

# S.V. Temple Newsletter



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# Ashta Lakshmi – The Eight Forms of Goddess MahaLakshmi

## **Goddess MahaLakshmi- The Goddess of Wealth**

Goddess Lakshmi is the important Hindu deity of wealth, happiness and prosperity. She is a sacred divine power and popularly known for providing all kinds of strengths, wisdom, bestowed riches, ruling power, affluence and fortune. Goddess Lakshmi, also called Goddess Sri MahaLakshmi, is the consort of Sri Maha Vishnu. Goddess Lakshmi has many names and She is seen in two forms – BhuDevi and SriDevi, present on either side of Vishnu. BhuDevi is the fertility form and is the Mother Earth. SriDevi is the goddess of wealth and knowledge.

## **Goddess MahaLakshmi – appearance & description**

Goddess Lakshmi's vehicle is the owl (Ulooka in Sanskrit), that sleeps through the day and prowls through the night. She took rebirth at the time of Ksheerasagara Madhanam (churning of milk ocean). Because of this, Lakshmi is also called the daughter of the ocean. Since the moon also appeared from the ocean during the churning, the moon became her brother. She is often depicted as the supreme Mother Goddess and the Shakti of Narayana. The most striking appearance of Goddess Lakshmi is, a beautiful lady with four arms dressed in fine garments and precious jewels, seated on a lotus, surrounded by white elephants spraying water symbolizing the power of divine wisdom, purity, generosity and richness.

People strongly believe that worshipping all forms of Her will give the immense prosperity in their lives. Goddess Lakshmi is worshipped not only by Hindus but also in other religions, in different forms.

Wealth doesn't come only in the form of money but it may come in the form of knowledge, victory, health, happiness, children, vehicles etc., and all these are achieved by worshipping the eight forms of Goddess Lakshmi. The collective form of eight representations of Goddess Lakshmi is called Ashtalakshmi. Ashta meaning eight and Lakshmi meaning wealth/good luck and each form of representation has its own significance.

## **Goddess MahaLakshmi – In Eight Forms**

The Sri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple of Edina is unique. The main deity (Lord Venkateswara along with SriDevi and BhuDevi) is consecrated along with Ashta Lakshmi, eight secondary manifestations of Goddess Sri MahaLakshmi makes our temple special. It is the only temple in the entire North America and Asia with all 8 forms of Lakshmi and Sri Venkateswara swamy in one place of worship.

The eight forms of Lakshmi who preside over eight sources of wealth are: Aadi Lakshmi, Dhana Lakshmi, Dhanya Lakshmi, Gaja Lakshmi, Santana Lakshmi, Veera Lakshmi, Vijaya Lakshmi and Aishwarya Lakshmi.

The simple and best way to get the blessings of all these eight forms of Lakshmi is by reciting a shloka called Ashta Lakshmi Stotram and the person will be blessed with immense happiness, prosperity and wealth in life.



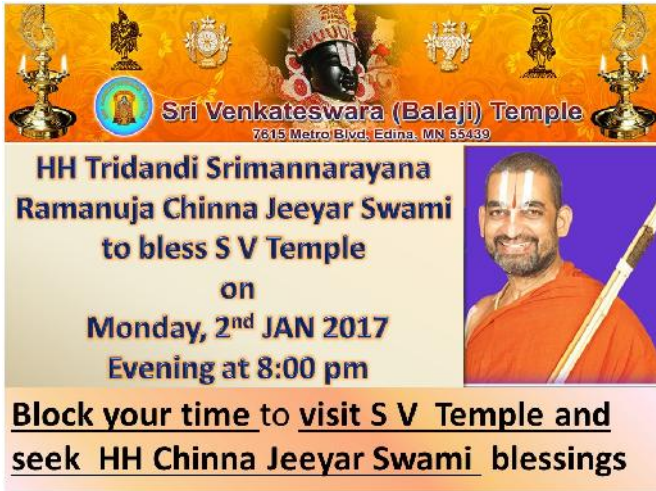
1. **Aadi Lakshmi** (The primeval Goddess) –The first and foremost form of Goddess Lakshmi and an ancient form of Lakshmi. She is portrayed as sitting on a lotus with four-arms holding a lotus and a white flag in her two hands, while the other two are in Abhaya Mudra and Varada Mudra. She is the personification of purity, peace and spiritual power.
2. **Dhana Lakshmi** (Goddess of money and Gold) - ‘Dhana’ means wealth in the form of money or gold. This is the most common wealth pursued by people. By worshipping Dhana Lakshmi, one can attain her divine grace and can get an abundance of great riches, wealth and prosperity. She is portrayed as sitting on a lotus with six-arms, wearing a red sari, and holding in her five hands a discus, a conch, the holy pitcher, bow and arrow, and a lotus while the sixth arm is in Abhaya Mudra with gold coins rolling from her palm.
3. **Dhanya Lakshmi** (Goddess of agricultural wealth) – ‘Dhanya’ means food grains. On one hand, Dhanya-Lakshmi is the giver of agricultural wealth and on the other, the all-important nourishments required for healthy human body and mind. With her divine grace, one can ensure abundance of foods - all year around. She is shown as sitting on a lotus with eight hands adorning green garments, and carrying

two lotus flowers, a mace, a sheaf of paddy, sugarcane, and bananas, while the other two hands are in Abhaya Mudra and Varada Mudra. Since food is the necessity of our life, worshipping Dhanya Lakshmi is of utmost importance.

4. **Gaja Lakshmi** (Goddess of animal wealth, like cattle and elephants and Goddess of power and royalty) – ‘Gaja’ means elephant and this form of Lakshmi is surrounded by an army of elephants, chariots, horses and cavalry representing more strength and power. It is believed that worshipping Gaja Lakshmi will protect the human world from all kinds of sufferings. She is the giver and protector of wealth, prosperity, grace, abundance and royalty. Gaja-Lakshmi is depicted as a beautiful goddess seated on a lotus, flanked by two elephants bathing her with water pots, four-arms, wearing red garments, and holding two lotus flowers and the other two arms being in abhaya and varada mudra.
5. **Santana Lakshmi** (Bestows offspring) – ‘Santana’ means children. Santana Lakshmi is the Goddess of progeny and bestows children. Children are the treasure and wealth of the family life. Santana Lakshmi is depicted as a beautiful lady seated on a lotus with six-arms, holding two pitchers, a sword, and a shield. Most importantly with a child on Her lap while the other two hands are in abhaya and varada mudras.
6. **Veera Lakshmi** (Bestows valor in battle and courage and strength for overcoming difficulties in life) – Veera Lakshmi in other words known as Dhairya Lakshmi. ‘Veera’ or ‘Dhairya’ meaning valor or courage. Worshipping this form of Lakshmi gives us bravery, strength and power by destroying fear. This form of wealth is extremely important to overcome the difficulties or hardships in our lives to lead a stable life. She is depicted as sitting on a lotus with eight-arms, wearing red garments, and carrying a discus, a conch, a bow, an arrow, a sword, a gold bar; the other two hands are in abhaya and varada mudra.
7. **Vijaya Lakshmi** (Goddess of victory) - Vijaya means victory. Victory not just in the time of wars but in all aspects of one’s lives. So, Vijaya akshmi signifies wealth in the form of victory, fearlessness, strength and ensures success in all the human ventures. She is shown as having eight arms sitting on a lotus wearing a red sari, and carrying a discus, a conch, a sword, a shield, a noose, and a lotus, other two hands being in abhaya and varada mudra.
8. **Aiswarya Lakshmi** (Goddess of riches) – ‘Aiswarya’ means prosperity and riches. Riches not just in the form of money but in the form of wisdom and knowledge. Worshipping Goddess Aiswarya Lakshmi, one can achieve riches in their lives. She is depicted as a goddess with Four-arms sitting on a lotus in white garments, carrying two lotus flowers, other two arms in abhaya and varada mudra.

# HH Chinna Jeeyar Swamy's Visit to Minneapolis

The Management of SV Temple is happy to announce the visit of HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami to SV Temple on January 2nd, 2017 at 8PM. During his visit Swami varu will be visiting all Deities in the temples and bless all devotees.



The advertisement features a golden background with a central image of Lord Venkateswara (Balaji) wearing a crown and holding a mace. Below this, the text reads: "Sri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple" and "7615 Metro Blvd, Edina, MN 55439". To the right is a portrait of HH Tridandi Srimannarayana Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swami, a man with a white tilak on his forehead, wearing an orange robe and holding a wooden staff. The text below the portrait states: "HH Tridandi Srimannarayana Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swami to bless S V Temple on Monday, 2nd JAN 2017 Evening at 8:00 pm". At the bottom, a red banner with white text says: "Block your time to visit S V Temple and seek HH Chinna Jeeyar Swami blessings".

HH Chinna Jeeyar Swamy's visit to Minneapolis on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> is organized by JET MN. During the visit SV Temple encourages its devotees to participate in JETMN's Saamoohika Sri Rama Paduka Pat-tabhishekam & Equality Celebrations led by HH Sri Tridandi Chinna Srimannarayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji.



Swami will be touring USA for the purpose of promoting his mission to build "The Statue of Equality" on the occasion of Bhagawadh Ramanujacharya's 1000th Birthday (Sahasrabdhi).

# S.V. Temple Updates and Future Plans

## News on Vighraha Pranaprathistapana Mandalaabhishekam

**The long awaiting day has happened finally.**

Pranaprathistapana event at SV Temple, Edina was performed from 8/4 - 8/7/2016. This event is a very important ritual in our Hindu temples during which installation of stone Gods idols, opening of the idols eyes for the first time and infusing life into the deities with recitation of hymns, man-



tras and Homams. This practice brings divinity and spirituality in temples and the ritual is mostly followed in Hinduism and Jainism.

At SV Temple, Edina, we have installed (7ft 1”) Sri Venkateswara Swamy (Balaji), Andal (5ft), Maha Lakshmi (5 ft), Ramanuja with Sampat Kumar in his lap (another form of Vishnu), Jaya & Vijaya (guards), Garuda and Dhvajastambam. 41 days prior to this event, Yantra Japam was started by our priests daily with Abhishekam of yantrams and chanting special mantras daily for hours.

Pranaprathistapana event was started on Aug. 4th and ended on Aug. 7th under the guidance of Lead priest Sri Narasimhacharya garu (Panchamukha Anjaneya swamy temple in California) with the help of our temple priests (Vamsi swamy, Seshadri swamy and Pavan swamy) and also from other temples of USA and many local volunteers. All the rituals were accompanied by live Nadaswaram music all through the event by a team from SriRangam temple in India.



Four days of endless Homams and pujas were done by temple Founders Mr. Madhu Reddy and Dr. Jyothsna Reddy to invite Gods to our temple. Boxes of flowers and garlands were brought in from out of state to decorate Gods. On August 7th at 10.50 am (auspicious time) Sri Venkateswara swamy was installed with Vedic chantings by all priests along with Maha Lakshmi and Andal (Goda Devi) in the presence of 5000 + devotees in their respective temples (Sannidhis).



First Abhishekam, Archana and Kalyanam (wedding) for swamy and his consorts was performed after this. During the entire event prasadam , lunch and dinner was provided to devotees, prepared by our temple food committee members and community volunteers . Many devotees sponsored pujas and participated in Homams and felt blessed to be a part of this unique process. Lot of people got very emotional and chanting for a long time and felt they were all in Tirumala temple in India (one of the famous temple).

Temple mementos and prasadam (Laddu and Vada) were given to sponsors and volunteers. Edina councilmen, Mayor and his wife were present and witnessed some of the rituals during this event. Temple Founders and Management would like to thank all of the community volunteers and sponsors of this event for supporting and making it a grand successful event. Also would like to specially thank our Goshti group for supporting this event



## **Mandala Abhishekam event from 9/16 -9/18/2016**

41 days After Pranaprathistapana event, Mandalabhishekam event was performed at SV Temple from 9/16-9/18/16 under the guidance of a group of priests for 3 days. As per Agama sastras, after Pranaprathistapana event, it is a custom to worship Lord Venkateswara swamy with full rigor of offerings and perform abhishekam so it will bring all auspiciousness for this temple, community and the country. Lord Balaji's Abhishekam was done by priests in the presence of so many devotees locally and out of state who felt very blessed to be a part of it. Also, Navagrahas idols were installed in Siva Sannidhi. Cultural events like music and dances were performed in front of Gods by our local artists.

Garuda vahana procession carrying Lord Venkateswara swamy with full decorations was done around the temple and also in the parking lot with



bhajans, dancing and chantings by devotees. Oonjal seva (swing) with many lights (Diyas) decorations all around the Gods was done as a special treat.

Temple Founders Mr. Madhu Reddy and Dr. Jyothsna Reddy along with their Son Deepak Reddy participated and supervised the whole event with the support of many community volunteers and committee chairpersons. Prasadams, lunch and dinner were served throughout the event and all the delicious food was made in temple by our food volunteers . Thank you all volunteers

**“Annadatha Sukheebhava”**



## Religious/Cultural Events since June 2016

Below is the recap of the cultural/religious events that took place since September 2015. We thank all the volunteers and organizers who made all these events a great success. We are looking forward to your support in the coming years.

**Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Saptah Gyan Yagya (Hindi)** – July 3 - 9, 2016. Shri Murlika Ji. Discoursed the Bhagawat Katha all seven days followed by Harati and Maha Prasad.

**Vigraha Pranaprathistapana Mahotsavam** – August 4, 2016 – August 7, 2016. News on this event have been covered under Temple updates. Please see Page No. 6.

**SV Temple VaraLakshmi Vratam** – August 12, 2016. Our community ladies participated in Varalakshmi vratham and got blessings of Goddesses Lakshmi.

**Yajurveda Upakarma** – August 17, 2016. Yajurveda Upakarma was performed in which Temple provided all the supplies including sacred thread needed for Upakarma. It happened in 3 batches and evening followed by samoohika Satyanarayana Swamy Vratam . Rakhi Pournami celebrations also took place.

**Sri Krishna Janmashtami** – August 25, 2016. Lot of kids dressed up like “ chinni krishnas “ and participated . Bhajans and chanting and pujas were done.

**Sri Maha Ganapathi Utsavam** – September 4, 2016.

5 ft. Clay Ganesha vigraham was prepared by Ganesh Kamath, our temple volunteer . Ganesh Vratam and katha parayanam were performed. A huge laddu prepared by the food committee that was auctioned and all proceeds went to temple. This event was supported by TEAM.

**Sri Maha Ganapathi Nimarjan** – September 10, 2016. Huge procession was done around the temple and Ganesha vigraham was immersed in water with chanting and dancing under the guidance of our temple priests.

**SVT School Open House** – September 11, 2016. For more updates on SVT School please see page no.12 ---- under the heading SVT School Updates.

**Maha Mandalabhishekam** – September 16 – 18, 2016. Please see page no. 6 for Maha Mandalabhishekam event details.

**Shrannavaratri and Dussera Celebrations** – October 1 – 11, 2016.

The nine days of Navratri celebrations were held in temple with Ashta Lakshmi Kumkumaarchana, Lalitha Sahasranama Parayana along with Bommala Koluvu, Gouri Puja and Saraswathi Puja. S.V. Temple organized Dussera celebrations for all these nine days, each day worshipping one

Lakshmi form. Many devotees visited and took part in all rituals that happened in the temple. Delicious prasadam were distributed everyday.

**Diwali Celebrations** – October 30, 2016. More than 2500 devotees participated in these celebrations. Devotee families and children participated in this event with great delight and took part in the worship of Goddess Lakshmi and celebrations of Diwali festival and enjoyed delicious dinner prepared by temple food volunteers. As every year, this year also S.V. Temple organized fireworks to celebrate the festival of lights. Many devotees from nearby cities also visited the temple.

**SV Temple Super Singer USA Season 1** – November 5 – 6, 2016. Kalanjali, the cultural wing of SV Temple, Edina has been a pioneer in bringing new programs to Twin cities of Minneapolis /St. Paul with the intent of giving back our rich heritage to the community and retain our culture for upcoming/ future generations of Indians growing in USA.

This year Kalanjali, in collaboration with sri Parthu Nemani, a well-known South Indian Music Director and singer (first winner of Padutha theyyaga singing contest by SP Balasubramanyam garu) started a new pro-



gram called “SUPER SINGER USA “Season 1, to celebrate Diwali on November 5 and 6, 2016 for semiclassical and filmy style of music. The program was a competition of filmy Indian music with no language and age barrier. The judging was done in the categories of Filmy Romantic, Filmy Classical, Filmy Devotional, Filmy Patriotic, Filmy Folk, Filmy Solo and Duet during the competition. The program was very successful with 120 participants. The feedback for the program was very positive especially due to judging of Parthu Nemani Garu and also his constructive explanation to all contestants where the improvement should be in their singing.

The social media was a very good proof of the successful nature of the program.

Also, on the occasion Diwali we had a cultural program with both classical and folk dances that was enjoyed by all the audiences, parents and Parthu Garu. All ages from 3 and above participated in the program. The excitement of the young faces during the prize distribution was worth all the effort. These both programs were conducted by cultural coordinators Venkat Devulapalli and Vishala pamalaparthi with the help of many temple volunteers. The event logistics were supported by temple Founders Mr. Madhu Reddy and Dr. Jyothsna Reddy garu. The grand sponsor for this event is Reddy Foundation.

Parthu garu also talked about Pahimam CD's (expecting to release 3rd volume of all new Annamacharya Keerthanas next year ) he is recording for temple's fund raising with the grants by Reddy Foundation. He is planning to include some of the winners of this competition in his next CD to encourage local talent.

Thanks to our temple volunteers for supporting this event and to our food committee chairperson Kalpana Murty for coordinating snacks and lunch to all volunteers, participants and audience. We are looking forward to many more events like this in future and hoping to get the continuous community support for these innovative programs at SV Temple.

**Kartheeka Deepotsavam & Satyanarayana Swami Vratam** – November 13, 2016. During Karthika masam, temple priests performed Rudraabhishekam to Lord Shiva on every Monday for 5 weeks. Sri Satyanarayana Swami Vratam was also celebrated during full moon day (pournami) and 50 families participated in Vratam. Maha Lakshmi Deepa Puja and Deepaotsavam (Diya with 365 wicks ) by all married women under the guidance of temple priests took place in the temple in a big way .

**Gita Jayanthi** – December 11, 2016. All school kids from music and culture class recited Shlokas . The significance of Gita Jayanthi was explained by sri Shankaranand ji and a lot of devotees participated in the event by chanting and singing . Prasadam was distributed to all devotees.

Sri Garudalwar  
Moolavar at Temple



**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**

# S.V. Temple School Updates

Sri Venkateswara Temple, Edina runs a Sunday school (10 am-12 pm) in the temple premises with an objective of increasing knowledge and awareness of Indian culture, languages, music and scripture in young minds. The school offers classes in Hindi (3 levels), Telugu (2 levels), classical Music, Culture & Scriptures and Shloka recitation. Our classes are small and usually gets filled out during open house itself. The Temple also offers a Bhagavad-Gita discourse/discussion session on Sunday mornings for Adults conducted by one of the leading Bhagwat-Gita exponents – Sri Shankaranand Ji. Parents are encouraged to attend these enthralling sessions while their children are attending classes. This class is open to public / community so anyone can attend. The teaching faculty at the SV Temple School comprises a team of dedicated volunteer teachers who strive to make their classes comprehensive in addition to providing a lot of fun to students. One of the highlights of each class is a play or a performance item that the teachers have the students present during the School Annual day which is held at the end of the academic year. This academic year has seen unprecedented enrollment with school roster hitting 80 + students! This is indeed a tribute to the dedication and effort on part of the teachers and administrative staff. The school holds an open house at the beginning of the academic year to welcome and register new and returning students. Currently all the

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Class</b>
Mrs. Vimala Muthyala	Telugu Level – II & Vice Principal
Mrs. Madhu Rajulapati & Mrs. Sirisha Kodali	Telugu Level - I
Mrs. Sajla Aggarwal	Hindi Level - IA
Mrs. Sweta Gadia	Hindi Level - IB
Mr. Gopal Acharya	Hindi Level - II
Mrs. Anuradha Ramakrishna	Shloka Recitation
Mrs. Krishnaveni Katragadda	Classical (Carnatic) Music
Mrs. Uma Uppaluri & Mr. Manoj Prasad	Indian Culture & Scriptures
Mrs. Hema Acharya	Front desk & Admissions Officer
Mrs. Shruthi Gupta	Front desk
Mr. Gopal Acharya	School Principal
Dr. Jyothsna Reddy	School Director

## Tribute to Sri Mangalampalli Bala Muralikrishna



Sri M. Bala Muralikrishna garu passed away on November 22, 2016 at his residence in Chennai, India in his sleep. He had not been feeling well for a while and he was 86 yrs. old at the time of death.

SV Temple, Edina was fortunate enough to host Sri M. Bala Muralikrishna garu and arrange his concert in 2014. That was his last concert trip to USA. During our Nadostavam event in 2014, he was a part of it and our community has enjoyed the concert and felt blessed to be a part of it. A lot of kids got to meet and take pictures with him during that time and it was once in a life time chance for all of us.



He had multiple talents as a carnatic vocalist, multi- instrumentalist, play-back singer in movies, composer and actor. He was awarded “Padma Vibhushan”, India’s second highest civilian honor for his contributions towards Indian Arts.

“ May his soul rest in peace.”



## Upcoming Events and Festivals

Date	Event
January 1	New Year Day Celebrations
January 8	Vaikunta Ekadasi
January 13	Bhogi
January 14	Sankranti/Pongal
January 15	Kanuma
February 3	Ratha Saptami
February 6	Bheeshma Ekadasi
February 24	Mahasivarathri
March 12	Holi/Vasantotsavam
March 28	Ugadi/Gudi Padwa/Cheti Chand (Hemalamba)
April 4	Sri Rama Navami
April 13	Tamil New Year/ Vishu/Baisakhi
April 28	Akshaya Tritiya
May 1	Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi
May 8	Sri Nrisimha Jayanthi
May 10	Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya Jayanthi
May 21	Hanuman Jayanthi
July 26 - 31	Temple Brahmotsavams

## Comments and Articles

We are inviting all readers, devotees, followers, students, teachers, and writers, etc. to submit devotional stories, essays, and experiences to S.V. Temple Newsletter editor. After newsletter committee's review, selected articles will be published in the upcoming issues of the newsletter. Editor of the newsletter will have all the rights to modify the articles to address language, grammar, and space-constraint issues. Since the audience of this newsletter comes from various age groups, we request you to send articles that everybody can understand. Make sure that your articles are helpful in educating the readers in devotional field and encourage them to follow *dharma*. Also, you can send comments on the published articles and ideas for new articles that you want to see. You can email your articles to [news@svtemplemn.org](mailto:news@svtemplemn.org).



Lakshmi Ksheera Samudra Raaja Tanayam Sree Ranga Dhaameshwarim  
Daasi Bhootha Samasta Deva Vanithaam Lokaika Deepankuram  
Sreemanmanda Kataaksha Labdha Vibhavada Brahmendra Gangaadharam  
Tvaam Trailokya Kudumbineem Sarasijam Vande Mukunda Priyaam

Goddess Lakshmi, who is the daughter of the king of the ocean of milk, whose abode is Srirangam (with Lord Ranganatha), who is served by all the divine ladies in heaven, who is the guiding light for the world, who has obtained the sustained (continued, everlasting) glance (Grace) from Brahma, Indra and Shiva, whose abode is the three worlds (Bhu, Bhuvah, Svaha) - I offer my prostrations to Thee, the beloved of Lord Krishna (Mukunda).

### **Thanks from S.V Temple:**

S.V. Temple earnestly thank all the generous donors, wonderful devotees, learned priests and dedicated volunteers that help to make our Temple a marvelous place of worship.

### **Temple Hours:**

The temple is open weekdays from 9:30 AM to Noon & 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM  
Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM  
Please visit [www.svtemplen.org](http://www.svtemplen.org) for updates and details.