

# PUSHPANJALI



## Newsletter

**Vol 17 - #1 April 2008**

**The Hindu Temple of St. Louis**

**725 Weidman Road**

**Ballwin MO 63011**

**[WWW.HINDUTEMPLESTLOUIS.ORG](http://WWW.HINDUTEMPLESTLOUIS.ORG)**

## **Executive Committee**

President	Mike Sateesha
Vice President	Puran Luthra
Secretary	Shanker Subramanian
Joint Secretary	Sumathi Rao
Treasurer	Pattabhi Madippatti
Joint Treasurer	Rajyalakshmi Naidu

### **Members**

Venkat Darmavarapu, Sendil Rathinasabapathy, Dewan Prasad

## **Committees**

### **Operations**

**Rajyalakshmi Naidu (Chair)**

Ramarao Kaza, Prasad B, Prasanna Sridharan, G.V.Naidu, Singla J, Sendil Rathinasabapathy, Pattabhi Madippatti, Puran Luthra, Dandamudi B. Prasad, V.R.Patibandla.

### **Food**

**Sendil Rathinasabapathy (Chair)**

Sharmila Sendilkumar, Nagendra Prasad, Malathi Reddy, Swarnali, Venkar Dharmavarapu, Ramarao Kaza, Prasanna Sridharan, Rajyalakshmi Naidu, Prasad Kavali, Sreekanth Naidu, Anjali Mehta, Laxami Bandi, Padma Seri, Haridas Kartha.

### **Pooja**

**Venkar Darmavarapu (Chair)**

Smt. Nayana Choksi, Kasinadhuri R. Shankar, Jaghan Yamuna, Rajyalakshmi Naidu, Sharad Parikh, Chitra Subramanian, M. K. Sateesha, Devabhaktami, Sreenivasan Rajagopalan, Shankar Subramanian, Anjali Mehra.

### **Publications**

**Sateesha (Chair)**

Sendil Rathinasabapathy, Malathi Reddy, Prasanna Sridharan, Puran Luthra, Ajit Vasudevan, Sreenivasan Rajagopalan.

### **Library**

**Shanker Subramanian (Chair)**

Sendil Rathinasabapathy

### **Cultural**

**Dewan Prasad (Chair)**

Suguna Sateesha, Mythili Bharadwaj, Chandra Bharadwaj, Puran Luthra, Rao Ayyagari, K.K Sankaran, Vijay Budhiraju, G.V. Naidu Pankaj Shah

## **Board Of Trustees**

Krishna Reddy (Chairman), Jiwan Singla (Vice Chairman), Vijay Kumar Buddhiraju, Ashwin Patel, G.V. Naidu, Sharad Parikh, Ramadevi Devabhatkuni, Naina Choksi, Vishnuvardhana Rao Batibandala

## **Temple Staff**

Manager: Satish Babu

Priests: Shri Deevi Srinivas, Shri Rameshwar Dass, Shri Vedantam Sarma, Shri A. Ramakrishna Rao, Shri C. Janardhana Chary

Resident Maintenance : Arumugam

Part-time Help: Annpurna Uppalapati(Library), Premalatha Ganeshraj (Accounts). Lidia (Kitchen helper)

Minutes from General body meeting February 2008 - Secretary, Shanker Subramanian

Dr. Rajyalakshmi Naidu in her statement "The temple's financials continue to be sound. Brunch & prasadam sales are very successful too. All poojas are run smoothly and festivals are being well organized. Our priests are doing an excellent job and are able to provide the best possible services to the devotees according to the Agama Sastras.

Pt. Rameshwar Dass' family has joined him and temple successfully obtained Permanent resident cards for Pt. Vedeantam Sharma & Pt. Janardhanachari. Pt. Ramakrishna & custodian Mr.Arumugam's LPR's are being processed.

Manager, Mr. Satish Babu is busy at the desk answering calls and coordinating/scheduling poojas, besides shopping for kitchen & pooja services. The committees are working hard to reduce some of his workload and split the effort between them.

There is no immediate relief about our parking. We will continue to use the Church facilities and request the cooperation of devotees during these times."

The President thanked all the volunteers serving multiple committees specifically Prasadham and Gajamala. The floor was opened up for questions later.

Also a motion was brought up from the floor to push the general body meeting from 1st Sunday of February to the 1st Sunday of March. This provides the Treasurer and auditor enough time to run the temple books and also resolves the conflict w/ Superbowl sunday. It was pointed out that it requires a change in the Bylaws to implement the change of date for the general body meeting. It will be addressed soon.

Chairman of the Board Of Trustees report to the General Body:

Sharad Parikh became the Chairman after Dr. Naidu's resignation in March 2007. First time the Temple finances have been audited in May of 2007. The report suggested a few safe guards in handling cash from Hundis etc that are implemented. The audit was a successful. We may do it again within next two years.

We have invested \$1,000,000 in American funds (Balanced Fund) in August through November 2007 and its value at the end of December

2007 was \$1,011,000 approximately. These funds are invested for the long term. The asset management committee has prepared an Investment policy statement to make sure that the money is not invested in risky type of investments such as options, commodities etc. The investments will be monitored carefully by the advisor and asset management committee so that results meet requirements of the IRS. Also the returns should meet or exceed the benchmarks such as S&P 500 and pre selected bond fund results. Asset management committee has periodic meetings to monitor the investment results. The committee meets with the Temple investment advisor Mr. Tom Kniest on a Quarterly basis to monitor the results.

Temple tours come under public relations and they are being handled effectively. All temple publications except pushpanjali fall under public relations committee and all temple visits are being coordinated by the public relations committee and Vijaya Kumar is doing a good job a chairman. There were two fund raising events during the year raising around \$35,000. Ashwin Patel did a good job as chairman. The building committee will handle all projects costing \$10,000 and above. There are no construction activities during the year. Jiwan Singla was the chairman for the building committee. Election committee under the chairmanship of Satish Nayak will conduct the elections today.

By Pattabhi Maddipati, Secretary for Board Of Trustees.

From the Priest desk and pooja committee

Dear Devotees

Since the beginning of the universe Temples are the main stay in the Indian culture. Regarding the temples in the Vedic Epic Rug Veda 2nd Astkam, 21<sup>st</sup> Anuvakm and 16<sup>th</sup> Suktam it was told tat "PRAVH PANTH MADHO SOWDHIYAYATE MAHE SURYA VISHNUE CHARCHITA."

In Thithreyopanishat it was told that "DEVANAM DEVAYTHANE YAJATHI" meaning Gods are worshiped in the Temples only.

Again in Vedas it was elaborately explained how to renovate the temples, detailed process of various worships, invocation of gods and how to perform the poojas.

There are 3 main Agamas, in our religion, Shiva, Vaishnava and Sakagama. The main ideas of all Agamas are to worship the god and to get moksha from this samsara.

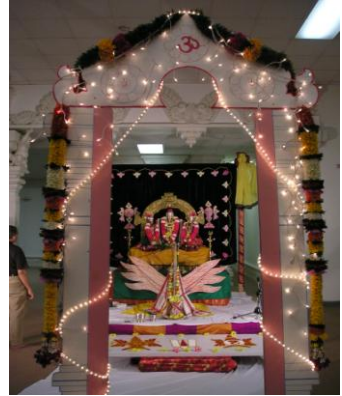
Divinity is of two types, one is Nirakara and another is Sakara Yagnas and yogas belong to the Nirakara, where as worship of the Deities in the temples and houses is Sakara type of Divinity.

Sakara type of divinity is relatively easy and best for common people. You can also pray in your mind or in Yagna, which is Nirakara type. It all depends on the devotee in which way he wants to worship the God. In this era to worship the God in the idol form is the best way, which is also accepted unanimously by the Shiva, Vaishnava and Satka agamas.

End of last year Ayyappa mandala pooja was celebrated on December 25 2007. Devotees celebrated this pooja with Irumudis. End of the pooja temple kitchen served prasadam with the help of sponsors.



Vaigunda Ekadesi was celebrated in the temple at end of last year. Vaigunda duwaram was opened after the pooja. Lots of devotees entered through the duwaram to get the blessing of Sribalaji.



New year was celebrated on January 1<sup>st</sup> with ganesh pooja. Lots of devotees came to the temple on new year day and started the year with divine blessings. Temple opened all day for the devotees.

Srigodadevi Kalyanam and Makarasankaranthi celebrated on January 14<sup>th</sup>.



Every wednesday Sri Dattatreya Abhishekam , Every Tuesday parvathi abhishekam, Durga pooja, Ramayan path and Hanuman pooja is being performed in the temple.

Mahashivarathri was celebrated in the temple on march 5<sup>th</sup>. Temple was opened all night and abhishekam and poojas were scheduled throughout the night. Lots of devotees attended the evening pooja and they had an opportunity to do abhishekam for lingam.



Thaiposam was celebrated on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Valli kalyanam was performed by our priests. Kitchen served prasadam for 200 devotees. Thanks to the sponsors and volunteers.



upcoming festivals are planned as follows,

Chandramana ugadi will be celebrated on April 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Prasadam will be served at the end of the pooja. There will not be prasadam for sale on this day.

Souramana ugadi and Sri rama navami will be celebrated on april 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Prasadam will be served at the end of the pooja. There will not be prasadam for sale on this day.

Acharya Jayanthi on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Tyagaraja aradhana will be on May 10<sup>th</sup>, Sani trayodasi on may 17<sup>th</sup>. Vaikasiviskam on may 18<sup>th</sup>, Hanuman Jayanthi on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Temple 9<sup>th</sup> year anniversary will be celebrated on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Pushpa yagotsavam and srinivasa kalyanam will be performed on that evening. Prasadam will be served at the end of the pooja.

Devotees willing to sponsor prasadam for the festivals mentioned here can contact manager. The sponsorship for the prasadam is \$150. Temple kitchen will cook and serve the prasadam at the end of the pooja.

From cultural committee chairperson,

The Cultural and Educational Committee shall consist of individuals willing and interested in the field of education and promoting the Hindu culture and tradition. The committee has the following responsibilities.

1. Organize, plan and implement educational programs which are relevant to the mission of the Hindu Temple of St. Louis
2. Organize, promote and enhance the religious and cultural education and training among all segments of the temple devotees, adults as well as youth.
3. Organize, plan, schedule and implement the youth Sunday school classes for Hindu religion and Indian languages.
4. Organize group visits to the temple from schools and other organization.

Cultural committee members are Mythili Bharadwaj, Chandra Bharadwaj, Puran Luthra, Rao Ayyagari, K.K Sankaran, Vijay Budhiraju, Dr G.V. Naidu and Dr Pankaj Shah. Our goal is to bring more cultural events and make the Hindu Temple easily accessible for such events. We have already hosted many temple visits from other Faiths and hope to continue to educate other religion and faiths about our great culture/ tradition. This of course takes a lot of work and coordination and we look forward to more conversation with our own members to come forward and add their "two cents". I have said in the past if any one wants to join our bhajan group we are forming please contact me at (618) 670-3933.

It would be very nice if this year we can have bhajans at various major festivals and poojas. I look forward to making this year a very special one.

Please remember that our children are our future and it is up to every one of us (adults) / parents to foster the proper channels for our children to follow. From food committee chairperson.

Temple kitchen is preparing and serving prasadam during festivals, march 5<sup>th</sup> maha shivarathri was celebrated in the temple, kitchen served prasadam for approximately 300 devotees. The sponsorship for prasadam is \$150, devotees who are willing to sponsor prasadam can pick their festival and contact manager.

Devotees also bring prasadam every Monday evening rudhrabhishekam ,thursday evening sai bhajan, satyananarayana pooja and all other auspicious times.

Temple kitchen is providing food for visiting devotees on the weekends. Saturday menu is pongal, vadaa, idly, dahi vada, curd rice and coffee. Sunday menu is masala dosa, plain dosa, uppuma, tamarind rice, curd rice and coffee. Food is reasonably priced. Thanks to all the food committee volunteers helping to prepare this delicious food and raising money for the temple.



More than 30 volunteers work in the kitchen every weekend to prepare the food. Laddu's are prepared in the temple kitchen every week Wednesday.



By laws – General responsibilities of Temple committees.

1. The fiscal year of the committee will correspond to the calendar year.
2. The new President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the various committee chairpersons at the Annual Meeting in February of each year following the election. The committee chairpersons shall recommend members to their committees before the end of February for the Board of Trustees approval.
3. The Executive Committee must meet with all the committee chairs once per quarter. Each committee chair may invite those members of their respective committees who may add value to the meetings with the Executive Committee.
4. All chairpersons of the various committees shall submit their respective budgets to the Executive Committee through the President within three months after the committees are established.
5. All committees are required to maintain accurate records of their income and expenses and submit a written report of the same quarterly to the Executive Committee through the president.
6. All chairpersons shall submit monthly reports and written quarterly reports to the executive committee through the president. Committees will maintain minutes of their meetings and submit the same to the Executive Committee through the President.
7. All expenses except regular maintenance expenses, not budgeted already or in excess of \$500.00 will require prior approval of the President or the Vice President, and all expenses in excess of \$1,000.00 shall require the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee, unless already appropriated in the budget by the Executive Committee.
8. At least two quotations shall be obtained for purchases of materials or services for \$1,000.00 or more.
9. No individual member shall enter into any contracts, agreements or other instruments whether written or oral, with any other individual or organization at any time with the exception of the President by virtue of such authority conferred on him/her per Article V of the Constitution.
10. Each committee shall have at least three members. Any member who is absent from three consecutive meetings without legitimate reasons will be disqualified from the respective committees.
11. The chairpersons of the committees shall be members of the Hindu Temple of St. Louis (HTSL) in good standing.

## **Request to devotees**

To help us maintain temple schedules, safety and help every one to enjoy their presence in the temple and respect others individual rights

- Please observe the timings and schedule for all private pooja services, performed at temple or your houses. If you delay the beginning or ending of poojas, it impacts the schedule of other poojas at the temple or at other devotees house.
- For private poojas, please buy the pooja materials, if you have to, before coming to pick-up priests. This will avoid any delay and schedule problems.
- Please do not pour oil on Navagrahas (Shani Graha) since this creates safety and sanitation problems. Please give your containers to the priest who can take care of this.
- Dress code posted by the doors needs to be maintained to avoid any unwanted scene, respect the sanctity of the temple and meet the spiritual needs of the community.
- Photography or videos is not allowed to maintain the sanctity of the temple.
- Temple uses standard pooja materials for all the poojas. If your needs are different than the normal material provided by the temple, please ensure that you have that material and take care of the unused material after poojas.
- Hinduism is a very diverse religion and we must respect each others way of pooja and rituals and your cooperation with the management and priests will help every one to enjoy the pooja and visit to the temple.
- Temple library has lots of religious books, video cassettes, audio cassettes and DVDs. Every month we have new arrivals coming to our existing collection. The donation to become the member of the library is \$25. Books are loaned for 2 weeks and video and audio materials are loaned for one week. Please make use of this facility and support the temple activities.

## Temple Hours

**Monday-Friday** 9AM – 12:00 noon, 5PM - 8PM

**Week-ends & major Festivals** 9AM – 8 PM

**Daily Services** 9:00AM – Nitya Puja

## Other scheduled Services:

**Sunday, Monday** Rudra Abhishekam

**Tuesday** Parvathi Abhishekam

Durga Puja

Hanumaan Puja

Ramayan Paath

**Wednesday** Dattatreya Abhishekam

**Thursday** Shri Saibaba Abhishekam & Sai bhajans

**Friday** Shri Mahalakshmi Abhishekam

**Saturday:** Shri Venkateswara Subrabhatham

Balaji Abhishekam

Vishnu Sahasranamam

First Sunday of Every Month Poolangi seva of Shri Venkateswara

Fourth Sunday of Every Month Navagraha Abhishekam

Every Chaturthi Ganesha Abhishekam

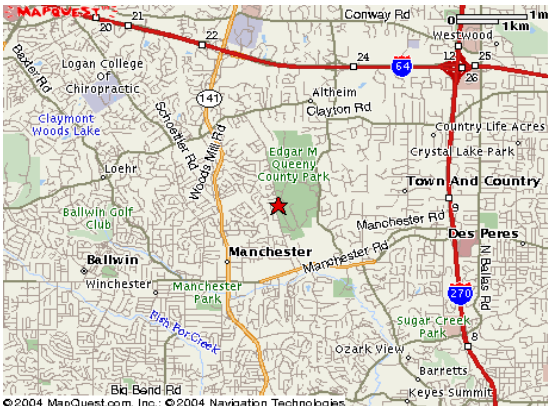
Shukla Trayodasi Pradosham Rudra Abhishekam

Every Krittika Nakshatram Murgan Abhishekam

Punarvasu Nakshatram Shri Rama Abhishekam

Every Rohini Nakshatram Shri Krishna Abhishekam

Shukla Dasami Shri Sai Vratam



From I-64  
Take 270 south,  
Manchester Rd  
west, right on  
weidman Rd,  
From I-44  
Take 270 North,  
Manchester Rd  
west, right on  
weidman Rd,

## **The Hindu Temple of St.Louis**

725 Weidman Rd, St. Louis, MO, 63011, USA, Tel#: (636)-230-3300

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