S.V. Temple Newsletter



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Great Saint Poets of India (Conclusion)

Written and Compiled by Mrs. Gayathri Vempati

Why were Saints born?

India is called karma bhoomi for a reason. India is the home for numerous scriptures, which teach us Sanatana Dharma, the different means of attaining salvation. For the Kali Yuga, the simplest Bhakthi method to attain salvation is singing the name and the glory of the Lord (Bhajan or chanting Bhagavan nama) and is open to all four varnas (Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras). To remind us of the forgotten method, to reach the true happiness, avadhootas, yogis, gurus, and saints were born.

Since time immemorial, India is the home for various religions and cultures. Our scriptures show the importance of a saint. As said "Daivam Manusha Roopena", the Lord Himself appears as a human being on Earth in the form of a saint ('Satguru') to give us the knowledge of self-realization and attain salvation. Devotees are freed from the sorrowful disease of samsara by seeking refuge in a true saint and devoting one's life to Him, so one can easily attain moksha.

In Taittariya Upanishad sloka 11.2, it says:

Ma:thru de:vo: bhava
Pithru de:vo: bhava
A:cha:rya de:vo: bhava
Atithi de:vo: bhava

Meaning: Our mother is equivalent to the Lord for giving birth and providing nourishment. Our father is equivalent to the Lord for upbringing us. Our teachers



Indian Saints

are equivalent to the Lord for providing us with education and training to face all life situations and teaching knowledge of samsara, dharma, karma, and moksha. The guest should also be treated equivalent to the Lord and should be received and honored with a modest and friendly nature.

India is known to be the land of Saints and Gods

The Great Saints in India embody the highest ideals and are credited for demonstrating the real knowledge of spiritual awareness (difference between the worldly attachments and God). Our saints have an important place in people's lives. Saints help people to attain physical and mental stability, plant the seed of devotion in them and provide appropriate knowledge to attain salvation.

India, the Holy land of diverse cultures linked to deep-rooted spirituality through the deific (divine power) of many great souls (Avadhootas), saints, gurus, and yogis. Through their true knowledge, the glorified souls had revealed many presiding truths. People across the world and from distinct religious backgrounds believe that India has the mystical power to heel the fatigued soul. The incredible hidden treasure of the mind has been

unfurled by the sages who traveled to the spiritual land (India) over centuries.

Indian Saints considered to be the manifestations of God.

So, the Bhakti and Sufi Movements, Saints of Ancient times, The Acharyas, The Saivite Acharyas (Nayanars) of Tamil Nadu, The Alwars or Vaishnava Mystics of South India, Saints of Maharashtra, Saints of North India, Women Saints, The Punjabi Sardar/Sikh Gurus, Gurus of Recent Times, and many other Saints like Sri Tyagaraja Swamy, Sri Syama Shastry, Sri Muthuswamy Deekshitar, Sri Annamacharya, Sri Rama Dasu, Yogis/ Avadhootas like Sri Shiridi Sai Baba, Sri Pada Sri Vallabha Swamy, Sri Vasudevananda Saraswathy Swamy, Sri Ramana Maharshi, Mata Sarada Devi, Mata Nirmala Devi (founder of Sahaja Yoga) and Gurus like Sri Guru Dattatreya, Sri Guru Dakshina murthy, Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy, Sri Mahaperiyava, Swamy Vivekananda, Swamy Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, Swamy Dayanand Saraswathi, Satya Sai Baba, Sainath Sarat Bapuji, Anandamayi Ma, Chinmayananda Swamy and etc., have guided their followers to achieve peace of mind through spirituality. They have adopted simple measures to explain religious philosophies. Most of them adopted the method of narrating tales to educate the masses. Some of the Indian saints, however, propagated renunciation of the worldly affairs through their scriptures, writings etc., to achieve salvation. It is the legacy of these great saints that represent India and Indian ideology.

The Lord is ever-present. However, when He manifests on this earth as a human being, His physical and material body must pass away just as any other human being. Then, the Lord lives on through His idols (Murtis), through the scriptures and through His spiritual successors. Lord Sri Swamy Narayan, Himself has stated in the Vachanamrut (Vadtal 18) that every paramhansa (saint) and devotee should know and understand the Guruparampara (lineage of the Spiritual Gurus).















The true direct lineage of Lord Shree Swaminarayan - the Guruparampara

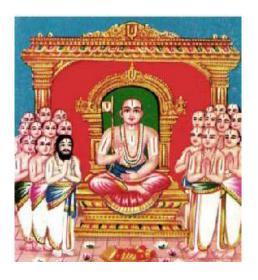
Indian Saints are considered as the manifestations of God. Indian saints have set themselves as role models for masses to follow. Indian saint poets have changed peoples lives in significant ways with their writings (sakhi, poems, dohas, songs, keertanas, kritis) and scriptures. They guide their devotees depending upon the philosophy which they believe in. Their methods may differ, but they all share one common goal and lead everyone to a permanent bliss, the Lord. It is also believed that the easiest way to get self-realization is to serve the saints or gurus.

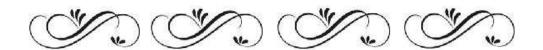
It is said in Skanda Purana, Guru Geetha Chapter 1, Sloka 58

gururbrahmā gururviṣṇuḥu Gururdevo maheśvaraḥa guruḥ sākṣāt parabrahma tasmai śrī gurave namaḥ

The guru is Brahmā, the guru is Viṣṇu, the guru is Maheśvara (Śiva), the guru is the self-revealing limitless Brahman. Salutations to that revered guru. (Gu=Darkness, Ru=Remover)

A true Guru or a true Saint is like a light house in the sea. Light houses are constructed at various places in the sea to enable the Ships and Boats to avoid rocks and dangers and make them sail safely. The Guru also serves a similar purpose in the ocean of worldly existence. They surpass nectar in sweetness and make our worldly path smooth and easy to traverse. By listening or reading to the saint stories, the body-consciousness or egoism and the sense of duality vanish.





Kids Column My Tirupathi-Thirumala trip

- Ananthan Gomadam

On a sunny day, we went from my home to Tirupathi in a train with my mom and grandfather. The train was very fun. I went from Egmore station to Renegunta station and then went in an auto to get darshan of Padmavathy Thayar at Alamelumangapuram. Typically, we pray to Thayar (Lakshmi) before praying to Perumal (Srivari). That is why we say Mathru Devo Bhava and then Pithru Devo Bhava. And from there, we took a taxi to go to Govindarajapuram and took darshan of Ramanujacharya, Manavala mamunigal, Pundarikavalli thayar and finally Govindaraja Perumal. We took an ac bus from Tirupathi to Tirumala, and it was so much fun!

After reaching Tirumala, the next day, first swamy we prayed to was Sri Varaha swami and we went to Swami Pushkarani. And then we prayed to Swami Ananthalwan and saw Swami Ananthalwan's brindavanam (Swami Ananthalwan's sammadhi). In Ananthalwan's temple, we took darshan of Dasavatharam, Swami Ananthalwan's wife and son and Swami's disciples. While entering the Tirumala temple, we saw Ananthalwan's crowbar on the right side of the entrance.

We finally prayed to Balaji. He was so beautiful just like SV Temple Balaji. Next, we went to Swami Ramanuja's sannidhi. There Swami's name is Sri Bhashyakara. My mom said Swami Ramanuja is seated at the chest height of Balaji because Ramanuja is the acharya of Sri Venkateshwara swami. Next, we prayed to Yoga Narasimha swamy. After that we got Laddo and went back to our room. We took 2 buses and came to the train station and then went home.

> Ananthan Gomadam 7 Years (2nd Grader) Plymouth, MN.



Article on Social Justice It Is Our Dharma to Stop Racism

- Gautham Reddy, PhD

Hinduism is a rich treasure house of moral thinking and ethical practice. The central concept is dharma or "religious duty." There are many ways to think about dharma in our personal lives and in our society. Hindus are familiar with the concepts of sanatana dharma, varnashrama dharma, stri dharma, svadharma, and sadharana dharma. Today, I will discuss sadharana dharma.

Sadharana dharma means "general" dharma. It is always suitable for all people. It is the universal standard of good behavior. The purpose of sadharana dharma is to ensure that we live together with our families and communities in peace. It also helps us to develop a more spiritual perspective on life.

Sadharana dharma can be broken down into two forms: 1) yamas, things we should actively avoid, and 2) niyamas, things we should actively do. Yamas help reduce negative influences in our lives. Yamas include ahimsa (non-violence), satya (truthfulness), asteya (not stealing), brahmacarya (chastity), and aparigraha (non-possessiveness). On the other hand, niyamas help promote positive influences in our lives. Niyamas include kshama (forgiveness), dhruti (determination), daya (compassion), arjava (sincerity), and mitahara (moderate lifestyle).

Sadharana dharma is essential for social justice. However, it is difficult to understand how we should interpret yamas and niyamas today. Immigration, globalization, and rapid changes in modern society have created new moral dilemmas and social problems. We were all shocked to see the murder of George Floyd on video in 2020. Floyd was an unarmed black man who was brutally murdered by a white police officer. This put Minneapolis at the center of a national discussion on racism.

How should Hindus relate to the terrible violence of racism? Can yamas and niyamas help us think about how to act in this situation? Our ancient teachers did not comment on this specific issue. It requires careful reflection!

First, we must recognize there is no grounds for racism in Hindu tradition. As the Bhagavad Gita (6.29) states, "Those who are sincere yogis see all beings in God and God in all beings." Though we cannot all live as yogis or sadhus, this is nevertheless a lofty value we can all practice.

Our goal must be to treat all people equally and with reverence. This means we must examine our own prejudices around race, region, language, gender, caste, and all other social identities. Thinking "I am the best" or "my community is the best" is a form of egoism. This has a negative impact on our spiritual and social progress.

The yama of ahimsa and the niyama of daya are especially helpful for rejecting racism and supporting the Black community. Some may say "this is not our issue, and we have our own problems." But as the famous Black civil rights activist, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has noted, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." What a powerful understanding of daya! Dr. King, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, heavily promoted ahimsa in his fight for racial equality. It was due to the determination of Black civil rights leaders like Dr. King that racist US immigration laws were finally dropped. Indians and other non-white groups were only allowed to enter the US beginning in 1965. We should never forget this debt.

Struggles for justice are always rooted in sadharana dharma. In this troubled time, we must learn more about racism and its impact on our Black brothers and sisters. Many of us have our own experiences of racism in this country. We can draw on those experiences to understand what Black Americans face. There will be many similarities. But it is also important to recognize important differences. One significant example is police brutality. Police treat Black people with more cruelty and violence than Indians and other communities. There is no justification for this. We must seek to understand the needs of our Black brothers and sisters with sincerity and compassion. We must speak out in their support and work together to challenge racism in Minnesota. By observing yamas and niyamas, we can contribute to a more peaceful world. This will be beneficial to the prosperity and spiritual growth of all individuals and communities.



Highlights of 2023

SRI TRIDANDI CHINNA JEEYAR SWAMY'S VISIT TO SVTEMPLE IN JULY 2023

On July 11th, Sri Chinna Jeeyar swamy visited SV temple and was invited with purna Kumbham and garlands by SV Temple management Madhu and Jyothsna Reddy, temple priests Seshadri swamy, Prasanna swamy and Venkata Ramana swamy in the presence of all his devotees. Swamy vis-ited all Gods Sannidhis on temple floor and performed Mangala sasanam (puja and Harati) to our Lord Venkateswara Swami and then He visited all temple facilities in the building and gave blessings to all devotees pre-sents. He also inaugurated the classrooms of Prajna school (traditional Ve-dic school), soon to be opened in September 2023 at our SV temple on Saturdays (10.30 am -12.30 pm) after Labor Day. He was then ushered to the temple auditorium and was seated on dais. He then lit the Deepam on stage and greeted all devotees and gave a small speech about the "statue of equality."

(The tallest Ramanuja statue built near Jeeyar's ashram in Hyderabad). Jeeyar swamy first came to our SV temple in 2017 when he was planning to build Ramanuja statue to raise funds. At that time many temple devotees and community members supported that project by donating large amounts to the noble cause. Now, the statue was completed and inaugurated in 2022 and became one of the tourist places due to 108 Vaishnava temples. (all 108 Divya Desams) in one campus. Jeeyar swamy showed the completed project and thanked all the supporters and gave blessings to everyone.

After the event, JET / VT SEVA, who organized his visit to Minneapolis distributed prasadams to everyone.





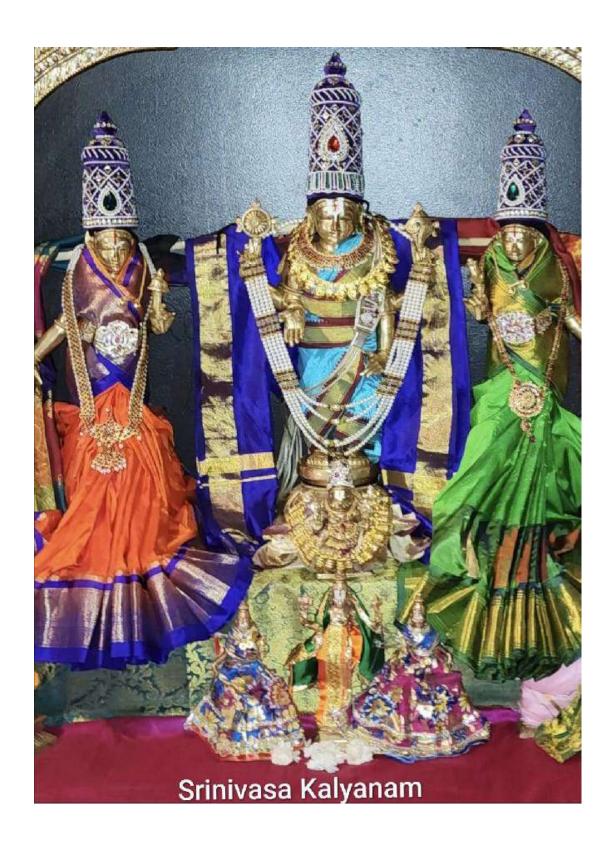












NADOSTAVAM EVENT 2023

SV Temple did celebrate this year's Nadostavam event in May for 4 days (12-14 and 21) in a grand way after 3 years of covid's situation. On Friday 12th evening Miss. Spoorthi Rao's (known child music prodigy from India) concert was attended by classical music lovers from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois states. On both Saturday and Sunday (13th & 14th), we have conducted classical music competitions for all kids (from ages 5-18) in vocal, instrumental, and multimedia. Nearly 250 kids have participated in competitions which were judged by Vidwan Sasikiran, Vizag sisters and KV Usha Prasad (one of the members from judges panel) and other musicians from India.

This year, "jeopardy" a new musical game was introduced by Dr.Sasikiran ji, was well received by attendees and many audiences. The Vizag Sri sisters Concert on Annamayya songs was also well attended on Sunday 14th, followed by prize distribution to all participants. On 21st of May, temple has invited all local and out of state artists to perform All Day concerts in temple auditorium which was well received.

Musical dance performances by CK Amirtha valli, Tarangani school of dance, Minneapolis and by Mrs. Vanitha Suresh's group from Wisconsin and Los Angeles were well received by all.

This year's special Nadostavam concert was performed by Sasikiran ji and Ganesh ji during our temple Brahmostavam event on August 27th and then felicitation of all artists was done by temple management Mr. Madhusudhana Reddy and Dr.Jyothsna Reddy in front of Lord Venkateswara swamy.

SV temple management would like to thank all our volunteers (Nadostavam on stage, off stage and kitchen), all Gurus and parents who encouraged our next generation kids and all performers who came to showcase their talents to our community members during this special program after a period of covid.





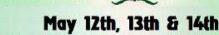












Deadline for Participants Registration: May 1st



SV Temple Auditorium 7615 Metro Blvd, Eding, MM 55439























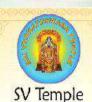












Brahmotsavam 2023

August 27, 2023 @ 2.30pm. SV Temple Auditorium, Minneapolis



Spl. concert by world renowned singers Carnatica Brothers

Vid. K.N. Shashikiran & Vid. P. Ganesh



Vid. V.V.S. Murari Vid. Ramanujan Ethirajan Vid. Balaji Chandran







Dedicated to Mridangam Legend Guru Karaikkudi Mani

06.30pm: Grand Inaugural concert by Kum. SPOORTHI RAO - Super Singer fame and child prodigy for the 1st time touring Minnesota and USA with Chi. Sanjay Suresh - Violin, Vid. K.V. Prasad - Mridangam,

12th May



2023



Chi. Sanjay Suresh



Vid. K V Prasad



Vid. Balaji Chandran

Carnatic Star and Bhakthi Star 2023 Online Contest from 05.00pm to 09.00pm Register through SV temple website / Email

Nadotsavam Donor Passes ENTRY TICKET: \$10

Temple address: 7615 Metro Blvd, Edina, MN-55439 Temple Hours: Monday - Friday 9.30 nm 12.00 pm and 5.31 pm - 8.00 pm Saturday - Sunday - 9.30 am 8.00 pm Please contact our cultural co-ordinators: Venkat - 618.889 9389 / Vishala - 612.251.0004 Contact email: Kalanjali

DONATIONS SUGGESTED - \$15

Temple address: 7615 Metro Blvd., Edins, MN-56439 Temple Hours: Menday - Friday 9.30 am-12.00 pm and 5.30 pm - 8.00 pm Saturday - Sunday 9.30 am- 9.00 pm Please contact our cultural co-ordinators: Venkat - 612 968 9898 / Vishala - 612 251 0004 Contact email: Kalanjali@sytemplemn.org





Annamacharya Sankeertana Vaibhavam

May 6th, 2023

We are celebrating this annual event in the commemoration of Shri TallapakaAnnaamcharya Jayanthi in order to encourage our community kids to know more about Annamacharya, His life and His Sankeerthanas.

This year we celebrated 615th Annamacharya Jayanthi by singing his Sankeerthanas. On May 5th morning Priests performed Annamacharya abhishekam and puja. As a part of the event, on May 6th evening Annamacharya snkeertanas were sung by devotees in the presence of Sri Ashta Lakshmi Sametha Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

Every year this event is Coordinated by SV Temple with the help of community volunteers. Temple management would like to thank all Annamayya Sankeerthana singers and devotees and for making this event as another remarkable success. Special thanks to Gayatri and Uma who took lead to coordinate this event and news letter







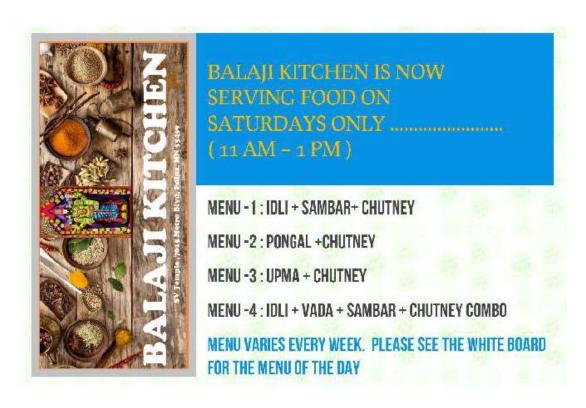
Temple Kitchen Project Update

BALAJI Kitchen opening -

We have started our temple kitchen(Balaji Kitchen) on 4/22/23 on Ugadi day with the help of community volunteers and our priests. Thanks to all our community volunteers and temple devotees for coming forward to support this project to raise funds for temple. Balaji Kitchen is open on Saturdays only from 11 am to 1.30 pm and traditional South Indian dishes like Idly, Vada and Pongal and other special Rice preparations menu is being offered in Sattvic style without any use of onions and garlic.

Since the opening of the kitchen, we have served many of our temple devotees and the feedback on food was "SUPERB". Planning to open the kitchen in the evening of Saturdays and on Sundays also very soon.

SV Temple Management would like to thank and appreciate our committed kitchen volunteers for supporting this project and hope it continues the same in future.



SV Temple's 7th Brahmotsavam event August 24th—27th, 2023

Our SV Temple has celebrated its 7th anniversary event on August 24th to 27th under the supervision and management of SV Temple founders Dr. Jyothsna and Sri. Madhusudhana Reddy.

Our SV temple's pranaprathista of all moola murtis occurred in 2016. Since then, we have been celebrating our anniversary / Brahmostavam event every year in August even during Covid times.

This year we have two new priests joined us just before ceremonies, so we have Four full time Sri Vaishnava priests and one Vaishnava priest cook to prepare prasadams.

This program started on the 24th evening with Ankurarpana (starting rituals).

On 25th, celebrated Varalakshmi vratham where all married women worshipping Mahalakshmi for their husbands and family's wellbeing. On 26th, celebrated Lord Venkateswara Swamy's Kalynam with SriDevi and BhuDevi. On the same day evening, Garuda vahana Seva (taking swamy around the temple) as a procession. Our Lakeville community members performed Kolatam (dances with sticks to Annamayya songs) was a highlight. Annadanam was done to all our devotees after Srinivasa kalyanam with delicious lunch, prepared by our Prasanna swamy and Venkata Ramana swamy with our committed volunteers's support. For this annadanam, many devotees have donated groceries and financial support.

On 27th (final day), Sahasra Kalasabhishekam to Sri Venkateswara swamy and Sri Ramanujacharya with 108 kalasams was performed in the presence of hundreds of devotees by priests and Goshti members. Swamy's alankaram was so beautiful that swamy looked so glorious and divine. During alankaram time, kalarapanam was performed by students at Tarangini school of dance.

In the evening of 27th, as a conclusion of Brahmostavam program, Pushpa yagam, Deepaalankarana were performed by priests, and it was supported by Goshti members, devotees, and community volunteers. During our Brahmostavam event, cultural programs were conducted in our temple auditorium on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with lots of local kids, showcasing their classical music and dance talents. It was coordinated and organized by our Andal Goshti team.

Our Temple management's sincere thanks to Sai Krishna (front desk), Pranitha (supportive of vastrams sale), Nappinnai, Saroja and Amirtha and to many community volunteers who supported this program.

Finally, SV temple management would like to sincerely thank all our priests Seshadri swamy, Prasanna swamy, Krishna swamy, Praveen swamy and Venkata Ramana swamy, our Goshti supporters — Partha swamy, Balaji swamy, Narasimhan swamy & Parthan swamy, Andal Goshti, Jayasri Shankar (garlands), sponsors, volunteers, puja/ annadanam supplies donors and everyone who supported this event to become a grand success.







Photos from Brahmotsavam Event



Upcoming Events and Festivals

Date	Event
September 6	Sri Krishna Ashtami/ Jayanti
September 18	Ganesh Chaturdhi/Vinayaka Chavithi
September 23	Ganesh Nimarjan
October 15	Sharad Navaratri/ Devi Navaratri Begins
October 20	Saraswathi Puja
October 21-23	Durga Ashtami, Maharnavami and Vijaya Dasami
November 12	Deepavali/ Diwali
November 13	Karthika Masam Begins
November 26	Karthika Deepotsavam / Karthika Pournami
December 17	Dhanurmasam Begins
December 22	Vaikunta Ekadasi
December 23	Geetha Jayanthi



Introduction to New Temple Priests

This year, two new priests joined our SV Temple.

Sri Sankarshanapalli Venkata Krishnama Chari (Krishna swamy) -

Krishna Swamy joined us on August 23rd, 2023.

He hailed from Visakhapatnam(vizag). Was trained at Jeeyar's Institute as Sri Vaishnava priest in Pancharatra Agamam, Divya Prabhandam and in Yajur Veda Smartham. He worked as pradhana archaka (head priest) after his training with Jeeyar trust. He is experienced in performing pranaprathista and Brahmostavam events, Yajurveda Smartham pujas along with all temple pujas including weddings and homams. He is married and has two kids. He can fluently speak



Telugu, Hindi and Tamil but has working knowledge in English.

He is available for scheduling pujas at home and at temple.

Sri Debbata Praveen Kumara Acharyulu (Praveen swamy) -

Praveen swamy joined SV temple on August 23rd, 2023.

He hailed from Hyderabad. He studied Pancharatra Agamam at Jeeyar educational trust in Andhra Pradesh and has been working in temples around Hyderabad area and in Sri Vaishnava temples in Mauritius. He is experienced in performing all temple pujas including pranaprathistas, Brahmostavam and weddings along with homams. He is married and has two kids. He can speak fluently Telugu, Hindi and English.



He is available for scheduling pujas at home and at temple.

Please welcome our new priests – Krishna swamy and Praveen swamy.



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.



Dharma eva hato hanti, dharmo raksati raksitaha tasmaad dharmo na hantavyo, maano dharmo hato'vadhit

-Manusmiriti 8.15

Dharma destroys those who destroy it, and it protects those who protect it. Dharma is something that offers you a great deal of protection from all sorts of ills, evils and from any other harm.

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.svtemplemn.org for COVID related Temple Hours.