

In just a couple days, people in India and all over the world will begin to celebrate a very auspicious festival with great enthusiasm, joy, and devotion. That festival is Diwali, also known as Deepawali, the Festival of Lights. During this beautiful festival, people who follow the Hindu dharma invite Mother Lakshmi into their homes by lighting small lamps all around the home, receiving guests, giving gifts of new clothes, and performing Lakshmi Puja.

In another fun Diwali tradition, children love to light sparklers and firecrackers outside their homes. In cities all across India, one can see entire families out in the streets, laughing and enjoying the fun as children spin with sparklers and set off a multitude of popping firecrackers. This innocent laughter and joy itself signifies the presence of Mother Lakshmi.

The thirteenth day of the month of Aswayuja, or “Aswayuja Trayodasi,” is called Sri Dhana Lakshmi Trayodasi. “Dhana” means wealth, and when people worship Mother Lakshmi on this day, every kind of poverty is burned. Such devotees will gain the great blessings of Sri Dhana Lakshmi to obtain the wealth they need, with the most important treasure being spiritual realization.



This year,

03 November, 2010 - Dhanteras

04 November, 2010 - Choti Diwali / Kali Chaudas / Naraka Chaturdashi

05 November, 2010 - Main Deepavali / Baddi Diwali (Lakshmi Puja)

06 November, 2010 - Padwa & Govardhan Puja / Pratipat

07 November, 2010 - Bhai Duj / Bhhaya Dooj / Bhai Beej

Special Guidelines for Deepawali Sadhana

(Nov 3rd – Nov 7th, 2010)

- 1) Wake up before sunrise, apply sesame oil to the head, and then take a complete bath, making sure to wash the hair.
- 2) Perform any kind of Lakshmi puja, chanting Samputita Sri Suktam. It is very good to offer milk, fruit salad, or sugar pieces to a Sri Chakra or image of Lakshmi while chanting Samputita Sri Suktam. For naivedyam, sweet pongal, milk sweets or other sweets are very auspicious.
- 3) In the evening at 6 pm, you can do Lakshmi puja again, chanting Samputita Sri Suktam and offering fruits, milk, and sweets.
- 4) Finally, offer harati with eight ghee lamps; this is Sri Ashta Lakshmi Harati because eight lights are being offered for the eight main forms of Mother Lakshmi.
- 5) During these three days of Deepawali, avoid all six inner enemies--anger, lust, ignorance, greed, jealousy and arrogant pride. It is also very good to maintain silence as much as possible and avoid unnecessary talking.

In Samputita Sri Suktam, the Rig Vediya Maha Lakshmi Mantra is repeated 16 times. In this mantra, which begins "Om srim hrim srim," the powerful "Srim" bijakshara is repeated four times. Amma has said that the Srim bijakshara attracts solar energy to the body to make one's mind and heart as bright as the sun. This sacred sound attracts the light of Lakshmi Devi, which then surrounds us and prevents negativity from entering our hearts or minds. On the mystical level, this sound helps to activate the divine kundalini energy and invokes the supreme light of highest spiritual consciousness.

In the symbolic mythology of ancient India, Sri Dhana Lakshmi emerged from the infinite ocean of milk when the gods and demons churned this ocean. This story signifies the churning of consciousness that happens when we practice sadhana, and promises us that if we practice with determination, Mother Lakshmi will emerge from the ocean of consciousness and fill our minds with the auspicious wealth of spiritual enlightenment. Spiritually, Deepawali corresponds to the time when Sri Dhana Lakshmi appeared from the milky ocean to bless all the gods, so this is a very, very auspicious time for worshipping Sri Dhana Lakshmi.

Special Deepawali Pujas and Homas

The following special pujas and homas will be performed each day of Deepawali in Amma's divine presence.

- Maha Ganesha Puja and Homa
- Go Maha Lakshmi Puja
- Dhana Lakshmi Narayana and Salagrama Maha Puja
- Ashta Lakshmi Maha Homa

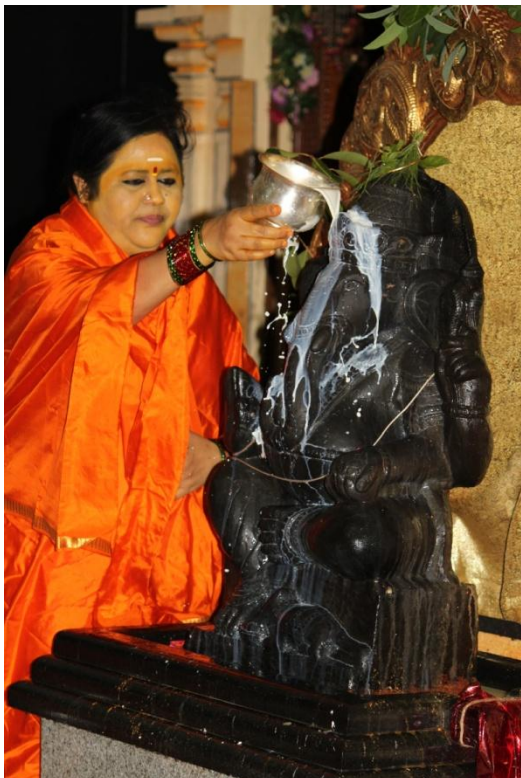
These beautiful acts of worship will be performed in order to increase wealth of every kind for all beings and the entire world.

If you would like to sponsor these noble ceremonies, the names and nakshatras of you and your loved ones will be recited by the priests at Thri-Shakti Peetam, Penusila Ashram during the sacred sankalpa. Amma has explained that the sankalpa has the power to transfer the full energy and blessings of the homa or puja to the sponsors mentioned in the sankalpa.

Sponsors will receive blessed and energized prasadam directly from the ceremony. There are two Deepawali sponsorships this year:

- Two-Day Sponsorship (\$54.00)
- Three-Day Sponsorship (\$108.00)
- Five-Day Sponsorship (\$216.00)

All proceeds from sponsorships will help support Amma's Thri-Shakti Peetam.



Maha Ganesha Puja and Homa

Sri Ganesha is always honored at the beginning of any important endeavor, and since any puja or homa is a most noble and sacred duty, it is especially important to worship Sri Ganesha first.

Doing this attracts Sri Maha Ganesha's divine grace for complete success and ensures that everyone works with intelligence, determination, and duty-mindedness.

Go Maha Lakshmi Puja

Mother Lakshmi is considered to reside in Go Mata, or Mother Cow. Cows contain a very peaceful sattwic energy, and they are a tremendous support for prosperity, providing milk, yogurt and ghee, as well as manure, which acts as fertilizer to help crops grow. Since ghee is a necessary ingredient for any homa, which creates prosperity, peace and purity on a subtle level, cows are very important in Hindu dharma. As cows are providing such valuable and sacred items, we must honor, respect, and worship Mother Cow.

Go Puja is an ancient ceremony in which a cow is offered sacred worship as a gesture of gratitude.

This is a way of giving thanks to Mother Nature. In addition, cows contain a special subtle nerve that attracts the energy of all 27 nakshatras. This adds to their auspicious nature.

Auspicious Sri Dhana Lakshmi Narayana and Divine Salagrama special Maha Puja



This photo shows two highly unique and auspicious salagramas; simply to see them is wonderfully purifying

Salagramas are very sacred emblems of Lord Vishnu and Sri Maha Lakshmi Devi. They are gifts of Mother Nature found only in the Gandaki River in the Himalayas. Certain salagramas have special markings that indicate the presence of various divine energies. Our beloved Amma has a large collection of very rare and uniquely auspicious salagramas, which has been in her family for many generations. It is a rare grace and opportunity to see or sponsor the sacred worship of such salagramas.

These rare salagramas are part of a 1000-salagrama collection that was given to Amma's ancestors by a sadhu, who predicted that their lineage would be graced by Divine Mother herself. It was also predicted that this incarnation of Divine Mother would build a temple for these salagramas, so that the whole world may benefit from their sacred vibrations.



Special Ashta Lakshmi Maha Homa with 1008 Pink Lotus Flowers

This beautiful picture shows the eight main forms of Mother Lakshmi, who grants the important wealths that are necessary for happiness in life as well as the ultimate spiritual success. She grants financial wealth, abundant food, noble children, strength and courage, but also peace, harmony, and inner richness.

During the very powerful and auspicious Ashta Lakshmi Homa, 1008 pink lotuses will be offered into the sacred homa fire. When lotuses are offered in a homa, they create an incredibly powerful energy that spreads throughout the atmosphere of Mother Earth, infusing the very air with the vibration of peace, love and joy.

This Diwali, let us all pray to Mother Lakshmi to remove all the darkness and poverty from everyone's lives, and to fill all our hearts with the sparkling golden light of peace, love, truth, and spiritual joy.

Sri Dhana Lakshmi Mata ki Jai!

"My beloved Mother's supreme inner beauty and grace are indescribable. She is seated on a fully-blossomed thousandpetaled lotus, and rays of golden light are streaming from every pore of her body, which is the same delicate hue as the tender lotus petals. Her face is adorned with a gentle smile, and her tender heart is overflowing with an ocean of motherly love." ~ Sri Suktam Chanting Booklet

Om Shantih Shantih Shantihi
 May there be peace everywhere
Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu
 May all beings be happy

