



Deepavali

Deepavali, or Divali, is a wondrous occasion, commonly known as the “Festival of Lights”, the triumph of good over evil in the world and within. Divali is a festival of the light which dispels the darkness of our ignorance, and illuminates our mind to guide us on our journey through life. As we all join together and light our deeya’s at home, let this symbolically represent our new awakening of the inner guiding light that we all have within.

Guidelines

1. The day before Divali: (October 16th 2009): Yama Deep

On this day at sunset, Hindus should bathe and offer a lighted deeya with Prasad to Yama Raj, the Lord of Death and pray for protection from untimely death. This lighted deeya and offering should be placed in the front of the house.

2. Divali Day: (October 17th 2009) Lakshmi Puja (*See Below for “How to Perform Lakshmi Puja”*)

On Divali day worship unto Mother Lakshmi is performed. Hindus should have been mentally and physically prepared for the performance of this Puja. The house and surrounding grounds cleaned and organized for this grand occasion. The Lakshmi Puja should be performed with the entire family with worship to Lakshmi Maa to achieve the blessings of wealth and prosperity and the triumph of light over darkness.

3. Govardhan Puja (October 18th 2009)

On this day, Govardhan Pooja is performed. Govardha Puja is a festival to worship Lord Krishna and Govardhan Parvat or Mount Govardhan. It is celebrated in commemoration of lifting the mountain Govardhan by Lord Krishna on his finger tip. We will be observing Govardhan Puja in the Shiva Mandir, Sunday morning October 18th, 2009 at 9am.

How to Perform Divali Puja

These simple steps should be used for Lakshmi Maa worship on Divali evening:

Ingredients Needed for this Puja

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Flowers | 11. Agin Kund |
| 2. Agarbathi/Incense | 12. Lord Ganesh Murti |
| 3. 5 Deeyas | 13. Maha Lakshmi Murti |
| 4. Wick | 14. Mango Wood |
| 5. Rice | 15. Cotton Balls |
| 6. Cow's Ghee | 16. Camphor |
| 7. Chandan | 17. Mango Leaves |
| 8. Perfume | 18. Tulasi Plant |
| 9. Lota | 19. Prasad |
| 10. Thaali | 20. Seedha for Guru, Pandit or Mandir |

Preparation for Divali Pooja:

- One should prepare a Bedi
- The Bedi should be decorated with Red or Pink silk cloth
- Murtis of Lord Ganesh and MahaLakshmi should be placed on Bedi
- Set up Havan Kund next to Bedi
- A lota should be filled with water with a mango leaf placed in the lota
- Tray with Perfume, chandan, agarbathi, camphor and mango wood
- Basket with flowers
- Thaali decorated with flowers and one deeya for aarti
- Another thaali filled with rice should be placed on the Bedi. In this thaali, place goold, silver, copper, and 5 deeyas with pure cow's ghee. These deeyas need to be lit after pooja is completed and one of the deeyas should be used to light the other deeyas used for the celebration.
- Thaali with Prasad including Tulasi leaf
- The family needs to face East or North for worship
- Pooja should start around 5:00 p.m.

Performing Lakshmi Puja at home:

- 1) Sprinkle water East, West, North & South repeating:

**Om Apavitrah Pavitro Vaa
Sarva Avasthaam Gato Api Vaa
Yah Smaareet Pundari-Kaaksham
Saa Bhaahyaa-Bhyah Antaram Shuchih
Om Shree Vishnu- 3 times**

- 2) Take a handful of flowers and meditate on Lord Ganesh repeating:

**Om Gajaa Nanam Bhuta Ghana Aadi Say Vitam,
Kapitha Jambu Phaala Saara Bhakshanam,
Uma Sutam Shoka Vinaash Kaaranam,
Namaami Vighna Ishwar Paad Pankajam**

(Offer flowers to Lord Ganesh's feet)

- 3) Sprinkle water on the Lakshmi murti repeating:

**Om Swastayna Indro Brihastawan
Swastayna Pushavishwa Vedam,
Swastayn Tariksho, Arishtha Naymee
Swastaynaam Brias Patir Dadatu**

- 4) Offer chandan repeating:

**Om Shri Khandam Chandanam Divyam
Ghandhadayam Sumanoharam Vilepanam
Cha Devishi Chandanam Prati Grihyatam**

- 5) Offer Perfume, then Flowers repeating:

**Om, Malyadeeni Sugandheni
Maakyadeeni Vai Praphu
Maayane Tani Pushpani
Poojaaretham Prati Grihitaam**

6) Offer Agarbathi repeating:

**Om Vanaspati Rasood Bhuto
Gandhadap Gandhotama
Aagree Yah Sarvadevanaam
Dhoopoyam Prati Grihiataam**

7) Offer Prasad repeating:

**Om An-Nam Chaturvidyam
Swaduhu Rasai Shadbhi Saman Vitam
Bhakhshya Bhojya Samyuktam
Naivedyam Prati Grihitaam**

Next, do this simple Havan:

- ✓ Light fire using camphor and mango wood, or ghee and cotton ball.
- ✓ Hold flowers in hand and repeat the following mantras while looking at the fire

**Naana Ratna Samaayaktam,
Karat Swar, Bhi Bhushitam,
Aasaan Shri Devataa,
Prityartam Pati Grihitaam**

- ✓ Place flowers by the Agin Kund and bow. Use a mango leaf and sprinkle water around the fire 3 times repeating:

**Sarva Paap Harang Divyang
Gaan Gayan Nirmalaam Jalam
Aachnanayam Cha Maya Datam
Grihitaam Purushotamam**

- ✓ Now offer ghee repeating:

***Om Shree Ganेशaaya Namaha Swaha
Om Nama Shivayea Namaha Swaha
Om Shree Saraswatee Namaha Swaha
Om Gowrie Maata Namaha Swaha
Om Shree Panch Loak Paal Devta Swaha
Om Shree Now Grah Devta Swaha
Om Shree Agin Devta Swaha
Om Shree Lakshmi Maata Swaha
Om Shree Durga Maata Swaha***

Om Shree Saraswatee Maataa Swaha

Om Shree Hanumantyea Swaha

Om Shree Ishta Devata Swaha

Om Shree Kul Devata Swaha

Om Shree Graam Devata Swaha

Om Shree Sarvo Devi Sarva Devata Swaha

- ✓ Then all stand and make the final offering:

Om Purnamada Purnamidam

Purnaata Purnam Udachyate,

Purnasya Purnamaadaaya

Purnameva Vashishyate Swaha.

- ✓ Take flowers and fan towards the murtis repeating:

Om Banaspati Raso Dhupo,

Gandhaa Diyo Candhaa Mukta Maan,

Agreyaa Sarva Devanaam

Dhupoyam Pati Grihitaam

- ✓ Place flowers by the Agin Kund and bow. Use a mango leaf and sprinkle water around the fire 3 times repeating:

Sarva Paap Harang Divyang

Gaan Gayan Nirmalaam Jalam

Aachnanayam Cha Maya Datam

Grihitaam Purushotamam

Offer Aarti singing Jai Lakshmi Mata on the Bedi, Havan Kund, all Murtis in your pooja room and throughout the house.

Do aarti for your Mother, father, grandparents etc.

Everyone repeat closing mantra:

Om, Twameva Maata Cha Pitaa Twameva

Twameva Bandhu Cha Sakhaa Twameva

Twameva Vidya Dravinam Twameva

Twameva Sarvam Mama Deva Deva

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti

Light the 5 deeyas in the thaali on the Bedi and then use one of these deeyas to light all other deeyas.

Shubh Divali!

