



SRI LAKSHMI TEMPLE
117 Waverly Street, Ashland, MA 01721
www.srilakshmi.org
508 881 5775



SRI AYYAPPA MANDALA PUJA CELEBRATIONS

Nov 17, 2021(Wed) – Jan 8, 2022 (Sat)

Ayyappa Mandala Puja

Ayyappa Mandala Puja is an important ritual observed at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple situated in Kerala. The day of Puja marks the end of the 41 days long austerity known as Mandala Kalam that is observed by the followers or devotees of Lord Ayyappa. The 41 day fast begins on the first day of the Malayalam month of Vrishchikam.

Mandala Puja along with 'Makara Vilakku' are the two major events held at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple that draws devotees from all over India and world.

Rituals during Ayyappa Mandala Puja

- Vratam or fasting is an integral part of Puja that is observed with full dedication and strictness by the most of the devotees.
- Living in austerity is also mandatory for people who visit the pilgrimage at Sabarimala shrine. During the period of Mandala Puja, devotees lead a pious and simple life. Devotees wear Rudraksha or Tulsi mala with Lord Ayyappa's locket till the time they make a visit to the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple. The devotees during this time are referred as 'Swami' or 'Ayyappan'.
- During the period of Mandala Puja, devotees need to keep their body as well as mind clean and they must completely shun the worldly pleasures.
- Refraining from alcohol and smoke is mandatory for all the devotees visiting the Sabarimala shrine during the Mandala Puja. It is important to pray twice daily.
- The most auspicious day during the Mandala Puja is the Makarasankranti Day. The procession begins by taking the Lord's jewels to the Old Pandalam Palace situated in Sabarimala.
- The only star that is visible to us will be the Makara Jyoti as it marks the speciality of the ritual. During this time, Lord Ayappan Idol is adorned with jewels and devotees chant "Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa". Once the Lord is clad in jewels, the star vanishes mysteriously. Last, a bright effulgence or Makaravilakku shines 3 times from the hills opposite to Sabarimala and that ends the blessed ritual.

Significance of Mandala Puja

The significance of Mandala Puja is stated in several Puranas. It is mentioned in these religious scriptures that a person's destiny can be positively changed only by performing Mandala Puja. Mandala Puja is a very powerful puja that grants fulfilment of all the desires if done with full devotion and dedication. It has been witnessed that a person got what he/she wants after completing the Mandala Puja. The celebrations of Mandala Puja connote the 41 days of austerities. The strictness of the vratham during Mandala Puja helps to cleanse the soul.



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Karthikai 1st Special Puja – Nov 17, 2021 (Wed)

6:30 PM

- Abhishekam, Alankaram,
- Mandala Vratha Tulasi Mani Maala Dhaaranam,
- Bhajan, Padippattu,
- Alankara Deeparadhana,
- Namaskaram (Lokaveeram..), Harivaraasanam

Every Saturday evening Mandala Puja

6:00 PM

- Ayyappa Alankaram, Bhajan Padippattu,
- Alankara Deeparadhana
- Namaskaram (Lokaveeram..), Harivarasanam

Puja with Abishekam On Dec 4, 2021(Sat) & Dec 31, 2021(Fri)

5:30 PM

- Abhishekam, Alankaram,
- Bhajan, Padippattu,
- Alankara Deeparadhana
- Namaskaram (Lokaveeram..), Harivaraasanam

Deepa Puja, Sahasranama Archana Dec 25, 2021(Sat)

5:00 PM

- Sahasranama Archana, Vilakku Puja,
- Bhajan, Padippattu,
- Alankara Deeparadhana
- Namaskaram (Lokaveeram..), Harivaraasanam

Ayyappa Puja Grand Finale on Jan 8, 2022 (Sat)

Sponsorships

○ **Grand Sponsor**

- **\$1001 for all Puja Days (includes Irumudi Kettu Puja on Saturday Jan 8, 2022)**

○ **One Day Sponsor**

- **\$101 for each Puja**

May the blessings of Lord Ayyappa be with you and your family!