



The Hindu Temple of Greater Springfield (HTGS)

1001 West Walnut Street, Chatham, IL 62629 Ph: 217-697-8174

www.SpringfieldTemple.org Email: Manager@SpringfieldTemple.org

Tax-Exempt 501(C) (3) Organization

January 18th 2018

Weekly Bulletin

Namaste!

Administrative News

During these winter months, the temple may be closed due to inclement weather conditions. As much as possible, we will ensure smooth operations of the temple but, please check the temple website for the latest updates regarding closures before you head out. We will also try to provide email updates whenever possible.

HTGS wishes to thank our sincere volunteers who have stepped up and assisted with puja rituals and coverage over the last fortnight during Shri Keshava Shastry's absence. Our priest will be back Friday 1/19/2018 and resume his normal duties.

Hindi Classes will be held this Saturday Jan 20th at the temple at 12:30. Those wishing to join please contact Shobhabhojwani@gmail.com.

Tamil Classes will be held this Saturday Jan 20th at the temple from 4 – 5:00 pm. For additional information, please contact Kannan Krishnan at kannkris@gmail.com

Reminders:

- **Year 2018 Membership:** We request the temple community to **renew** their annual membership. Being a member, you will have voting rights in the general body meetings and will be allowed to serve on any committee. Furthermore, your donation for the membership will help us to pay general operational expenses. We also encourage all devotees to consider life membership and sustaining membership categories. These levels of membership bring added benefits and sustain the general operations of the temple. Please see our membership form at <http://www.springfieldtemple.org/MembershipForm.pdf> for further details
- **Seeking Volunteers:** Help your temple grow by doing divine service at least 2 to 3 hours per month. If you are interested to help us, please email manager@SpringfieldTemple.org
- **2017 Donation Summary:** The HTGS management plans to send the 2017 HTGS contribution summary via email and not USPS mail. You will receive emails in the next few weeks.
- **Annadatha signup:** 2018 Annadatha sign-up sheet is available on the website now. Please sign up and support this program.

Annadatha

Menu: Idly, Sambhar, Chutney, Lemon Rice, Dessert

Volunteers: Lord Ayyappa Devotees

PUJA Committee News

We invite our devotees to come for **Sri Swamy Ayyappa Padi (step) Puja** and bhajans on **Saturday Jan 20th 2018 at 10:45 am**. Ayyappan is believed to be an incarnation of Dharma Sastha, who is the son of Shiva and Vishnu (as Mohini).

Vasant Panchami is a Hindu festival celebrating Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music, and art. It is celebrated every year on the fifth day (Panchami) of the Indian month Magha (January-February). Devotees worship Goddess Saraswati in temples, often by keeping books near her idol. Traditionally, during this festival, children may be taught to write their first words. **We will have a special Saraswati Devi Puja on Vasant Panchami. We encourage parents and their children to come with their textbooks/other learning tools to receive the blessings of Saraswati Devi on Sunday January 21st at 11:00 AM**

Ratha Saptami marks the seventh day (Saptami) of Magha. It follows Makar Sankranti which marks the Sun's northerly movement (Uttarayana) into Capricorn (Makara). It is symbolically represented in the form of the Sun God Surya turning his Ratha (Chariot) drawn by seven horses, with Aruna as the charioteer, towards the northern hemisphere, in a north-easterly direction. The symbolic significance of the Ratha and the seven horses reigned to it represent the seven days of a week starting with Sunday, the day of Sun god Surya. The chariot has 12 wheels, which represents the 12 signs (each of 30 degrees) of the Zodiac (360 degrees). The day also marks the birth of Surya, and hence it is celebrated as Surya Jayanti (the Sun-god's birthday). Performing Surya Namaskaram (Sun Worship) regularly is believed to have enormous health benefits. **We welcome our devotees to celebrate these two festivals with us at the temple as we pray for a hasty end to winter and an early start to spring! We hope you will join us to celebrate Ratha Saptami on Tuesday, Jan 23rd at 6:30 PM.**

We wish to welcome Mridula Mara who has volunteered to take on this role. Devotees who wish to perform any rituals at home may contact Mridula Mara @ calendar.htgs@gmail.com or 732-325-5335. Follow / Like / Share us on Facebook at [HTGS](#)

PUJA Announcements

Date	Upcoming Puja Events for January 2018
Sun 01-21-18	Vasant Panchami - Saraswati puja @11:00 am; \$15.00 puja sponsorship
Tues 01-23-18	Ratha Saptami – Surya Puja/Namaskaram @ 6:30 pm \$15.00 puja sponsorship
Sat 01-27-18	Bheeshma Ekadasi - Vishnu Saharanama parayana @10:30am

Tues 01-30-18	Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Vrata/Puja @ 6:00 pm/ Thai Pusam @7:30 pm
Wed 01-31-18	Chandra Grahan (Lunar Eclipse 4:51am to 7:09 am)

Temple Hours: Monday – Friday except Wednesdays: 9 AM to 10 AM and 5:30 pm to 8 pm; Wed: 6 PM to 8 PM; Sat. 9am to 2pm and Sunday: 9 am to Noon

Contact: Manager@SpringfieldTemple.org Ph [217-697-8174](tel:217-697-8174)

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Please be aware that on non-festival days, although the temple is open on Wednesdays, the priest is off that day.

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