



## The Hindu Temple of Greater Springfield (HTGS)

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Tax-Exempt 501(C) (3) Organization

### MAHA SHIVARATRI CELEBRATIONS

**Tuesday February 13th, 2018** (Temple is open from 5:30 pm to Midnight)



### Meaning of Mahashivratri

Ratri means 'night' and also 'to take refuge.' Shivratri is the night we take refuge in our spirit i.e., Shiva. It is the time to celebrate the soul or consciousness within. During Shivratri, we take refuge in the divine consciousness. There are two ways to do this: meditation and surrender. Surrender is having the faith that there is a Divine power that is taking care of us. Meditation and surrender bring peace and solace to us.

Mahashivratri is one of the largest and most significant among the sacred festival nights of India. This – the darkest night of the year – celebrates the Grace of Shiva, from whom the yogic tradition originates. The planetary positions on this night are such that there is a powerful natural upsurge of energy in the human system. It is enormously beneficial for one's physical and spiritual wellbeing to stay awake and aware in a vertical position throughout the night.

# MAHA SHIVARATRI PUJA Schedule

## • Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

- Morning – 9:00 – 10:00 am Nitya puja
- Evening – 6:00 → Sponsorship \$26.00
  - 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm - Shiva Linga Rudra Abhishekam, Bhajans followed by Archana, Shiva Aarathi & Teertha Prasadam
  - 9 pm – 11:45 pm: Laghunyasa Purvaka Ekadasha Rudra Abhishekam to Shiva Linga (11 times chanting of Rudram)
  - 11:45 PM - Stotra Pathana during Alankaram followed by Lord Shiva Archana
  - Mid-night - Shiva Aarathi followed by Teertha Prasadam

PUJA Sponsorship: Due to unprecedented rush in the past, this year HTGS is accepting ***first 100 sponsors only*** for this event in order to have sufficient time for sankalpam and pooja. Signup and pay for sponsorship at the temple front desk on / before Monday Feb 12th via email [mokshaarathi@gmail.com](mailto:mokshaarathi@gmail.com) or [karunaganga@yahoo.com](mailto:karunaganga@yahoo.com) or [Andy.aiyer@gail.com](mailto:Andy.aiyer@gail.com) or [ramaaraghu@gmail.com](mailto:ramaaraghu@gmail.com)

## **SPONSORS ACCEPTED – Family names will be included in main puja!**

**Opportunity to Donate Puja Dravya:** You are welcome to donate any puja items listed below. Please contact any of the Puja Committee members listed below, or stop by the front desk by Monday, February 12th. **Cash donations accepted in lieu of items!**

- Fruits – Any kind Fruit juice (11 types); Bilwa Patra
- Flower garlands for Shiva, Parvathi and Shiva Linga, Maha Lakshmi,
- **Milk** – This year, HTGS is accepting ***only organic milk***. Half gallon or less is preferred for the abhisheka; Honey 2 big bottles;
- **Amul Ghee** (Sealed metal can) 1 lb boxes,
- Rice – 1 bag, **Coconuts** – 6, Dry Prasad - Almonds, Cashews, Walnut, etc.,
- **New Clothes** for Lord Shiva, Parvathi Devi and Shiva Lingam

**Mrutyunjayaaya Rudraaya, Neelakantaaya Shambhave,  
Amritheshaaya Sarvaaya, Mahadevaaya Te Namaha**

*Meaning: I pray to Lord Mahadeva who has conquered death, who is the destroyer of the universe, who has a blue neck and who gives happiness to all.*