



SRAVANA DEDICATED TO WORSHIP AND REVERENCE OF SRI MAHALAKSHMI DEVI
July 20 to August 19, 2020

SRI VARALAKSHMI DEVI PUJAS ON FRIDAYS

The Friday before the full moon day in the month of Sravana is very auspicious and indescribably sacred. The moon in that month is shining with a great energizing and refreshing radiance. The shastras have described Sri Mahalakshmi as the sister of that radiant and cooling Moon. Sri Mahalakshmi with her delightful and pleasant face full of warm-hearted compassion embodies divine eternal nectarine consciousness and rules as the Empress of Vaikuntha. Ruling as the wife of Vishnu, the embodiment of prosperity and wealth, the Divine Mother in the form of the eight Lakshmi's blesses the eight different wealths. All the forms that Mahalakshmi Devi adorned are truly auspicious. "Vara" means auspiciousness. One wishing for all these boons, takes deeksha or initiation and worships Her on Fridays during the month of Sravana. This way of worshipping Jagadamba or Universal Divine Mother is called Varalakshmi Vratam.

On this auspicious time of Sravana month when the rains pour down and luscious fields of greenery adorn Mother Earth like a green silk sari, **Adi Parashakti** full of warm-hearted benevolence and mercy is also worshipped by the whole nation as Sri Mahalakshmi and Sri Mangala Gauri.

The rich culture and traditions of Bharat (India) are demonstrated when women create an auspicious atmosphere and revere Divine Mother on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Normally on this day in temples the program starts early in the morning traditionally with pujas followed by abhishekam with waters from holy rivers, rosewater, turmeric, and sandalwood powder, cow's milk, different flowers dipped in water, bilva leaves dipped in water, gold dipped in water, nine gems dipped in water and finally with Ganga water.

Following this abhishekam, new clothes and ornaments, turmeric and kumkum, sandalwood powder and yellow rice akshatas, and different other sacred ingredients are offered to the Divine Mother. Then Divine Mother is worshiped with auspicious flowers such as lotuses, archana is performed with extremely fragrant kumkum and finally various specially cooked prasadam are offered. Different aratis are chanted followed by mantra pushpam chanting and atmanjali is offered.

From 10 am onwards up until 1 pm homas are performed offering lotuses to Sri Mahalakshmi and Srimannarayana invoking Sri Mahalakshmi of Kolhapuri.

“Kolhapuri Mahalakshmi Devi” is the 7th shakti pitha of the 18 shakti pithas. A yajna is performed every day during the month of Sravana primarily from July 23 to July 31. Afterwards, for 9 days, Sri Mahalakshmi navaratri take place. On these 9 days, the names of devotees gotras are read and Mahalakshmi mula mantra is chanted. Upon completion of the japa, a special homa is done for Sri Mahalakshmi with the power of that mantra japa shakti, finally concluded with purnahuti and maha mangala haarati.

Benefits:

- One obtains full and complete grace of Sri Mahalakshmi Devi and glorious abundance and prosperity.
- Brings peace and mitigates differences between husband and wife and commotions in the house and unrest in general.
- Does not let in negative forces and drives away all evil and negative forces from the house.

Do not miss this rare and wonderful opportunity you have received due to your past merits over many lifetimes and avail the grace and compassion of Sri Mahalakshmi Devi in receiving prosperity and abundance from worshipping Her on Fridays in the month of Sravana.

Specialized homas performed on this full moon day (Purnima) in the month of Sravana--
August 3,2020

1. Kanakadhara stava homa
2. Sri Mahalakshmi mula mantra homa
3. Sri Lakshmi Narayana hrdaya stotra homa
4. Samputita Sri Suktam homa
5. Sri Mahalakshmi Saubhagya Lakshmi mantra homa

These homas are performed on the same day as “Raksha Bandhan” day also known as “Rakhi Purnima”.

Raksha Bandhan "Rakhi" August 3,2020

The specialty of this festival is to celebrate and strengthen the precious relationship between brothers and sisters of all ages. This is celebrated on Purnima (full moon day). A brother always wishes the best for his sister whom he loves so dearly from the time she is born and protects her. This is very emphatically and comprehensively proclaimed in the Shastras. It is in the rich culture and heritage of Bharat to respect women and treat her as Universal Divine Mother herself. On this day a sister applies the tilak on her brother's forehead, sprinkles blessed rice grains over his head, and ties a sacred thread (amulet) or rakhi around his right wrist as a symbol of protection and prays to Divine Mother for his welfare. In return, the brother honors her with gifts and promises to take care of her always and be a shield of protection. In this manner, the custom of this pure relationship between brothers and sisters is sanctified and blessed in this unique, remarkable and extraordinary tradition of rakhi festival.