



## NEWSLETTER

May - June, 2016  
Jyaishtha/Ashadha



[www.augustahts.org](http://www.augustahts.org)

P. O. Box. 204264  
Augusta, GA 30907

1421 Lukes Road  
Augusta GA 30909

Phone: (706)-860-3864

### The Path of Devotion

ये त्वक्षरमनिर्देश्यमव्यक्तं पर्युपासते ।

सर्वत्रगमचिन्त्यं च कूटस्थमचलं ध्रुवम् ॥ ३ ॥

सन्नियम्येन्द्रियग्रामं सर्वत्र समबुद्धयः ।

ते प्राप्नुवन्ति मामेव सवरभूतहिते रताः ॥ ४ ॥

### Translation

But those who worship the indescribable, all-pervading, inconceivable, immutable, constant, eternal, impersonal absolute devoid of perceptible form and attributes; completely controlling all the senses with spiritual intelligence equally disposed to everything and dedicated to the welfare of all living entities; they certainly also achieve Me.

*Bhagavad Gita - 12:3*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY 2016

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday : 10:00 a.m. Balshala EOY program
- 13<sup>th</sup> Friday : 7:00 p.m. Mata ki Chowki
- 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday : 9:30 a.m. Smart Driving Class
- 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday : 6:00 p.m. Who Kidnapped Sita!!
- 15<sup>th</sup> May Sunday : 10:00 a.m. Graduation Puja
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May Sunday : 3:30 p.m. Carnatic Musical Program
- 28<sup>th</sup> May Saturday: 9.30 a.m. Purposeful Living with Vedanta
- 29<sup>th</sup> May Sunday: 9.00 a.m. Purposeful Living with Vedanta

### JUNE 2016

- 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 9:00 am Devi Havan (Annual Fund Raiser)

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- 14<sup>th</sup> May Saturday: 6 p.m. Who kidnapped Sita
- 15<sup>th</sup> May Sunday : 10:00 a.m. Graduation Puja
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May Sunday: 3.30 p.m. Carnatic Musical Concert by Kiranavali

## HINDU OBSERVANCES

### MAY-2016

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday: - Varuthini Ekasashi
- 03<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: - Gauna Varuthini Ekadashi
- 08<sup>th</sup> Sunday: - Parashuram Jayanti, Akshaya Tritiya
- 12<sup>th</sup> Thursday: - Ganga Saptami
- 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday: - Sita Navami, Vrishabha Sankranti
- 17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: - Mohini Ekadashi
- 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday: - Narsimha Jayanti
- 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday: - Buddha Purnima
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: - Narada Jayanti

### JUNE- 2016

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – Aparā Ekadashi
- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Shani Jayanti, Vat Savitri Vrat
- 14<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Ganga Dussehra, Mithuna Sankranti
- 15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Nirjala Ekadashi
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday: - Jyeshtha Purnima, Vat Purnima Vrat
- 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday: - Yogini Ekadashi

# Carnatic Musical Concert: By Kiranavali & Group



Date: Sunday 05/22/16

Time: 3.30 pm

Venue: Cultural Center

Free for Members. \$10 for non-members.

Contacts: Dr. Jayant Murthy: 423 534 4957 Or Dharma Thiruvaiyaru 706-650-3176

[www.kiranavali.net](http://www.kiranavali.net)

[www.carnatictradition.com](http://www.carnatictradition.com)

## Acknowledgements:

HTS acknowledges the sponsorship of the following individuals and Group's for Third Sunday Pooja's:

February 2016:

Lopa/Gautam Agarwal, Samlesh/Nand Kumar Bansal, Asha/Murari Garg, Devbala/Mukat Sharma, Puja/Vishal Sharma, Neera/Philip Young, Ratna/Arun Gambhir, Susan/Madan Gopal, Prem/Kailash Sharma, Madhu/Shyam Govil, Santosh Rani, Saroj/Gyanendra Sharma, Meenu/Sanjeev Singhal, Sona/Sunil Lal, Sushma/Subhash Sethi, Preeti/Surendra Gupta, Veena Bhatia, Anita/Thakur Aildasani, Vijay/Alvinder Arora, Sandhya/Hemant Yagnik, Vaishali Handa/Sanjiv Kumar Sondhi, Gitika/Vikas Gupta, Shweta/Ashok Patanaik, Shankun/Mahendra Sharma, Jyotsna/Sanjeev Kapuria, Suman/Shyam Verma, Sangeeta/Ravi Verma, Urmil/Harbans Batra, Varsha/Jagdish Chawla, Kanchan/Romesh Khosla, Sanjay Chawla, Rajnikant Dave.

March 2016:

Telugu Community Of Augusta.

April 2016:

Sudha Sinha, Sakun Kharbanda, Sarojani Pandey, Rashmi Pandey, Nidhi Gulati, Ratna Gambhir, Neeta Sareen, Renu Mehta, Jaya Batra, Sarita Sharma, Vijay Arora, Kanchan Khoshla, Neru Gupta, Saroj Toni, Poonam Surma, Rekha Sareen, Chandra Khoshla, Dharam Batra, Reeta Goyal & Rita Jerath

A Fundraising Event to Help Rebuilding Schools and Rehabilitation of Affected Children due to Natural Disasters  
In Association With



**Ekal Caravan** Presents



A Desi Blasting Comedy !!

# Who Kidnapped Sita? ( O Yaar ! System Main Hi Locha Hai !! )

(A PURE DESI HINDI FAMILY COMEDY PLAY)



**May 14, 2016 ( Saturday ) 6 PM**

**Augusta Prep. School**  
( Hull Fine Arts Center )  
285 Flowing Wells Rd, Martinez, GA 30907

This Caravan show would not be possible without our sponsors' and patrons' support.

For Tickets Contact

706-399-1712 (Meena Patel)  
803-295-3314 (Shaji Kamalassaran)  
706-951-0669 (Vrinda Vachani)  
706-284-7578 (Raju Manhani)  
706-951-1902 (Adarsh Gulati)

& **KASHMIR Bazar** (|| Bobby Jones Expwy)  
(706) 303-8577

## Hindu Temple Society of Augusta

1421 Lukes Road Augusta GA 30909

Host Satsang with

### Swami Sarvapriyanandaji

On

**28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**At HTS Cultural Center**



Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 9.30 AM

**Purposeful Living  
with Vedanta**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 5.00 PM

**Meditation Session**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 9.00 AM

**Defining God**

**According to Taitariya Upanishad**

**Please participate in large numbers**

For Additional Information contact:

Mukut Sharma:706-855-5060

Sheila Kamath:706-650-5751

Also, Visit

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com); Search "Sarvapriyananda"



# Annual Fund Raiser: - Devi Havan June 19, 2016 @ 9 a.m.

A Havan is a ritualistic puja performed to keep us in harmony with the cosmic forces, thereby removing and overcoming the sorrows of life and bringing spiritual advancement.

By doing Puja/Havan, thoughts and vibrations of spiritual forces are created around us. These spiritual forces work to eliminate the negative influences in our life and help surround us with a positive energy which can bring us peace of mind, material prosperity and enable us to more clearly touch the divine, our true nature.

The periods when the results of our past actions, favorable or unfavorable, come to fruition are indicated by planetary positions at the time of our birth. The malefic effects which are destined to befall us can be reduced by the grace of God by performing specific pujas as recommended in the scriptures. The body, mind and spirit are purified and harmonized by meditation, prayers, mantra japa and the pujas we perform.

The result of these actions is to help purify us and to enable us to imbibe more deeply the spiritual energy invoked by the puja.

Havans are revelations from the Higher Power to our Ancestors. In these sacred rituals Agni (Fire) is lighted in the Havan Kund (the sacrificial fire) and various energies (deities) are invoked by chanting the mantras and through various postures (mudras).

Many offerings are made to these deities during the Havan for our prayers to be answered. The people who completely believe in the ritual are immediately benefited, as grace comes to them spontaneously and instantaneously



## Why Do We Perform?

Havans also bring in high energies, thereby paving way for positive thoughts, actions etc. They help in re-vitalizing the three energies in our body (Vata, Pitha, kapha) and help in maintaining energy balance.

During the havans, the divine energies from the deities flow into the body of the performer and thereby cleanse them of all negative energies and destroy negative samskaras. They also bring in positive energies which in turn affect and change the outside world. The deities invoked during the Havans form a protective shield around the performer to safe guard them from any further evil energies.

## Performing and participating in the Durga Havan especially will benefit you by

- \* removing negative energies
- \* removing suffering caused by hostile elements
- \* removing suffering resulting from sorcery, thieves etc.
- \* improvement in health, wealth, progeny, fame, success, longevity, food, strength etc.
- \* eliminating fear, danger and evil planetary influences

Please participate in this fundraiser to be held on SUNDAY, JUNE 19 starting at 9 AM and reap the benefits for you and your family.

**Sponsorship: - Donation of \$101 or more per participating family.**

**Contact: - Nimita Shetty, Sheila Kamath, Shaji Kamalsanan**

Volunteers and sponsors are needed for cooking mahaprasad. For more information please call Gita Shah.

## VOLUNTEERISM

I would like to share some personal thoughts with our temple members which I expressed earlier with a larger audience through Khabar magazine. (With the permission of Khabar as it wanted copyright of the article) I was responding to the articles about us, the Indian Americans in Indian news media in the US on the topics of isolationism, assimilation, second class citizens, charitable contributions etc.

We, the Indian Americans migrated to the US armored with higher education and by working hard, most of us are in a better financial status than the average American Americans. I realize a number of us do get involve in local charitable, social, and political activities. Yet, there is an overwhelming group of us who do not participate. It does not take rocket science to realize why some of us feel like second class citizens and perhaps occasionally we are not treated so well by ignorance. But, I must say that those of us who do get involve wherever and whenever there is a chance, we have not encountered such a thing. I urge those who feel isolated should get out of the nest and partake in charitable activities on individual basis or in a group when there is opportunity, which will pave the way to get into other areas.

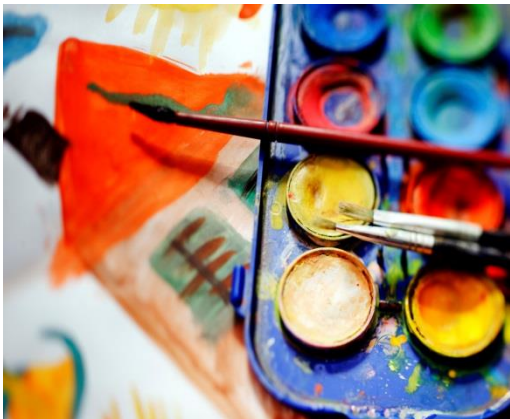
Charity does not necessarily mean donating money. It can be in any of the three actions, as our scriptures said, *Tan, man and dhan* (I translate as Time, Talent and Treasure). Look around your neighborhood, there are folks who can use one or all of these three resources to make their lives better. E.G. Thanks, again to the quality education we received in India which helped us to become good at math and science. Let us, active or the retired engineers and scientists amongst us seek those opportunities to volunteer. Collect a few kids in our neighborhood, who are not helped by their parents for whatever the cause might be, and give them a helping hand similar to what some of us receive from our handyman neighbors when we have small maintenance issues. I urge all of us get involve to whatever extant one can and also encourage children to serve in organizations such as Ronald McDonald House, Easter seals, Food bank, soup kitchen etc. as some of us are already participating.

Further, in spite of all the euphoria the economists have created about India, with the statistics the analysts generated, the government has not been able to improve the lives of the down trodden people very much. There are more poor people in India today than ever before. We Indian Americans cannot solve this mammoth problem. But we can make a small dent. Lack of education and proper skills are the major causes of the poverty. There are millions of poor students who are smart but cannot afford higher education or learn technical skills. We can give a hand to these people and pay back the unwritten debt we owe to India of the near free education most of us received there without which we would not be in the U.S. and what we are today. The free education available these days, stops at a very low standard high school at best. Pick up the tab of one of these smart students and help him/her through college or acquiring skills, be somebody in your village or town. A dollar a day will send one student through college. Let's not give as charity for good, make as loan and make him/her repay when able to earn to another deserving student. For the sake of those who have no connections left in India, the Temple committee is looking into setting up a process in the near future where a member may be able to donate funds and accomplish this and get tax benefits. If one is planning to contribute right away, there are several genuine non-profit organizations in US which can conduit the aid properly without pilferage.

*T. Ram Reddy*

Chairman, BOT Hindu Temple & Trinity Hospital

More for you from your temple: -



### Arts and painting Classes:

Date: 05/07/16

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Cultural Center

Instructor: Vinaya Alapatt

Fee: \$10 per class

### Music (Tabla lessons):

Venue: Cultural center

Date : 05/07/16

Time: 5.30 pm

Instructor: Kiran Karanth



### HTS Yoga Club:

Venue: Cultural Center

Date: 05/07/16

Time: 9:00am

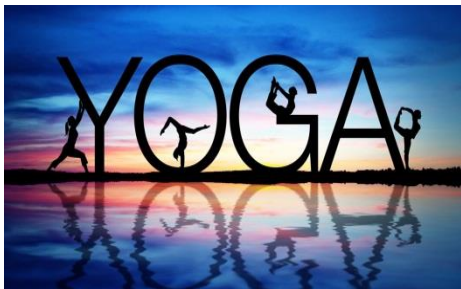
Committee: Dr. Sanjeev Kapuria

Clare Bergson,

Hari Kashyap,

Brinda Balan

Seema Sharma



The HTS Yoga Club will offer instruction in Yoga on Saturdays at 9 am. The club will hold a drop-in open house on May 7th and 14th. Everyone interested is invited to come find out more about the classes and meet the instructors.

Subsequently, the club will offer a 12-week introduction to Hatha yoga class, and a once-a-month pranayama class.

### Pranayama Class:

This class is for 45 minutes and is open for everyone from Beginners to Advanced. Everybody can learn Pranayama at their own pace, gradually increasing their skill level. Pranayama is the fourth "limb" of the eight limbs of Ashtanga Yoga mentioned in the 'Yoga Sutras' of Patanjali. Patanjali, known as the Father of Yoga, presents pranayama as an exercise that is preliminary to concentration.

### Beginner Hatha Yoga:

This class is designed as an introduction to the practice of Hatha yoga, and is focused on safety and alignment. Instructors will guide students safely into and out of postures, and offer modifications that work for a variety of body types and physical limitations. A typical 75-90 minute class will begin with gentle movements and stretches to warm up the body, followed by pranayama and a sequence of basic asanas. These practices release stress and tension and increase vitality. Come stretch and breathe, and possibly even break a sweat in a supportive environment. You don't need to be able to touch your toes; you just have to be willing to try.

## Intermediate Hatha Yoga:

This class incorporates advanced asanas and variations of the standard postures, and is suitable for more experienced yoga practitioners who are able to hold poses longer.

## Community Outreach Update

Knit for Love Group recently celebrated five years of self service to the Augusta community and beyond representing our temple. Over the years we have knitted and or crocheted hats, scarves and lap blankets for the kindergarten classes of the Richmond County School system. Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home and Lydia House. In the temple we raffled blankets, sold hats and with the support of the community we raised money to donate to Safe Homes of Augusta for battered women and children. Currently we are knitting baby hats for the Children's Hospital, Any suggestions or ideas are welcome to serve our community. Please contact Susan Gopal.

## Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Balshala End of Year Program:

All Balshala students are getting ready to showcase what they have learned in Balshala program all-year long along with a small cultural performance on Sunday, May 1st 9:30am-1:30pm at the main temple. After the End-of-year program, the HTS Augusta dads plan to prepare and serve an early Mother's Day lunch for all the attendees of the event. Please feel free to join us all that day.

Balshala will commence for next year in fall 2016. We will publish more information in our future newsletters.

## Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Mata Ki Chowki

7 to 8 p.m. Dinner Mahaprasad

8 to 11 p.m. Chowki / Bhent

Sponsorship Fee \$101/- contact Adarsh Gulati 706-951-1902

For further information and volunteering contact

Rekha Sareen 706-421-2637

Nidhi Gulati 706-650-2905

Thanks to Mr. Shyam Verma for leading the Bhents and please join us by singing Bhents/Bhajans.

*Jai Mata Di*



## Saturday May 14, 9.30 a.m. -SMART DRIVING COURSE

As was done in the past HTS would again host the "Smart Driver Course" from the AARP on Saturday, May, 14, 2016, starting at 9:30 am at the Temple Cultural Center. It is a highly effective and popular one-day (6-hour) course with excellent audio-visuials. As before, participants get certificates that entitle them to ~10-15% reduction in auto insurance premium from most insurance companies. If interested please send an email to [[baidyaroy@gmail.com](mailto:baidyaroy@gmail.com)] indicating number of persons intending to attend.

Note: Those of you who have previously taken the class in June, 2013 or earlier, need to take it again now.

Cost: for AARP members \$15, Non-AARP members \$20.

You may contact B. N. Roy @ 706-868-8233, if you need additional details.



Saturday May 14, 6.00 p.m. –Who kidnapped Sita! Comedy play @ Augusta Prep. Day School

Sita is kidnapped & Case is under the Panchwati Police Station. Inspector Chautala and Hawaldar Shane are the investigating team. How the case takes a mysterious and hilarious turn....

A complete satirical comedy package on greed and corruption

Just watch a 2 hrs. un-stoppable family comedy...

Written and Directed by - Ravi Verma

**Ticket** - \$20 /Per person (Kids in lap are FREE); Students \$10

**Note** - Theater has limited seats. (IACA life members will get a reserved seat.)

Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. - Graduation Ganesh Puja:

Join us in wishing our graduates...

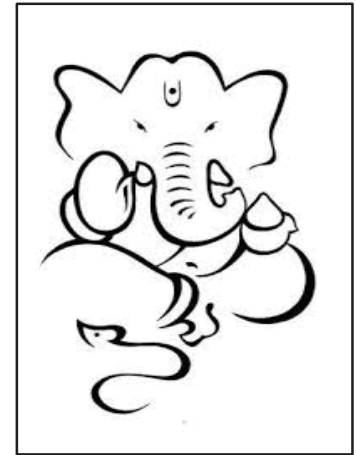
Annual Graduation Puja will be held at the Temple on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Eligibility : All High School Graduates and College Graduates are invited to participate in the Puja.

Donation : \$50.00 requested from each participating graduate.

Attire : Indian

Awards : Students with highest SAT Score will be given awards. A Copy of your scores should be submitted in advance to Sheila Kamath.



#### **Essay Competition: -**

Topic : 'Consider the role of Sita in the Hindu Epic Ramayana. Identify the characteristics that are worthy of emulation in modern society.'

Please submit your Essays on the above topic neatly typed with double spacing and not exceeding 400 words to Sheila Kamath (email: [sheila731@yahoo.com](mailto:sheila731@yahoo.com)) no later than 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2016. Also submit a screen shot of your official SAT score by 8<sup>th</sup> May.

While all are welcome to participate in the puja, only children of current HTS members qualify for the contest and prizes.

Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. – Purposeful Living with Vendanta:

HTS will host satsang with Swami Sarvapriyanandaji at cultural center on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May. Two eventful days include meditation session, talks by swamiji on defining God according to Taittiriya Upanishad. For additional information please refer to the flyer on page 3 or contact Mukut Sharma (706-855-5060) or Sheila Kamath (706-650-5751).

You can also visit Youtube and search for "Sarvapriyananda".

#### **HTS Balshala Alumni: -**

Calling all HTS Balshala and youth group Alumini to start our alumni group. Please contact or email Sanjeev Singhal (706-664-4221) or Sheila Kamath (706-650-5751) for more details regarding this first time event to be celebrated on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> (the day before father's day and the Havan).

#### **Condolences:**

Mr. Dharendra Nath Talukdar, younger brother of Baren K. Talukdar and brother-in-law of Mrs. Geetanjali Talukdar passed away untimely in Kolkata, India on March 6, 2016.

We pray for Peace of his departed Soul.



## MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 a.m. Soup Kitchen 10 a Balshala EOY program	2 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	3 6:45pm Hanuman Chalisa	4 6:45 pm Krishna Archana	5 Priest Day Off	6 6:15 pm Krishna Chanting 7.00 pm Devi Puja	7 9 am Kartikeya Puja 11 a Priest Busy
8	9 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	10 6:45pm Hanuman Chalisa	11 6:45 pm Krishna Archana	12 Priest Day Off	13 6:15 pm Krishna Chanting	14 9:00 am Venkateswara Puja 11 a Priest Busy 9.30 a Smart Driving Class
15 10 a Graduation Puja 11 a Priest Busy 2 p m - Jain Puja	16 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	17 6:45pm Hanuman Chalisa	18 6:45 pm Krishna Archana	19 Priest Day Off	20 6:15 pm Krishna Chanting	21 7 p.m. Satyanarayana Puja
22 Priest Day Off 11 a Priest Busy 3.30 Carnatic Music Program by Kiranavali	23 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	24 6:45pm Hanuman Chalisa	25 6:45 pm Krishna Archana 7p Sankshtha Chaturthi	26 Priest Day Off	27 6:15 pm Krishna Chanting	28 11 a Priest Busy
29 11 a Priest Busy 2:00 pm Jain Puja	30 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	31 6:45pm Hanuman Chalisa				

## JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:45 pm Krishna Archana	2 Priest Day Off	3 6:15 pm Krishna Chanting 7p Devi puja	4 9.00 am Kartikeya Puja
5	6 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	7 6.45p Hanuman Chalisa	8 6:45 pm Krishna Archana	9 Priest Day Off	10 6:15 pm Krishna Chanting	11 9 a Venkateshwara Puja 11 a Priest Busy
12 2:00 pm Jain Puja	13 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	14 6.45pm Hanuman Chalisa	15 6:45 pm Krishna Archana 7 p.m. Satyanarayana Puja	16 Priest Day Off	17 6:15 pm Krishna Chanting	18 11 a Priest Busy
19 9.00am Devi Havan 11 a Priest Busy	20 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	21 6:45pm Hanuman Chalisa	22 6:45 pm Krishna Archana	23 Priest Day Off 7 p.m. Sankshtha Chaturthi	24 6:15 pm Krishna Chanting	25
26 Priest Day Off 11 a Priest Busy 2.00pm Jain Puja	27 7:00 pm Shiv Puja	28 6.45pm Hanuman Chalisa	29 6:45 pm Krishna Archana	30 Priest Day Off		

The Hindu Temple Society  
P.O. Box 204264  
Augusta, GA. 30907

**DONATE GENEROUSLY  
TO YOUR TEMPLE**

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PAID  
Augusta, GA.  
Permit # 426

The last day of input for the  
next newsletter is 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

Please send your input to:

*newsletter@augustahts.org*

**PLEASE  
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

**BE A PERPETUAL DONOR**

### SCHEDULE

Mondays	7.00 pm	Shiv Puja
Tuesdays	6.45 pm	Hanuman Chalisa
Wednesdays	6.45 pm	Krishna Archana
Fridays	6:15 pm	Krishna Chanting
Second Friday	7.00 pm	Devi Puja
Saturdays	8.00 am	Suprabhatham
1st Saturday	9.00 am	Karthikeya Puja
2nd Saturday	9.00 am	Venkateshwara Puja
3rd Sunday	10.00am	Monthly Puja
2nd & 4th Sunday	2.00 pm	Jain Puja

Temple Hours: 8 - 10 AM and 6 - 8 PM

Temple is open every day at these hours except on Thursday.  
Temple is CLOSED on Thursdays and last Sunday of the month.