



“Help Ever, Hurt Never”

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March 2019

“What is meant by the phrase "to know GOD"? It means "to love GOD". Śrī Sâi Bâbâ.”

Magha Krishna Chaturdasi  
MAHA SIVARATRI  
March 4th, Monday, 2019



Dear Devotees,

Sai Ram. Maha Sivaratri is on Monday 4th of March 2019. On this auspicious day Devotees get the rare opportunity to pour milk on 360 Siva lingas as well as on Shidi Baba Statue. All Devotees are invited to participate in the celebrations of Maha Sivaratri and perform Abhishekam and get the blessings. The program will start early in the morning and continue til the afternoon. If you are not able to come, you can sponsor an abhishekam or other puja to be done on your family’s behalf. Prasadam will be sent.

**Programs schedule:**

Mahanayasa Parayanam			
8.00am	Ekadasa Sai Rudra Abhishekam		\$252
**Lunch Prasadam distributed after Arati			
1.00pm	Sri Rudra Homam		\$126
	<b>Ekavara Rudra Abhishekam -</b>	<b>\$36</b>	
360	Jyotir Linga Archana		\$108
Flower Service	\$54	Shiva Bilva Archana	\$54
Siva archana	\$11	Jyoti Arati	\$21

**Annadanam Sponsorship:**

10 people - \$54; 20 people - \$108 ;40 people -\$252

80 people - \$504 ; 160 people- \$1116

# ŚRÎ SÂI LEELA

## Śrī 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>

## Propagation of Maha Shivaratri

When creation had been completed, Shiva and Parvati had been living on the top of Kailas. Parvati asked: “O venerable God, which of the many rituals observed in They honour doth please Thee most?” Lord Shiva replied: “The thirteenth night of the new moon, Krishna Paksha, in the month of Magha(February–March) is known as Maha Shivaratri, My most favourable Tithi. My devotees give Me greater happiness by mere fasting than by ceremonial baths, and offerings of flowers, sweets, and incense.

"Just hear, My Beloved, of an episode which will give you an idea of the glory and power of this ritual," said Lord Shiva to Parvati.



“Once upon a time, there lived in the town of Varanasi a hunter. He was returning from the forest one evening with the game birds he had killed. He felt tired and sat at the foot of a tree to take some rest. He was soon overpowered by sleep. When he

awoke, it was the thick darkness of night. It was the night of Maha Shivaratri but he didn't know it. He climbed up the tree, tied his bundle of dead birds to a branch and sat up waiting for the dawn. The tree happened to be My favorite, the Bilva tree.

There was a Lingam under that tree. He had plucked a few leaves and then dropped them down, accidentally forming the shape of a Lingam. The night-dew trickled down from his body. I was highly pleased with involuntary little gifts of the hunter. The day dawned and the hunter returned home.

“In time, the hunter fell ill and gave up his last breath. The messengers of Yama(Lord of Death) arrived at his bedside to carry his soul to Yamlok(abode of Yama). My messengers also went to the spot to take him to My abode.

(...Continued on page 2.)

(... from pg 1) There was a vicious fight between Yama's messengers and My messengers. The former were easily defeated. They reported the matter to Yama, Lord of Death. He arrived in person at the portals of My abode. Nandi gave him an idea of the sanctity of Maha Shivaratri and the love which I had for that hunter. Yama surrendered the hunter to Me and returned to his abode. Thereafter, Yama has pledged not to touch my devotees without my consent.

"The hunter was able to enter My abode and ward off death by simple fasting and the offering of a few Bilva leaves, even accidentally, because it was the night of Maha Shivaratri Such is the solemnity and sacredness associated with that night."

Parvati was deeply impressed by the speech of Lord Shiva on the sanctity and glory of Maha Shivaratri. She repeated it to Her friends, who in their turn passed it on to the ruling princes on earth. Thus, the sanctity of Maha Shivaratri was broadcast all over the world.

### 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 byproduct 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 prevent it from going 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.

### **DAILY EVENTS AT THE TEMPLE**

**Sri Shirdi Arathi:** 09.00 am Morning |Kakada Aarati  
12.00 pm Noon | Madhyam Aarati  
05.30 pm Evening | Doop Aarati  
07.30 pm / 8.00 pm Night | Sej Aarati

**Thursday Bhajans :** 06.30 pm

**Sej Arathi :** 07.30 pm/08.00 pm

**Friday** - 06.00 pm - Lalitha Sahasranama Parayana

**Saturday** - 06.00 pm - 11 times Hanuman chalisa

**Sunday** - 10.30 am - Drishti Ganapathi Abhishekam

Times are subjected to change for special puja celebrations.

**Dress Code for Visitors:** Please wear appropriate respectable clothing covering knees and shoulders. Call temple at **412 374 9244** for further details.

### **Bilva Dalam :**

Significance of Bilva dalam: Bilva dalam is trimurthi swaroopam Brahma, Vishnu Maheswara. The three leaves symbolize Aumkara(Omkara) Akara, Ukara & Makara. By offering a single bilva dalam, one can get rid of darkness



caused due to agyanam/ ignorance. Bilva dalam represents Srusti (Creation), Sthithi (Sustaining) and Laya (dissolution). 1 leaves are considered the most sacred offerings in Shiva pooja. A worshipper should offer Trifoliate meaning Three leaves together called dalam. In an Ekabilvam Left leaf is Brahma, Right leaf is Vishnu and the middle leaf is Shiva. Bilva/Bel leaves offered once in Shiva Pooja can be re-used or re-offered to God by sprinkling few drops of water on them such is the greatness of Bilva-leaf. The front portion of a Bel-leaf denotes Amrutham" (Nectar of Immortality). So, while offering bel-leaf, the front portion of the leaf should face Lord Shiva.

### **Shiva Pratah Smaran Stotram**



*Praatah Smaraami Bhava-Bheeti Haram Suresham  
Gangaadharam VrishabhaVahanamambikesham /  
Khattvaanga Shoola-Varadabhay Hastameesham  
Samsaara Roga-Haramoushadham advitiiyam ||1||*

*Praatar namaami Girisham Girijardhadeham /  
Sarga Sthiti Pralaya Kaarannam Aadidevam /  
Vishnaveshvaram Vijita Vishva Manobhiraamam /  
Samsaara Roga-Haramoushadham advitiiyam ||2||*

*Praatar Bhajaami Shivamekam Anantam Aadyam  
Vedaantavedyam Anagham , Purussam Mahaantam /  
Naamaadi Bheda Rahitam Sad Bhaava Shuunyam  
Samsaara-Roga-Haramoushadham advitiiyam ||3||*

*/ iti Sivapraatah Smarana Stotram Sampurnam /*

## Bilva Astakam

*Tridalam trigunakaram trinetrām cha triyayudham  
Trijanma papasamharam ekabilvam shivarpanam*

*Trishakhaih bilvapatraishcha hyachchidraih komalaih  
shubhaih  
Tavavapujam karishhyami ekabilvam shivarpanam*

*Koti kanya maha danam tila parvata kotayah  
Kanchanam ksila danena ekabilvam shivarpanam*

*Kashikshetranivasam cha kalabhairavadarshanam  
Prayagamadhavam druishtva ekabilvam  
shivarpanamh*

*Induvare vratam sthitwa niraharo maheshwara  
Naktam haoushyami devecha eka bilvam  
shivarpanam*

*Ramalinga pratistha cha vaivahika krutam tatha  
tatakadi cha santanam eka bilvam shivarpanam*

*Akhanda bilva patram cha ayutam shiva poojanam  
Krutam nama sahasrena eka bilvam shivarpanam*

*Umaya sahadevesha nandi vahana meva cha Bhasma  
lepana sarvangam eka bilvam shivarpanam*

*Salagrameshu vipranam tatakam dasha koopayo  
Yagyakoti saharacha eka bilvam shivarpanam*

*Danti koti sahasreshu ashwamedha shatakratau  
Kotikanya mahadanam ekabilvam shivarpanam*

*Bilvanam darshanam punyam sparshanam papa  
nashanam Aghora papa samharam eka bilvam  
shivarpanam*

*Sahasra veda patheshu brahma sthapana muchyate  
Aneka vrata kotinam eka bilvam shivarpanam*

*Annadana sahasreshu sahasropanayanam tatha Aneka  
janma papani eka bilvam shivarpanam*

Phalastuthi (Merits of recital)

*Bilvashhtakamidam punyam yah patheth  
shivasannidhau. Shivalokamavapnoti Sivena eka  
bilvam shivarpanam.*

## Shiva Panchaksharam(Nagendra Haraya Trilochanaya)

*nagendra-haraya trilochanaya  
bhasmanga-ragaya mahesvaraya  
nityaya suddhaya digambaraya  
tasmai "na"-karaya namah sivaya*

Salutations to Shiva, who wears the king of snakes as a garland, the three-eyed god, whose body is smeared with ashes, the great lord, the eternal and pure one, who wears the directions as his garment, and who is represented by the syllable ``na "

*madakini-salila-candana-carcitaya  
nandisvara-pramatha-natha-mahesvaraya  
mandara-puspa-bahu-puspa-supujitaya  
tasmai "ma" karaya namah sivaya*

I bow to Shiva, who has been worshipped with water from the Ganga (Mandakini) and anointed with sandalwood paste, the lord of Nandi, the lord of the host of goblins and ghosts, the great lord, who is worshiped with Mandara and many other kinds of flowers, and who is represented by the syllable ``ma. "

*sivaya gauri-vadanabja-vrnda  
suryaya daksadhvara-nasakaya  
sri nila-kanthaya vrsa-dhvajaya  
tasmai "si" karaya namah sivaya*

Salutations to shiva, who is all-auspiciousness, who is the sun that causes the lotus face of Gauri (Parvati) to blossom, who is the destroyer of the yajna of Daksha, whose throat is blue (Nilakantha), whose flag bears the emblem of the bull, and who is represented by the syllable ``shi. "

*vasistha-kumbhobhdava-gautamarya  
munindra-devarcita-sekharaya  
candrarka-vaisvanara-locanaya  
tasmai "va" karaya namah sivaya*

Vasishhtha, Agastya, Gautama, and other venerable sages, and Indra and other gods have worshipped the head of (Shiva's linga). I bow to that Shiva whose three eyes are the moon, sun and fire, and who is represented by the syllable ``va. "

*yaksa-svrapuraya jatadharaya  
pinaka-hastaya sanatanaya  
divyaya devaya digambaraya  
tasmai "ya" karaya namah sivaya*

salutations to Shiva, who bears the form of a Yaksha, who has matted hair on his head, who bears the Pinaka bow in his hand, the primeval lord, the brilliant god, who is digambara (naked), and who is represented by the syllable ``ya. "

*pancaksaram idam punyam  
yah pathet-chiva-sannidhau s  
iva-loka-mavapnoti  
sivena saha modate*

Anyone who recites this sacred five-syllable mantra, (Namah Shivaya) near the Shiva (linga), attains the abode of Shiva and rejoices there with Shiva.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MARCH 2019 Samvatsaram: Sri Vilambi / Uttarâyanam**

Mâsam: Magham till Mar 6<sup>th</sup> / Phalgunam Rutuvu :Sisira

**Mar 1 Fri Magha krishna (Vijaya) Ekadasi**  
 11am & 6pm Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam \$54

**Mar 3 Sun Magha krishna Trayodasi - Pradosham**  
 10 am Ekavara Rudra Abhishekam \$36  
 Siva Archana \$18

**Mar 4 Mon Magha Krishna Chaturdasi**  
**MAHA SIVARATRI**  
 8.00am Mahanyasa Purvaka Ekadasa Rudram \$252  
 5.00pm Bilva Sahasranamam \$108  
 Sri Sai Siva Bhajans  
 7.30pm Sej & Dinner Prasadam Jyothi arathi \$54

**Mar 6 Wed Magha Krishna Amavasya**  
 8.00 am Deva Rishi Pitu tarpanam \$21

**Mar 10 Sun Day light Savings time begins**

**Mar 12 Tue Phalguna Sukla (Mâsa Skanda) Shashti**  
 09.30 am Subrahmanya Abhishekam \$54  
 Subrahmanya Archana \$18

**Krittika deepam** 6 oil lamps \$12

**Mar 14 Thur Phalguna Sukal (Mâsa Durga) Ashtami**  
 10.30 am Durga Homam \$126  
 Durga Archana \$11

**Mar 17 Sun Phalguna Sukla (Amalaki) Ekadasi**  
 11am & 5pm Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam \$54

**Mar 18 Mon Phalguna Sukla Trayodasi Pradosham**  
 10 am Ekavara Rudra Abhishekam \$36  
 Siva Archana \$18

**Mar 19 Tue MeenaSankramanam**  
 6.30 pm Vedapatanam \$21

**Mar 20 Wed Phalguna Sukla (Holi) Poornima**  
 09.30 am Sri Shirdi Sai Abhishekam \$108  
 10.30 am Sri Sai Rudra Homam \$126  
 11am 6pm Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam \$54

Sri Sai Archana \$11 / Sahasranamam \$21

**Mar 24 Sun Phalguna Krishna-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 \$21

**Mar 31 Sun Phalguna Krishna Papamochanaiekadasi**  
 11am & 6pm Sri Sai Satya Vratam \$54

**Apr 2 Tue Phalguna Sukla Trayodasi Praosham**  
 10am Ekavara Rudra Abhishekam \$36  
 Siva Archana \$18

**Apr 3 Wed Phalguna Krishna Chaturdasi - Masa Sivaratri**  
 10.00 am 360 Rudra Abhishekam \$108  
 11.00 am Bilva Archana \$54

**Apr 04 Thur Phalguna Krishna Kotha Amavasya**  
 8.00 am Deva Rishi Pitu tarpanam \$21

**Apr 05 Fri Chandramana Yugadi - Sri Vikari**  
 09.30 am Sri Shirdi Sai Rudra Abhishekam \$54  
 10.00 am Navagraha Homam \$151

**Annadnam Sponsorship in India**

A Special Annadanam is being rendered in our Vedapatasala. Please donate generously! Jai Sai Ram!

\_\_\_\_\_ \$21(21 meals); \_\_\_\_\_ \$51 (51 meals);  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$101(101 meals); \_\_\_\_\_ \$251(251 meals);  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$504(504 meals); \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,008 (1008 meals)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10,800 (10,800 meals) \_\_\_\_\_ Other

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Puja Sponsorship _____ Puja Sponsorship: _____ Donation: \$ _____ Total Amount: \$ _____	Name : _____ Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____ Gotram : _____ Name(s) _____ Birthstar _____ _____ _____ _____ Check # _____ Visa MC Amex Discover CC# _____ Expiration date: _____ / _____ CVC: _____ Signature: _____
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**NEW TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION FUND**

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

Upgrade your donation to be added to 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 single brick for \$252. With Gratitude and Love, May Baba bless us

Ill -Temple Management

**Leaf Sponsorship of the Sai Sanjeevani Tree**

- \$252 – One brick (1-3) - Name on website
- \$1008 - Bronze Leaf
- \$2500 - Silver Leaf