



# ŠRÎ SÂI LEELA

## Šrî Shirdi Sai Bâbâ Temple

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“Help Ever, Hurt Never”

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December 2016

“ My people do not come to me of their own accord; it is I who seek and bring them to me. - 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. After a long 5 year battle with the local municipality and objections from local residents, the case was finally won in the court.

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

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 the following few 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 \$ 200,000. 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 \$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")**

### The Temple acknowledges the following devotees who contributed 1- 3 bricks acknowledged in our website.

#### 1 Brick Sponsors:

MURALI & SRIDEVI MERUGA - NJ ;SRILAKSHMI BANDI - MD VENKATESH SARVANAN & PRIYADHAR NARAYAN - OH; NARASAREDDY SANIKOMMU -TN; ARUNA KUMARI VANKAYALAPATI -PA;ASHOK GURUSAMY -NJ; BHARGAV CHAVA - PA;GEETA KANNAN-MA; GIRIDHAR GOGINENI-MD; GOPINATH ALAGIRISAMY-OH; VENKATA MANOTEJ SWAMI; ABHIJIT DATTA-MI; MANISH VERMA -PA; Mr. BHARADWAJ & ARUNA VELAMAKANNI-OH; NATARAJAN KRISHNAMURTHY-MI; PRIYA PATEL - PA; RAJASEKHAR YALLAPRAGADA; RAVICHANDRA SAMAVEDAM -NJ; RICHARD LIND -NJ; SAIRAM KRISHNASAMY -NJ; SARASWATHI & THIPPESWAMY CHANNAPATI-PA; SATYADEEP VAJALA -PA; VIDYABABU KUPPUSAMY & ANANDHI SUTTI - VA; SANMUGAM LAKSHMANAN -PA; SNEHAL BADGUJAR -PA; SREEDHAR & SOUJANYA CHADALAWADA -PA; SRIDHAR V PATNAM -PA; SUKHADIA LORRAINE -PA; NATARAJAN, KANNAN -IN; SUMAN ERASANI-TX; AJAY KUMAR GAMPA - PA; SURYA RAO & PRASANTHI TIPPARAJU-MD; SWAPNA GODAY & NEERAJA CHITRA -PA; TANUJA SARRAJU-PA; VAMSI TIRNATI-CO; VIJAY & HIMABINDU JANAPAREDDY -PA; VENKATESHAM & MANJULA DYAVANAPALLI-MA; VIKAS &SWATHI BHATIA - VA; KUMAR B MADDI -IL; DASOJU, NAGARJUNA -VA; SURESH VUMMITI -NJ; KIRAN & SOUJANYA NADIMPALLI-PA; GANESH RAMASIVAN -MI; D & INDIRANI THIRUPATHI-OH; PHAVALAN RAJENDRAM IRELAND VELUPPILLAI & POOMALAR MANOHARAN CANADA MR SATISH DANDU -PA;

#### 2 BRICK Sponsors

BHARATHI SARVANAN & SIVAKUMAR BALASUBRAMANIAN-GA; PREMNATH KUNCHAM LOKANATH CANADA; C SHEKHAR & VIJAYALAKSHMI GANDHI -OH ; SHANKAR ASHOKKUMAR -PA; SATISH & PRANAVA KARRA-NM; SAVITRA SRIKAR - MI; SIVARAJAN JAGANNATHAN -IL; SURENDER PAMPATI -TX; VIJAYA PANDARA-PA; SRIKANTH REDDY MUDDASANI - PA; ANOOP SARVA REDDY -PA; SRINIVAS RAO JALLA-MN; SURENDER BOMMINENI -IN; PALADUGU, KIRAN KUMAR - PA; Mr. SESHAGIRI RAO & JHANSI -PA; KILARU -MI; SHEELA,ADISHANKARA,MALLIK NAGARAJ JANTHAK - PA; RENUKA ARUNACHALAM -PA;

#### 3 BRICK Sponsors

RAMESH RAGHAVAN- NJ AJAY & SUMANYA DEVA - PA

### NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Saturday Dec 31st, 2016 Bhajans 8 pm to 12 am

Sai Ram. Sri Shirdi Sai Baba temple will have New Year's Eve celebrations on **Saturday December 31st, 2016.**

We will welcome the New Year 2017 with Bhajans Baba Archana & Jyoti Arati.

Temple has been hosting New Year's Eve bhajans for 11 years now, and it has become a tradition for a lot of families to spend 31st evening in the grace of Baba.

### **COME JOIN US FOR BABA'S BLESSINGS**

**Jan 1st 2017 - Sunday**

**Jan 1 Sunday New Year Prayers**

09.30 am Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Abhishekam

10.30 am Sri Sai Navagraha Homam

11.00 am Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam

Sri Sai Archana / Sahasranamam

### **HINDU CALENDAR**

**Current Year of the Earth: 1,955,885,2016**

**Name of the Year: Sri Durmukhi ; Ayanam: Dakshinayana**

**Rutuvu:Hemantha; Masam: Margasira**

**Krishna's Niryanam (Kali Yuga): 5117**

**Gregorian Calendar A.D. 2016**

## LORD DATTATREYA

The full moon day in the month of Margashira is celebrated as Datta Jayanti. Traditionally, Lord Dattatreya is depicted with three heads representing the trinity of the Hindu pantheon - Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. He has six hands two each from Brahma (holding the rosary - japa mala that represent Guru and knowledge, water vessel - kamandala that represents the power behind all creation), Vishnu (holding the weapon - chakra that gives emancipation/moksha from rebirth cycle and conch shell -Sankh that echoes the monosyllable mantra OM), and Shiva (holding a drum - damaru that awakens all from sleep/ignorance and a trident-trisula that kills the ego).

He is a Guru. He is followed by four faithful dogs representing the four Vedas. Remember that Yama dharmaraja had also followed Yudhisthira (the eldest Pandava) in his last journey, in the form of a dog. He is standing in front of a cow -Kamadhenu (that represents creation and kindness) and the tree (wish fulfilling tree).The name Dattatreya can be divided into two words - "Datta" (meaning given) and "Atreya" referring to the sage Atri, his physical father.In the Nath tradition.



Dattatreya is recognized as an Avatar or incarnation of Shiva and as the Adi-Guru (First Teacher) of the Aadinath Sampradaya of the Nathas.

**BIRTH OF DATTATREYA:** Kaushika, a Brahmin, was enchanted by a courtesan to whom he lost his wealth and also suffered from ill health etc. In spite of this, his wife Shandili was faithful and dutiful to him. When sickness prevented him from visiting the courtesan, she even carried him on her shoulders to the courtesan's abode. During one such journey with her husband Kaushika on her shoulders, she unconsciously stepped on Sage Mandavya. The sage cursed them to die at dawn (just at sunrise). Shandili the pure one, prayed sincerely and begged that the Sun should never rise to enable her husband to continue living. The large hearted Sun God (Surya) was pleased by her sincere devotion and promised to fulfill her request. The Sun did not rise and the world was in darkness. The Devas were bewildered and shocked to see the order of time and sunlight (the cause of all life) destroyed. Taking the wise counsel of Lord Brahma, they approached Anusuya, the wife of Sage Atri, to advise Shandili to take back her prayer and save the world.

The devas approached Anasuya who decided to do the impossible – to liberate the day allowing for a return of the life rejuvenating light from the Sun while protecting the spouse of Shandili as well as that the austerity and purity of such a pious one may not go in vain. After deliberations, Shandili agreed on the condition that Kaushika would live on after sunrise (i.e. the Sage's curse shall not be fulfilled). The Sun rose and Kaushika the Brahmin, died as per the words of Sage Mandavya. However, he was immediately brought back to life by Anusuya.

Delighted with Anusuya's efforts to save the world, the Devas granted her three boons. She asked for (a) her liberation, (b) her husband's liberation and (c) that the Trinity - Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva be born as her children. Granting these boons the Devas departed.

Thereafter, a light emanated from Sage Atri's eyes which impregnated his wife Anusuya resulting in the birth of three divine sons - Soma, Durvasa, and Datta (partial incarnations of Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu, respectively).

**BIRTH OF SOMA:** The sky seized the white-luster form of Brahma which fell all around in the form of Soma, characterized by passion (Rajas Guna). That light from the mind of (Prajapati) Atri, the mental Soma was begotten in Anasuya as the life and possessor of every excellence. He is forever protecting the plant and animal kingdoms to grow with his cool rays. His abode is the Svarga.

**BIRTH OF DATTA:** From the predominant Satwa Guna (goodness) of Vishnu, Dattatreya the Brahmin incarnated. He is forever protecting the good and causing its dominance and protects offsprings from destruction by the Daitya (Asura's as the sons of Diti).

**BIRTH OF DURVASA:** Enraged on seeing the haughty king of the Haihayas offending Maharishi Atri, Durvasa, the partial incarnation of Shiva issued from the womb of Anusuya. The predominant Tamas Guna made him angry and desire to burn up the Haihaya. He assumed a haughty look and speech and destroys scorners.

The Saandilya Upanishad declares that Lord Dattatreya is the Supreme Reality and is the cause of everything that is created.

*"Om Kaalakaalaaya Vidhmahey Kaalatheethaaya dheemahi Thanno Kaala Bhairava Prachodhayaath"*

## THE JOY OF GIVING

The character of Karna in the epic Mahabharatam is fascinating. He was born with an armor and earrings which ensured him immortality and invulnerability. He was a prince who could not resist giving, at any cost. When Krishna came in the guise of a poor brahmin and tricked him to give him the armor and earrings, Karna did not hesitate, in spite of knowing the consequences. The ecstasy of giving overwhelmed everything else. He knew that the sheer act of giving would save him ultimately!

After Mahabharata war ended, Lord Krishna once visited King Yudhishtira. The royal assembly was full of sages, seers, ministers and eminent men and women to meet the Lord. In this great gathering, Dharmaputra politely asked Krishna, 'Sir! You are the Lord of the whole universe. Every little thing, animate and inanimate, belongs to You. Why is it, then, you accept gifts even if it were a leaf of Tulasi? How can we give You what is Your own? How come you say that it pleases You?'

Janardhana smiled bewitchingly and answered the king with another question, 'Why do you feel happy when your subjects present you with gifts, even though everything in your kingdom belongs to you?'

Every parent knows the joy of accepting what is offered by their child. Here is another interesting mythological anecdote. God created three kinds of people: the devas who were satvik, the humans being who had both rajasa and tamasa characters and demons who were essentially tamasik. None of them had elbows which are necessary to bend the hand for various chores including the very important task of eating. The devas solved the problem instantly; they used their hands like ladles, and fed one another. The human beings took time to learn the trick, but did so in due course of time. The demons never learned the art of giving and almost perished before there was divine intervention!

***THE VALUE OF THE GIFT IS NOT NECESSARILY IN THE GIFT, BUT IN THE ACT ITSELF.***

**Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Pittsburgh is grateful for the unstinted support of its devotees. As the year closes we seek your donations to be used for worthy causes such as Annadanam Go (Cow) rakshana, Veda uddharana. Sri Baba says, 'If there is no charity, wealth has no intrinsic value at all.'** - Jai Sai Ram

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER 2016 - Margasiram till Dec 29th - Pushyam**

<b>Dec 5 Mon Margasira Sukla (Subrahmanya) Shashti</b>	
10.00 am Subramanya Abhishekam	\$54
11.00 am Subramanya Puja	\$21
<b>Dec 7 Wed Margasira Sukla (Kala Bhairav) Astami</b>	
10.00 am Puja	\$21
<b>Dec 11 Sun Margasira Sukla Trayodasi PRADOSHAM</b>	
10.00 am Sri Sai Rudra Homam	\$126
Siva Archana	\$18
10.00 am & 6.30 pm - Ekavara Sri Rudra Abhishekam	\$36
<b>Dec 13 Tues Margasira Sukla Poornima -DATTA POORNIMA</b>	
9:30 am Sri Sai Moola Vighraha Abhishekam	\$108
10:30 am Sri Datta & Maha Lakshmi Homam	\$126
06.00 pm Sai Satyanarayana Vratam	\$54
07.00 pm Sej & Jyothi Arathi	\$108
<b>Dec 15 Thu Margasira Krishna Vidiya - Dhanu Sankramanam</b>	
6.00 pm Parasurama Jayanthi Vedaparayana	\$21
<b>Dec 16 Fri Margasira Krishna (Sankatahara) Chaturthi</b>	
10:00 am Ganapathi Abhishekam	\$54
11:00 am Ganapathi Homam	\$126
06:30 pm "GA" kara Sahasram	\$36
<b>Dec 25 Sun Christmas</b>	
10.00 am Peace Prayers	
<b>Dec 26 Mon Margasira Krishan Trayodasi PRADOSHAM</b>	
10.00 am Sri Sai Rudra Homam	\$126
Siva Archana	\$18
10.00 am & 6.30 pm - Ekavara Sri Rudra Abhishekam	\$36
<b>Dec 27 Tue Margasira Krishna Chaturdasi -Masa Sivaratri</b>	
10.00 am 360 Rudra Abhishekam	\$108
10.30 am Sri Rudra Homam	\$126
07.00 pm Jyoti Arati	\$108
<b>Dec 28 Wed Margasira Amavasya</b>	
08.00 am Deva Rishi Pitru Tarpanam	\$27

**2017 New Year Celebrations**

<b>Jan 1 Sunday New Year Prayers</b>	
9.30 am Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Abhishekam	\$108
10.30 am Sri Sai Navagraha Homam	\$252
11.00 am Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam	\$54
Sri Sai Archana \$11 / Sahasranamam	\$21

***"LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL, HELP EVER, HURT NEVER"***

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**Sponsored Puja:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method : Check Cash Credit Card ;Please make check payable to SRI SHIRDI SAI BABA TEMPLE

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Names & Birthstars:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **1.** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **2.** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Credit Card:** Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gotram** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sri Sai Guru Dattatreya Yagnam**

**Saturday Dec 3rd - Wednesday Dec 14th, 2016**

*The Yagna will bring peace, happiness, prosperity, health, progeny, courage, protection from enemies, and relief from inner and outer demons.*

**Sunday Dec 10th - 10.30 am**

**Sri Datta Anagha Kalyanam \$54**

**Prasadam : Blessed akshintalu & kumkum**

1 day sponsorship \$153

Sri Sai Datta Homam \$126

Anagha Archana \$11

Sri Guru Datta Archana \$18

Sahasranama Archana \$21

Sai Datta Abhishekam \$36

Flower Service \$40

Bilva Archana \$126

**Temple Programs or Projects you can Support:**

**Annadanam(Narayana seva) :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Go (Cow) Rakshana (maintenance):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Veda Uddharana( Veda Patasala):** \_\_\_\_\_

**General Donation( maintenance):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sai Family (Annual )Sponsorship(\$252):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Temple improvement Fund Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Temple construction 1 brick - \$252** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annadanam in India**

\$11 (22 meals) \$54 (108 meals)

\$108 (216 meals) \$252 (504 meals)

\$504 (1008 meals) \$1,008 (2016 meals)

\$2,520 (5040 meals) \$5,004 (10,008 meals)

Other \_\_\_\_\_