



“Help Ever, Hurt Never”

ŠRÎ SÂI LEELA

Šrî Shirdi Sai Bâbâ Temple

1449 & 1451 Abers Creek Road, Monroeville, PA 15146

Mailing: PO Box 507, Monroeville, PA 15146-0507; Phone: 412-374-9244

TAX EXEMPT # 25-1584149 - Website: <http://www.baba.org>

Like us - www.facebook.com/pittsburghbabatemple

February 2018

“ Everyone should firmly believe that they are the Atma, Embodiment of Divine Self. Šrî Sâi Bâbâ.”

PROGRESS REPORT OF FUND RAISING

Dear Embodiments of Love:

May SAI BABA BLESS ALL OF US. The Temple conveys gratitude for your continued support to the First Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple in USA for the past 3 decades. As you all know, the Temple is in the process of constructing a new Temple building to better serve the needs of the devotees.

The new Temple site plan includes a new building, private driveway, meditation Gazebos, and a walking trail. The estimated budget for the all the construction is an estimated 5 million dollars. WE CANNOT MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

You do not have to make the full donation at one time. You can pledge a total amount and can donate towards the pledge over time. **The Temple acknowledges all the devotees that have pledged to donate to the New Temple project so far.**

We thank all the devotees that have supported the temple so far. Consider supporting the construction of the New Shirdi Sai Baba Temple and be a part of our Sri Sai Sanjeevani Tree. The amount that has been fundraised so far is **close to \$400,000, the goal is \$500,000.**

MAHA SHIVARATRI

Maha Shivaratri is a festival celebrated annually in reverence of the god Shiva. It is the day Shiva was married to the goddess Parvati. The Maha Shivaratri festival, also popularly known as 'Shivaratri' (spelt as Sivaratri, Shivaratri, Sivarathri, and Shivarathri) or 'Great Night of Shiva', marks the convergence of Shiva and Shakti. Maha Shivaratri is celebrated on the Krishna Paksha Chaturdashi of Hindu calendar month Maagha as per Amavasyaant month calculation. The festival is principally celebrated by offerings of Bael leaves to Shiva, all-day fasting and an all-night-vigil (jagaran). All through the day, devotees chant "Om Namah Shivaya", the sacred mantra of Shiva. Penances are performed in order to gain boons in the practice of Yoga and meditation, in order to reach life's highest good steadily...

Rurdra Gayatri Mantram

*Om Tatpurushaay Vidmahe
Mahadevaay Deemahi
Tanno Rudrah Prachodayat*



The names of devotees who have sponsored 1-3 bricks for the proposed temple project are on our temple website.

We humbly request you to sponsor a leaf on the Sanjeevani Tree with a donation of \$1008 or greater. (You can have your family names or names of your choosing on the leaf) You may make a pledge to donate over time. If you cannot sponsor a leaf consider sponsoring a single brick for \$252.

With Gratitude and Love, May Baba bless us all -Temple Management

Leaf Sponsorship of the Sai Sanjeevani Tree

\$252 – One brick (1-3) - Name on website

\$1008 - Bronze Leaf

\$2500 - Silver Leaf

\$5000 - \$10,000 Gold Leaf

\$10,000 - Small picture (4.25" x 5.5")

\$100,000 - Gold Leaf, Medium picture (8.5"x11")

\$500,000 - Gold Leaf, Large picture (15"x 22")

\$ 1 million - Gold Leaf, Extra Large picture(24"x 36")

Sri Maha Siva Ratri Celebrations



Full Sponsorship: \$504

Feb 12th Monday

SOMA PRADOSHAM

6.00 pm Ekavara Rudra

Abhishekam \$36

Siva Archana \$18

Feb 13th Tuesday

MAHA SIVARATRI

08.00 am Mahanyasam

09.00 am Ekadasa Rudra Abhishekam \$252

10.30 am Sri Rudra Homam \$126

05.00 pm Bilva Arachana \$108

Siva archana - \$18 / Siva Sahasram \$54

Ekavara Rudram \$36 / Flower Service \$54

07.00 pm – Jyothi / Sej Arathi \$54

Feb 14th Wednesday

09.00 am Sri Rudra Yagna Poornahuthi

All are welcome to Participate.

and swiftly. On this day, the planetary positions in the Northern hemisphere act as potent catalysts to help a person raise his or her spiritual energy more easily. The benefits of powerful ancient Sanskrit mantras such as Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra increase greatly on this night. On Maha Shivaratri, Nishita Kala is the ideal time to observe Shiva Pooja. Nishita Kala celebrates when Lord Shiva appeared on the Earth in the form of Linga. On this day, in all Shiva temples, the most auspicious Lingodbhava Puja is performed, which is generally performed starting at midnight. The worship of Lord Shiva consists in offering flowers, Bilva leaves and other gifts on the Lingam, which is a symbol of Lord Shiva, and bathing it with milk, curd, ghee, honey, sugar, coconut water, butter, and rose-water.

How Shiva got the NEELA KANTHA (blue throat) According to a legend of Samudra manthan, Shiva saved the world from the disastrous effects of a poison that emerged as a by product of the churning of the sea (Samudra manthan), by consuming the whole of the poison. Shiva could arrest the poison in his throat by his Yogic powers and it didn't go down his throat. His neck turned blue due to the effect of the poison on his throat and henceforth he is also known as Neela Kantha or The Blue Throated.

Lord Shiva's favorite day: After earth's creation was complete, Parvati asked Lord Shiva which devotees and rituals pleased him the most. The Lord replied that the 14th night of the new moon, in the dark fortnight during the month of Phalgun, is his favorite day (PRADOSHA KALA). Parvati repeated these words to Her friends, from whom the word spread to all creation.

“Peace Of Mind? Who is rich? Who is poor?”

Gems from Śrī Sâi Bâbâ

If we desire peace of mind we must stop finding fault with others. Instead we should look at our own faults.

Our thoughts play a vital role in shaping our lives. The instruments we have are the body, mind and intellect. Thoughts, feelings and emotions are our experiences and termed as perceiver, feeler and thinker. Thoughts are dormant seeds of action. The actions of the mind are truly termed *karmas*. Thoughts and actions are interdependent and thoughts constitute the mind and *chitta*. Thoughts are finite, and are like atoms with enormous potential energy. Actions are caused by feelings of desire and aversion (likes and dislikes). These feelings are caused by our attributes to pleasurable or painful nature of objects. The body with its organs is nothing other than the mind.

Fewer the desires, lesser the thoughts. If we become absolutely desireless, then the wheel of mind will stop. If we eradicate our desires one by one, our thoughts will diminish in frequency and magnitude. The number of thoughts will

diminish per minute and also the breathing will reduce (15 per minute normal breathing). So, fewer the thoughts, greater the peace and longevity, because less thoughts slows down the process of aging. Let us remember that a wealthy person who is engaged in speculation in a thickly populated city is bombarded by a large number of thoughts, and has a restless mind in spite of all creature comforts. The person is **poor** according to the revelation of Lord Kṛshṇa to his father Vasudeva (11th Skândam, Śrīmad Bhâgavatam).

The finest example of renunciation is King Janaka who was known as *videha* (detached from the body always). Living in a cave in the Himâlâyâs or in a palace of Mithila city, those who practice thought-management are joyful and truly rich - whether material wealthy or impecunious.

Fewer the thoughts, greater the mental strength and concentration. The average number of thoughts that pass through our brains in one hour is about a hundred. If we can reduce the number by constant practice of *nâmasmarâṇa* (meditation on a single thought as distinct from multiple thought-track), we can gain the power of concentration and peace of mind proportionately. Every thought that is reduced adds strength to the mind and the will. We may not recognize this in the beginning but gradually we can feel and measure the bliss and mental peace - the true wealth.

Slow and steady - let that be our maxim! Adhere to a regular routine, a time table. Just as the doctor prescribes a certain fixed measure or weight of the drug and warns you that anything less is ineffective and anything more is harmful, so too, have some limit for your spiritual exercises. Do not overdo them or do them casually and without care. The doctors tell you also about the hour of the day and the number of times the drug has to be repeated, because the action of the dosage ingested must be reinforced, ere it becomes weak. So also, we have to repeat the *japam* and *dhyânam* at regular intervals.

Millionaires who go about in expensive cars and fly in aeroplanes, and those of sedentary habits are advised by doctors to take long walks in the morning. The walk is called ‘constitutional’, because it helps to build up the constitution. Similarly, to get over mental ills consequent to long brooding over worldly affairs, the *guru* advises us to have a long spell of dhyânam and japam. Let us not be in a constant state of hurry; the cure for constant fast motion is to **sit quiet**. Do not get overly entangled in the vain hubbub of the world; the treatment for those who suffer from the after effects of that is silence and meditation.

Our duty is to keep calm, to pray for the happiness and prosperity of all. Do not pray for your own exclusive happiness, and say ‘Let the rest of the world go to pieces’. You cannot be happy when the rest of the mankind is unhappy. You are an organic part of the human community. **Share your prosperity with others, strive to alleviate the sufferings of others. That is your duty.**

Dwadasi Lingas - locations

1 **SOMNATH**
Gujarat

2 **MALLIKARJUNA**
Srisailem,
Andhra Pradesh

3 **MAHAKALA**
Ujjain, M. P.

4 **AUMKARESWARA**
Madhya Pradesh

5 **KEDARESWARA**
Himalayas
Uttar Pradesh

6 **BHIMASANKARA**
Maharashtra

7 **VISWESWARA**
Banares/Varanasi
Uttara Pradesh

8 **TRAYAMBAKESWARA**
Nasik District
Maharashtra

9 **VYDYANATH**
Bihar/Chita Bhumi

10 **NAGESWARA**
Gujarat/Darukavanam
and by boat to Darukavanam.

11 **RAMESWARA**
Tamilnadu

12 **GRUSHNESWARA**
Maharashtra

Sthala Puranam (History of the place) & other details

Lord Somnath cured the Moon of tuberculosis, and it is believed that whoever takes a bath in Chandra Kundu and offers prayers to Lord Siva will be cured of all diseases, and will lead a long, healthy and happy life thereafter.

Whoever sees the Sikhara (top brass pot) of the temple will be liberated and not born again. Many choultries (inns) are available for stay. All are allowed to see, touch and do Abhishekam to the Lingamm. The legend is that Lord Siva left His abode in Kailas to see his second son Kumara, and stayed in Srisailem.

The legend is that Siva protected the Veda Brahmans by killing the demon Ohushama Asura. The worshiper of this Lingam will experience the bliss of Self.

Siva emerged from the PaardhivaLingamm worshipped by Vindhya. If this Lingamm is worshiped in the prescribed way, the devotee will have all his desires fulfilled.

The saints Nara and Narayana prayed Siva. The Lord emerged in Kedarnath, and lives there. The saints live in Badari Ashram and worship Siva everyday. Whoever drinks water (i.e.. does Achamana) from Retah Kundu will be liberated of all desires.

The legend is that Siva killed the demon Bhima and protected his devotee

Kamarupeswara and emerged in Dhakini as the 6th Jyotirlingam. Whoever sees or worships this Lingam will obtain devotion and liberation.

This is located where the rivers Varuna and Asi meet in Uttar Pradesh. This is a universal form of Siva. Brahma, Vishnu and all devatas (angels) Bhairava (time) worship this Lingam with faith & devotion. Whoever worships Visweswara will be liberated from all bondage.

Saint Goutam prayed Siva. Siva ordered his wife Ganga to incarnate on earth. Ganga emerged in the form of Goutami (Godavari) in Trayambak flowing towards east. Whoever worships this Lingam will have their desires fulfilled and will be liberated.

The legend says in order to show his leela to Ravana, the king of Lanka, Siva emerged here. Whoever worships this Lingam will be blessed with material and spiritual wealth.

The legend says that Siva killed the demon Daruka to protect devotee Vysyanatha

Whoever worships this Lingam will have their greatest sins destroyed.

This Prathista was established by Lord Rama before the war with Ravana. Lord Siva emerged here to bless Lord Rama to succeed in the war with Ravana.

Whoever worships (Abhishekam) this Lingam with Ganges water will become liberated souls even though living in gross body. After worshipping in Banares and bringing

Ganges water to Rameswaram within one year and performing Abhishekam to Rameswara is called poorna Yatra. (Full pilgrimage)

The legend says that Lord Siva emerged here by worship of Gushmadevi. Whoever worships this Lingam will get all sensual pleasures in this life and liberation at the end.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY 2018 Samvatsaram: Sri Heyvilambi

Ayanam: Uttarâyanam; Mâsam: Mâgham til Feb 15th / Phalgunam ; Rutuvu : Sisira

Feb 3 Sat Magha krishan chaturthi - Sankatahara Chaturthi
 09.30 am Ganapathi Abhishekam \$54
 10.00 am Ganapathi Homam \$126
 06:30 pm "GA" kara Sahasram \$36
 08.00 pm Jyoti Arati \$108

Feb 10 Saturday Vijaya Ekadashi
 11.00 am & 6 pm Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam \$54

Feb 12 Mon Magha Krishna Trayodasi - Soma Pradosham & Kumbha Sankramanam
 05.00 pm Veda parayana \$21
 06.00 pm Ekavara Rudra Abhishekam \$36
 Siva Archana \$18

FEB 13 Tue MAHASIVARATRI

Feb 15 Thu Magha Amavasya
 08.00am Deva Rishi Pitru tarpanam \$21

Feb 21 Wed Phalgunasukla (Masa Skanda) Shashti
 09.30 am Subrahmanya Abhishekam \$54
 Subrahmanya Archana \$18/ Oil Lamps \$12

Feb 22 Thur Krittika Deepam
 Krittika Nakshatra Archana \$18
 Oil Lemon lamps (2) \$6

Krittika Deepam : The lamps are also lit for a happy married life and for the well being of children in the family.

Feb 23 Fri Phalgunasukla (Mâsa Durgas) ashtami
 10.30 am Durga Homam \$126
 Durga Archana \$18

Feb 25 Sunday Amalaki Ekadashi
 11.00 am & 6 pm Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam \$54

Special EKADASHI Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam

Feb 27 Tue Phalgunasukla Trayodasi - Bhauma Pradosham
 06.00 pm Ekavara Rudra Abhishekam \$36
 Siva Archana \$18

Sri Maha Siva Ratri Celebration

3 day full Sponsorship: \$504

Feb 12th Monday SOMA PRADOSHAM

Sponsor or Join us for the Vratam. Puja items to bring: Milk, honey,sugar ghee yogurt (Panchamrutas), Coconut,Flowers.

6.00 pm Ekavara Rudra Abhishekam \$36
 Siva Archana \$18

Feb 13th Tuesday MAHA SIVARATRI

08.00 am Mahanyasam
 09.00 am Ekadasa Rudra Abhishekam \$252
 10.30 am Sri Rudra Homam \$126
 05.00 pm Bilva Arachana \$108
 Siva archana - \$18 / Siva Sahasram \$54
 Ekavara Rudram \$36 / Flower Service \$54
 07.00 pm – Jyothi / Sej Arathi \$54

Feb 14th Wednesday

09.00 am Sri Rudra Yagna Poornahuthi

All are welcome to Participate. **Donation and Puja Spon**

*****~~Devotees that donate \$108 or greater will receive a Silver Sai Coin, and those who donate \$1008 will receive a Silver Sai Coin~~*****

1116 Sahasra Jyotir Linga Puja	\$504 ()
360 Siva Linga Abhishekam	\$108 ()
Parvati Siva Kalyanam	\$108 ()
Homam for Gayatri, Mahalakshmi, Surya, Ganapati, Navagraha, Sanisvara Or Mrutyunjaya	\$126/ea ()
Go Puja or Veda Parayanam	\$108 ()
Kumkuma Puja for Mahalakshmi, Sarasvati or Durga	\$108 ()
108 Jyoti Arati	\$108 ()
Archana	\$11 ()
Sahasranama Archana	\$21 ()
Pitru Puja (Tarpanam)	\$21 ()
Sai Vratam or Satyanarayana Puja	\$108 ()
Donation for Veda Pathasala	\$ _____
Annadanam (Narayan Seva)	\$ _____
Temple Renovation	\$ _____
General Donation	\$ _____

Please inform us know of any address changes.

First: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Gotra: _____
Name: _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
Meth: _____
Make: _____
 V _____
 M _____
 A _____
 D _____
CC# _____
Signat: _____