

Om Namo Venkatesaya

Newsletter 2026



S.V. Temple

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WELCOME

Om Namo Venkatesaya!

S.V. Temple whole-heartedly welcomes all devotees of the twin cities and surrounding areas to become part of our temple community and be the recipients of the limitless grace of our Sri Venkateswara Swami! Several additions and updates have been effected since the last newsletter, as presented in the following sections.

A main one is that SVTemple established a sannidhi (shrine) for our most beloved and most benevolent Lord Hanuman! Coming to food and prasadam, Balaji Kitchen is now on an established Saturday-morning schedule offering delicious, satvik food, prepared at the temple by volunteers, with proceeds going to temple development. As for temple management, several committees have been formed and running smoothly, led and supported by dedicated volunteers. A key highlight of that is the temple's own community Whatsapp Group, where temple events, updates, and opportunities to engage are regularly communicated.



In the following sections, several important details about these changes are provided, followed by a summary of highlights from 2024, and some interesting articles from our community. The temple welcomes one and all to eagerly get involved with temple activities, reap the benefits of Sanatana Dharma and further help propagate it for the benefit of our future generations.

Wishing everyone a very happy new year filled with the boundless grace of Sri Astalakshmi sametha Sri Venkateswara!

S.V. Temple.
Edina

Temple updates

1) A shrine for Lord Sri Hanuman

It has been desired for long that our temple have a shrine for the most beloved deity of Sanatana Dharma, and the greatest bhakta of Bhagavan Sri Rama. This desire came to be fulfilled by the end of 2024 when a divine moola vigraha of Lord Hanuman, displaying exuberance in his devotion, graced our temple. A shrine was built for him opposite Sri Mahalakshmi, and the Pranapratishta Mahotsava was performed with great diligence and fervor. Since then, Lord Hanuman is being routinely worshipped by a large group of devotees, with Abhishekams, Vadamala poojas, and many other aradhanas. The first anniversary of the sannidhi was celebrated on November 8, 2025 with overwhelming involvement from devotees.



2) Balaji Kitchen

Something to look forward to at the temple over the past year has been having lunch at Balaji Kitchen on Saturday mornings. Groups of dedicated kitchen volunteers have been taking turns, time after time, providing hot, delicious, satvik lunches prepared fresh right in front of our eyes. This effort has constantly been well received by devotees as a supplementing family activity to look forward to after darshan and seva at the temple upstairs. The proceeds from Balaji Kitchen help support temple development. SV temple thanks all the committed leads and supporting volunteers for their services at the kitchen.



3) Temple floor and stairs

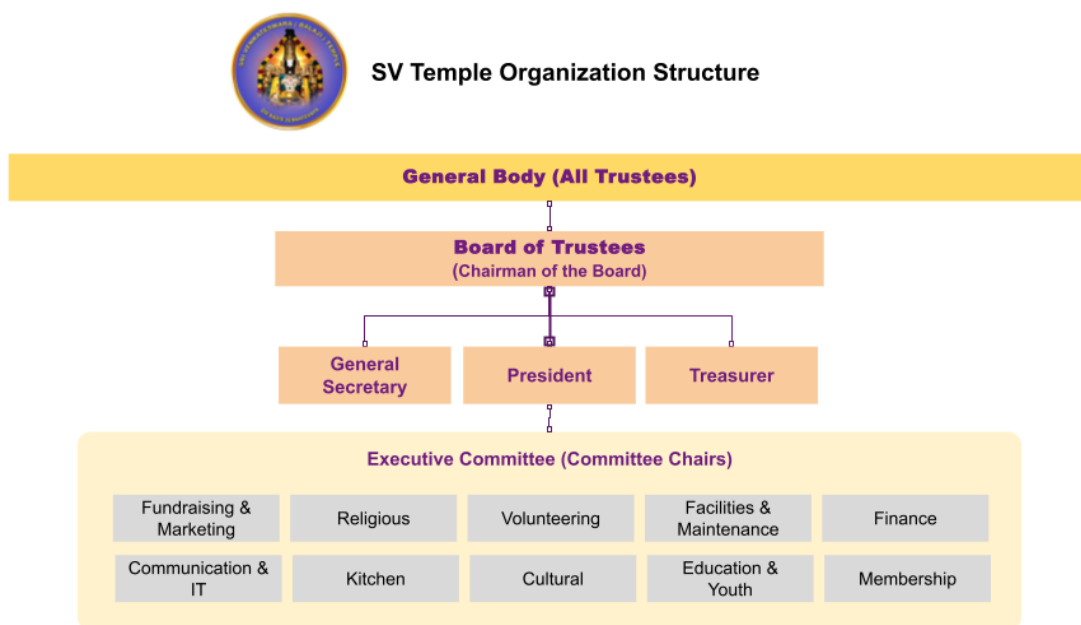
The old carpeting on the temple floor has been replaced with tiles of a color scheme chosen to complement the shrine walls and facades in providing a more serene, meditative ambience. The

staircase has also been upgraded with new carpeting to complement the tiles. The temple gratefully acknowledges all the contributors for their support.

4) Administrative

The temple administration is being streamlined with the formation of the following nine committees, each led by a committed volunteer, and supported by eager devotees. What in the past had been the fulltime responsibility of just two management personnel and a few dedicated volunteers and priests, is now being transitioned over to the ten committees. In addition to keeping individual responsibilities to a manageable level, this brings about wider community involvement in running the temple.

Organization Structure and Executive Committees:



Committees and Chairs:

1. Fundraising & Marketing – Narasimman Rengaswamy
2. Religious – Parthasarathy Seshadri
3. Volunteering – Saikrishna Reddy
4. Facilities, Maintenance & Security – Kousikan Srinivasan
5. Finance – Nikita Iyengar
6. Communication & IT – Jaysimhan Kidambi
7. Kitchen – Vanitha Meganathan
8. Cultural – Nappinnai Sundarrajan

9. Education & Youth – Parthan Gomadam

10. Membership – Satish Iyengar

Numerous opportunities are open to support the temple and participate in conducting various religious and cultural events. Devotees are welcome to reach out to the committee leads for information and are encouraged to join the Temple Community Whatsapp group by scanning the QR code here.



Highlights from 2025 events

1) Brahmotsavam

The temple successfully conducted its ninth grand Sri Vari Brahmotsavam, a four-day spiritual celebration, that took place from **July 31st to August 3rd, 2025**. Devotees from across the region gathered at the temple on Metro Blvd to witness ancient Vedic rituals, divine processions, and vibrant cultural performances.



Commencement of Sacred Rites

The festivities began on the evening of **Thursday, July 31st**, with foundational rituals to sanctify the event. The temple priests performed the *Vishwakshena Pooja* and *Punyahavachanam*, followed by *Ankurarpana* and the *Dhwajapata Adhivasam*.



On **Friday, August 1st**, the festival officially opened in the morning with the *Dhwaja Arohanam* (flag hoisting) and the *Maha Kumbha Sthapana*. That evening, the atmosphere was charged with devotion during the *Sri Vari Hanumat Vahana Procession*, where Lord Srinivasa – decorated as Sri Rama – was carried in a ceremonial procession, while *Homam* rituals were carried out at the temple Yagashala.

Divine Union and Processions

Saturday, August 2nd, marked the spiritual highlight of the weekend. The morning was dedicated to the *Sri Srinivasa Kalyana Mahotsavam*, the celestial wedding ceremony, where sponsors received tasty *Laddu Prasadam* and ample blessings. The celebrations continued into the evening with the spectacular *Sri Vari Garuda Vahana Seva* and concluded with the calming *Ekantha Seva*.

Conclusion of the Festival

The event concluded on **Sunday, August 3rd**, beginning with the *Ashtothara Sata (108) Kalasabhishekam* in the morning. The final evening witnessed the *Sri Pushpa Yaagam* (flower worship), *Dvadasa Aradhana* (12 types of offerings) and the *Dhwaja Avarohanam*, formally lowering the flag to mark the end of the Brahmotsavam.

Throughout the weekend, the temple also hosted cultural programs on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, allowing the community to celebrate our classical music and dance forms. The event was supported by generous sponsorships, with grand sponsors receiving a Silver Mahalakshmi Vignanam as a token of the temple's gratitude.

2) Maha Sivaratri

SV temple celebrated Maha Sivaratri on February 25th in a grand way with the support of our priests, volunteers and management. On the temple floor, devotees individually performed Rudra Abhishekams under the guidance of our priests. Further, a special Spatika (crystal) Lingam

Abhishekam was offered to our community as a very unique once-a-year opportunity. The temple provided prasadam and traditional South Indian dinner to all devotees present. Cultural programs connected to the event were held on the 23rd in the auditorium, where local artists were invited to perform a variety of classical dances in front of Nataraja (Maha Siva in dance form), as is the tradition for all dance forms.

3) Margazhi Mahotsavam

This signature event of our temple was celebrated with lots of fervor, divinity and festivity. There was Namasankirthanam, cultural performances by local schools of music and dance, which will culminate in a blissful Andal Tirukkalyanam by mid January 2026. Krishna himself says He is Margazhi amongst all the months and true to His words, Margazhi/Dhanur masa at the temple brings the community together for Indian classical music performances every weekend.. Towards the end of Margazhi, Andal Thirukkalyanam takes place with a grand seeru (Bridal gifts taken in procession), beautiful wedding songs and dance and grand annadanam for all devotees.

4) Deepavali

Deepavali celebrations at the temple in 2025 were a grand success. Hundreds of devotees gathered to pray to Goddess Sri Mahalakshmi with Swarnapushpa Archana. Doing fireworks as a community at the temple parking lot was brought back after a few years of break. Thanks to some solid planning and to our committed group of volunteers, this event was organized and carried out ensuring both fun and safety. The temple also topped off the event by arranging for light snacks and sweets.

5) Nadotsavam

The yearly Nadostavam event over the first weekend of May was celebrated with the usual grandeur. Many local and out of state kids with huge talent in vocal and instrumental Carnatic music participated, and were evaluated by talented and experienced music Gurus from India. Sri Sri sisters from Vizag, AP, had opened the concert with Annamayya songs which were so beautiful and enjoyed by all. The event was brought to a close with a concert performed by Carnatic brothers (Sasikiran and Ganesh).

6) Natyamanjari


SV Temple celebrates classical dance through Natyamanjari, a dance competition that nurtures and brings out the talent of our local artists and students of different forms of Indian classical dance. This is one of the most renowned competitions in the Twin Cities, known for its quality and competitiveness. Natyamanjari usually occurs every October – as it did in 2025 – and invites dance teachers and their schools in and around twin cities to participate. Natyamanjari 2025 saw various forms of dance such as Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak, Odishi, and was judged by talented dance teachers across twin cities.

7) Vaikuntha Ekadashi


In 2025, Vaikuntha Ekadashi at our temple was distinguished with Sri Venkateswara Utsava Murthi adorning a lovely alankaram as Sri Vaikunthanatha accompanied by Sridevi and Bhudevi.

Numerous devotees flocked to the temple braving the bad weather, and approached Bhagavan by entering through the Vaikuntha Dwara and received his boundless blessings. Committed volunteers ensured a smooth darshana experience to the devotees right from the time of entry into the parking lot to exiting it.


Priests



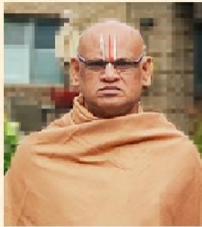
Sri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple
7615 Metro Blvd, Edina, MN 55439



Sri Sankarshanapalli Venkata Krishnamachari (Krishna swamy) joined on August 24th, 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 Brahmastavam events, Yajurveda Smartham pujas along with all temple pujas including weddings and Homams. He is married and has two kids. He speaks fluently Telugu, Hindi, Tamil and has working knowledge in English. He is available for scheduling pujas at home and at Temple.



Sri Debbata Praveen Kumaracharyulu (Praveen swamy) joined SV temple on August 24th, 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, Brahmastavam and weddings along with Homams. He is married and has two kids. He speaks fluently Telugu, Hindi and English. He is available for scheduling pujas at home and at Temple.



Sri Venkata Ramana Battaru, Joined at SV temple on July 29th 2022. He is a Sri Vaishnava Paricharika Priest/Religious Cook. He has been working at various Sri Vaishnava temples for the last 18 years as fulltime Paricharika Priest preparing Prasadams like Laddu, Pulihora, Pongal, yogurt rice, and Sweet prasadams as offerings to God and then distribution to devotees. He also supports Priests in temple rituals. He is married and has two sons

Plans for 2026 and beyond

Pranapratishta Mahotsavam is planned for Summer 2026 (dates to be decided) for the following Utsava Murthis ready to bless SV Temple devotees.

1. Sri Rama Parivara
2. Sri Siva Parvati
3. Sri Bala Murugan
4. Sri Bhoga Venkateswara

Further, SV Temple is preparing to add a sanctimonious Vimanam, Dik Garudas, and interior improvements. With the blessings of our Gods and with the support of generous donations from devotees, we are planning to complete this project before the 12th Anniversary of our temple in 2028. Work is already underway to procure City of Edina approvals, Structural Engineer approvals, and Viamanam design as per Agama Sastra by Stapathis from India. See picture below for the Temple with Vimanam as envisioned.



Devotee Articles

1) 108 Divya Desams

The Grace of Lord Vishnu is spread throughout the country, from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari. There are several temples dedicated to Lord Vishnu, which are also called *Divya Desams* (*Tirtha Kshetrams*) or pilgrim centers.

Tirtha Yatras or pilgrimages have been an integral part of Hinduism. They are considered quite important by the ritualistic followers of *Sanathana dharma*. There are a few centers of sacredness, which are held in high esteem by the ardent devotees who dream to travel and worship God in these pilgrim or holy places. All these holy sites have some mythological significance attached to them. When people go to a temple, they say they go for *Darshan* – of the image of the presiding deity. The pinnacle act of Hindu worship is to stand in the presence of the deity and to look upon the image to see and be seen by the deity to gain the blessings.

There are thousands of pilgrimage sites – *Kshetrams* - renowned for their divine images, which are also believed to be the natural places where Gods have appeared and dwelled.

Alwars, (*Azhvars*), the celebrated bhakti saints, have dedicated their lives towards *Sri Vaishnavism*. They have led their life by praising (doing *Mangalasanam* to) Lord *Sriman Narayana*. They have sung 4000 *Paasurams* (popularly called as '*Naalayira Divya Prabandham*') in praise of Lord *Sriman Narayana* residing in 108 specific places (*Sthalams*) through their Tamil work. These 108 *Sthalams* where *Alwars* have done *Mangalasanams* are considered holy by the Sri Vaishnavas. These 108 *Vishnu* Temples are called '*Divya desams*'.

'Divya' means 'divine' and 'desam' means 'place', referring to the temple . The 108 Divya Desams are scattered across various regions of India, with a significant concentration in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. Of these 108 temples, 105 are in India, one is in Nepal, and last two *Thiruparkaddal* and - *Paramapadam* are outside the Earthly realms. *Tiruparkaddal* is the ocean of milk and *Paramapadam* is the *Srivaikuntham* where Lord *Narayana* presides. The Divyadesams are divided into seven groups based on where they are located:

- Thondai Naadu Temples in northern Tamilnadu
- Chozha Naadu Temples in central Tamilnadu
- Nadu Naadu Temples in the region in between the above two
- Pandiya Naadu Temples in southern Tamilnadu
- Malayala Naadu Temples in Kerala mostly
- Vada Naadu Temples in Andhra Pradesh and further north
- Vinnulaga Thirupadhiral, temples outside the Earth

Inside these temples, the idols of Lord Vishnu can be found in three main positions:

- Kidantha Thirukkolam (Reclining Position) – 27 Divyadesams
- Veetrirundha Thirukkolam (Sitting Position) – 21 Divyadesams
- Nindra Thirukkolam (Standing Position) – 60 Divyadesams

Additionally, in these 108 Divyadesams, Lord Vishnu can be seen facing one of the four directions:

- Facing East – 79 temples
- Facing West – 19 temples
- Facing North – 3 temples
- Facing South – 7 temples

2) Remembering What Unites Us in Polarized Times

Gautham Reddy, Atlanta, USA

Īśvaraḥ sarva bhūtānām hṛddeśe ... tiṣṭhati

God resides in the hearts of all beings
Gita (18.61)

In these challenging and polarized times—when differences of opinion, identity, and belief can strain families and communities—it is more important than ever to return to one of the deepest truths found in our Hindu traditions: the Divine dwells in every being.

When we understand this, we realize that to oppress or hate another being is to disregard God’s presence within them. Likewise, to uplift and honor another being is to respect the Divine itself.

We are living at a time when society encourages us to see people as “us” and “them,” as “friends” and “enemies,” as “right” and “wrong.” But our dharma teaches us something different. It calls us to look beyond outer appearances and find the divine spark, the inner self (antaryami), shining equally in all.

In the Ramayana, Lord Rama treats even those who oppose him with dignity. In the Mahabharata, Yudhishtira bows before elders on both sides of the battlefield because righteousness does not disappear simply because someone disagrees with us. And in the life of Sri Krishna, we see compassion offered even to those who misunderstand, criticize, or oppose him.

These examples are not stories of the past; they are mirrors for our present. When friends and families divide over opinions or communities fracture over politics, our traditions calls us to pause, breathe, and remember: We are not separate. We are connected by the same light.

The Gita (5.18) reminds us:

*vidyā-vinaya-sampanne brāhmaṇe gavi hastini
śuni chaiva śva-pāke cha paṇḍitāḥ sama-darśinaḥ*

The wise person who is humble and knowledgeable
sees a Brahmin, a cow, an elephant,
a dog, and even a dog-eater, with equal gaze.

This “equal gaze” does not mean ignoring differences in behavior or appearance. It means remembering that every being carries the same Divine essence within – that they are, at their core, divine.

The great acharya, Ramanuja, lived his life with this equal gaze. His teachings encourage us to rise above petty divisions. He taught that all souls are equal before God, regardless of caste, status, background, or opinion. This was not just a philosophy for him; it was a lived practice. He opened temple doors to people who had been excluded for generations. He shared sacred mantras fearlessly, not for his own name, but for the upliftment of all.

When we train ourselves to see the Divine in others, something beautiful happens. Fear softens. Anger dissolves. Love begins to flow naturally. This is how we heal divisions. This is how we

build peace. Not by forcing agreement or silencing others, but by recognizing the sacred unity beneath our differences.

In these polarized times, let us recommit to the ideal of *sama-darśinaḥ*, an equal gaze. Let our eyes see God in every face. Let our hands serve God in every person. Let our hearts bow to the Divine in all beings.

May we become instruments of harmony in a world that desperately needs it. May we embody the compassion of Sri Rama, the wisdom of Krishna, and the generosity of Lord Venkateshwara.

3) Srisaila Purna and Tirumala

Kid's Article by Hrshikeshan Gomadam

Let us learn about a great acharya who has a special connection to Tirumala. It is none other than Srisaila Purna (Tamil: Periya Tirumalai Nambi).

Who is Srisaila Purna? He was a disciple of Sri Yamunacharya and an acharya to Swami Ramanujacharya. He was a great scholar who was born in Tirumala by the grace of Sri Venkateshwara Swamy in 11th century CE, in the month of Vaisakha in the star of Swathi. He was also the brother of Swami Ramanujacharya's mother, Kanthimathi Devi.

What is the connection between Srisaila Purna and Tirumala? After Srisaila Purna came under the guidance of Yamunacharya, he was instructed to teach Sri Ramayana to Swami Ramanujacharya. Sri Ramanuja came to Tirumala and stayed there for a year, learning the Ramayana from Srisaila Purna. Sri Ramanuja climbed up Tirumala on his knees because he considered Tirumala itself as the divine serpent, Adishesha. Srisaila Purna brought water to Sri Venkateshwara (Thirtha Kainkaryam) from a water source called Akasa Ganga and did daily service to Lord Srinivasa at Tirumala. At Tirumala, inside the temple complex, there is a special sannidhi for Srisaila Purna on the way of Maha Pradakshinam (bigger circumambulation) to the south of the main temple.

When Swami Ramanuja was born, Srisaila Purna, being his uncle, named him 'Ilaiyalwar'. Srisaila Purna also convinced and brought Govinda Perumal (Sri Ramanuja's cousin) to Sri Ramanuja's philosophy.

Other names of Srisaila Purna are: Periya Tirumalai Nambi (Tamil), Thathacharya (Sanskrit), and Pithamahasya Pithamaha (Sanskrit).

Let us pray to this great acharya who dedicated his entire life at the service of Sri Venkateshwara Swamy at Tirumala, by taking his darshan at his sannidhi on our next visit to Holy Tirumala and by singing his praise through this sloka...

*pitAmahasyApi pitAmahAya prAchetasAdeshaPalapradAya /
shrI BhASyakArottamadeshikAya shrIshailaPurnaya namo namastAt //*

S. V. Temple wishes the community

A VERY HAPPY, PROSPEROUS & BLESSED 2026

**vinA venkaTesham na nAtho na nAthas
sadA venkaTesham smarAmi smarAmi
hare venkaTeshas prasIda prasIda
priyam venkaTeshas prayaccha prayaccha**

meaning

**Without VenkaTeshas I am protectorless
It is Venkatesha that I think of all the time
O Venkatesha! Hari! Be pleased towards me
And bless me with all that is desired**

