hārati, Prasādam.**

**Scheduled Šri Šiva Abhishekam will be at 4:00 PM
instead of 8:15 AM**

**Scheduled Šri Bhairavar Sahasranāma Pooja will be at 7:15 PM
instead of 6:00 PM**

SAVE THE DATE

MAHĀ KUMBHĀBHISHEKAM

June 24th - July 2nd, 2020

TARIFF FOR SERVICES

✳ All Days (All Poojas)	\$601.00
✳ Šri Šiva Moola Mantra Homam (Single Session)	\$ 31.00
✳ Šri Šiva Moola Mantra Homam (All Sessions)	\$101.00
✳ All 4 Phases – Abhishekam	\$251.00
✳ Ekādašavāra Rudrābhishekam (PHASE I)	\$125.00
✳ PHASE II, III or IV Abhishekam (EACH)	\$ 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. 22 nd)	\$ 25.00
✳ Sphatika Linga Pooja	\$ 31.00
✳ Šri Bilva Samarpana Šloka Japam	\$ 21.00
✳ Šri Panchākshara Mantra Japam	\$ 21.00
✳ Nandi Abhishekam	\$ 31.00
✳ Bilvāshtottaraśatanāma / Trišatināma Archana	\$ 11.00
✳ Šri Šiva - Pārvati Kalyāna Utsavam	\$ 31.00

**Sponsorship of Pooja Sāmagri &
Oil for Deepas on a regular basis
For one or more of the Deities.**

(Oil - approx. \$101 per month per Deity)
(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 and turn left on Bowne Street for temple entrance on the right side or proceed straight on Holly Avenue for temple entrance on the left.

(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 two blocks and turn left on Smart Street. 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 and turn left on Bowne Street for temple entrance on the right side or proceed straight on Holly Avenue for temple entrance on the left.

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