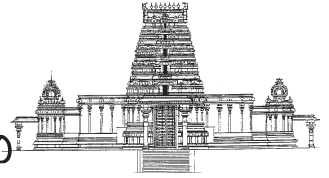




MURUGAN TEMPLE

OF NORTH AMERICA

வட அமெரிக்க முருகன் ஆலயம்



6300 PRINCESS GARDEN PARKWAY, LANHAM, MARYLAND 20706, USA. PH: 301-552-4889

FAX: (301)552-5043 Email : MTNAInfo@Yahoo.com, Internet: www.murugantemple.org

NEWSLETTER

யாமிருக்க பயமேன்?

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2003

PLEASE CELEBRATE SKANDA SHASHTI WITH US

Saturday, October 25, 2003

SKANDA SHASHTI UTSAVAM BEGINS

- 8:00 am Sri Maha Ganapathi Homam
- 9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Homam
- 10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
- 7:30 pm Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami

Thursday, October 30, 2003

SKANDA SHASHTI UTSAVAM ENDS

- 8:00 am Sri Maha Ganapathi Homam
- 9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Swami Homam
- 10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Maha Ganapathi
- 11:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
- 7:30 pm Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Soora Samharam

Saturday November 1, 2003

CELEBRATION OF SKANDA SHASHTI (with Live Nadaswaram)

- 8:00 am Sri Maha Ganapathi Homam
 - 9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Swami Homam
 - 10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Maha Ganapathi
 - 10:30 am Pal Kudam & Kavadi
 - 11:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
 - 3:00 pm Thiru Kalyanam
 - 4:00 pm Procession of Sri Subrahmanya Swami
- (See page three for details)

Also, mark your calendars for...

September 26th - October 4th, 2003

DEVI NAVARATRI

Friday September 26, 2003

DEVI NAVARATRI BEGINS

- 9:00 am Abishekam to Devi Durga/Pooja
- 7:30 pm Devi Meenakshi Abishekam/Pooja/Devi

Durga Sapthasathi Parayanam/Kumba Pooja & Homam

Saturday October 4, 2003

9th day of Navaratri/SRI VIJAYA DASAMI

- 9:00 am AKSHARA ABHYASAM (Initiation of Letters to 3, 4 year old children)
 - 9:30 am Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi/Pooja
 - 7:30 pm Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Mahathmiyam Parayanam Mahishasura Mardanam
- (See pages 2 and 3 for details)

The Murugan Temple sends greetings and best wishes for a Happy Deepavali to all Devotees and their families!

Friday October 24th, 2003

DEEPAVALI

- 10:00am Devi Maha Lakshmi Homam
 - 7:30 pm Special Pooja to all Deities
- (See page 3 for details)

MTNA INVITES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO CELEBRATE

"FALL FEST"

Saturday, September 20, 2003
11 AM - 4 PM

at the Murugan Temple

Fun, Food, and Entertainment

Visit our website:

www.murugantemple.org

Or, call the Temple at 301-552-4889 for details

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SPECIAL EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2003

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2003

Date	Day / Time	Description
01 Mon	SUKLA SHASHTI 11:00 am	Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/ Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
07 Sun	PRADOSHAM (Onam festival, Rig Upakarma) 6:30 pm	Abishekam to Sri Sundereswara Swami/ Abishekam to Sri Nandikeswarar
09 Tues	NATARAJA ABISHEKAM 6:15 pm	Abishekam to Sri Nataraja
10 Wed	POORNIMA 7:30 pm	Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi/ Sahasranama Archana
11 Thu	MAHALAYA PAKSHA/SRADDHA BEGINS	
13 Sat	SANKATA HARA CHATURTHI 7:00 pm	Abishekam to Sri Maha Ganapathi/ Sahasranama Archana
15 Mon	KRITTIKA 7:30 pm	Sri Palani Andavar Abishekam/ Sahasranama Archana
16 Tues	Month of Puratasi begins	
23 Tues	PRADOSHAM 6:30 pm	Abishekam to Sri Sundereswara Swami/ Abishekam to Sri Nandikeswarar
25 Thu	MAHALAYA PAKSHA/SRADDHA ENDS AMAVASYA	
26 Fri	DEVI NAVARATRI BEGINS 9:00 am	Abishekam to Devi Durga/Pooja
	7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Abishekam/Pooja/Devi Durga Sapthasathi Parayanam Kumba Pooja & Homam
27 Sat	2 nd day of Navaratri (Devi Durga Pooja) 9:00 am	Abishekam to Devi Durga/Pooja
	7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Durga Sapthasathi Parayanam Kumba Pooja & Homam
28 Sun	3 rd day of Navaratri (Devi Durga Pooja) 9:00 am	Abishekam to Devi Durga/Pooja
	3:00 pm	Chandi Homam
	7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Durga Sapthasathi Parayanam/Kumba Pooja & Homam
29 Mon	4 th day of Navaratri (Devi Lakshmi Pooja) 9:00 am	Devi Meenakshi Abishekam/Pooja
	7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Mahathmiyam Parayanam/Kumba Pooja & Homam
30 Tues	SUKLA SHASHTI 5 th day of Navaratri (Devi	

Lakshmi Pooja)

9:00 am	Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi/Pooja
11:00 am	Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/ Sahasranama Archana
7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Mahathmiyam Parayanam/Kumba Pooja & Homam

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2003

01 Wed	6 th day of Navaratri (Devi Lakshmi/Devi Saraswathi Pooja) 9:00 am	Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi/Pooja
	7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Mahathmiyam Parayanam/Kumba Pooja & Homam
02 Thu	7 th day of Navaratri (Devi Saraswathi Pooja) 9:00 am	Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi/Pooja
	7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Mahathmiyam Parayanam /Kumba Pooja & Homam
03 Fri	8 th day of Navaratri/MAHA NAVAMI/Devi Saraswathi Pooja/Ayudha Pooja 9:00 am	Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi/Pooja
	7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Mahathmiyam Parayanam/Kumba Pooja & Homam
04 Sat	9th day of Navaratri/SRI VIJAYA DASAMI 9:00 am	AKSHARA ABHYASAM (Initiation of Letters to 3, 4 year old children)
	9:30 am	Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi/Pooja
	7:30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Pooja/Devi Mahathmiyam Parayanam/Mahishasura Mardanam
<i>(Special Sponsorship for each day of Navaratri \$51. Special Sponsorship for all days of Navaratri \$201. Special Sponsorship for Garlands for Navaratri \$101.)</i>		
07 Tues	PRADHOSHAM 6:30 pm	Abishekam to Sri Sundaeswara Swami/ Abishekam to Sri Nandikeswarar
08 Wed	SRI NATARAJA ABISHEKAM 6:15 pm	Abishekam to Sri Nataraja
09 Thu	POORNIMA 7:30 pm	Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi Sahasranama Archana to Devi Meenakshi
13 Mon	SANKATA HARA CHATURTHI & KRITTIKA 7:00 pm	Abishekam to Sri Maha Ganapathi/ Sahasranama Archana
	7:30 pm	Abishekam to Sri Palani Andavar/ Sahasranama Archana
17 Fri	MONTH OF AIPPASI BEGINS	
22 Wed	PRADOSHAM 6:30 pm	Abishekam to Sri Sundereswara Swami/ Abishekam to Sri Nandikeswarar

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2003

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2003 (Continued)

- 23 Thu Naraka Chaturdasi
- 24 Fri DEEPAVALI**
10:00am Devi Maha Lakshmi Homam
7:30 pm Special Pooja to all Deities
(Special Sponsorship for Devi Maha Lakshmi Homam \$20. Special Sponsorship for All Day Pujas for Deepavali \$101. Special Sponsorship for Garlands for Deepavali \$101.)
- KEDARA GOWRI VRATAM/AMAVASYA
- 25 Sat SKANDA SHASHTI UTSAVAM BEGINS**
8:00 am Sri Maha Ganapathi Homam
9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Homam
10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
7:30 pm Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
- 26 Sun 2nd DAY of SKANDA SHASHTI
9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Homam
10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
7:30 pm Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
- 27 Mon 3rd day of SKANDA SHASHTI
9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Homam
10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
7:30 pm Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
- 28 Tues 4th day of SKANDA SHASHTI
9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Homam
10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
7:30 pm Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
- 29 Wed 5th day of SKANDA SHASHTI
9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Homam
10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
7:30 pm Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
- 30 Thu SKANDA SHASHTI UTSAVAM ENDS**
8:00 am Sri Maha Ganapathi Homam

- 9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya/Swami Homam**
10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Maha Ganapathi
11:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
7:30 pm Sahasranama Archana to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Soora Samharam
- 01 Nov Sat Celebration of SKANDA SHASHTI (with Live Nadaswaram)**
8:00 am Sri Maha Ganapathi Homam
9:00 am Sri Subrahmanya Swami Homam
10:00 am Abishekam to Sri Maha Ganapathi
10:30 am Pal Kudam & Kavadi
11:00 am Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami/Sri Subrahmanya Thirusati (300 Nama Archana)
3:00 pm Thiru Kalyanam
4:00 pm Procession of Sri Subrahmanya Swami
(Special Sponsorship for each day of Skanda Shashti \$101. Special Sponsorship for all days of Skanda Shashti \$501. Special Sponsorship for Garlands for Skanda Shashti \$250.)
(Please note that Skanda Shashti celebration on November 1 will be republished in the next Oct/Nov Newsletter.)

Guru Poojas

<u>DATE/DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF GURU</u>
SEPTEMBER 2003	
03 Thurs	Sri Kulachirayar Swamigal
05 Fri	Sri Kunkuliyakkalayar Swamigal
24 Wed	Sri Arunanthi Sivachariar Swamigal
OCTOBER 2003	
04 Sat	Sri Yenathi Nathar Swamigal
07 Tues	Sri Narasingamunai Araiariyar Swamigal
11 Sat	Sri Uritthira Pasupathiar Swamigal
14 Tues	Sri Thirunalaipovar Swamigal
25 Sat	Sri Meykandar Swamigal

Please visit the Murugan Temple's
Updated Website

<http://www.murugantemple.org>

for the latest information on special
events and activities, and for directions
to the Temple.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Tamil Classes for Children Continue

MTNA is holding three classes on Sundays: Bhajan from 10:30 -11 am; Religion from 11 -11:30 am; and Tamil from 11:30 -12 noon. Sixteen children age three to eight attend the first two classes, and two more for Tamil. Bhajan is taught by Miss. Ranjini R. V. Iyer, Tamil by Mrs. Shobana Mohanaharan and Mrs. Ananthi Navaratnam (all parents participate in the Tamil class helping the children), and Religion (Saivism) is taught by Nigel Siva. Classes will continue, except for long weekends. *For more information, please contact Mrs. Janani Kesavan 410-747-0019.*

My Friend Lord Ganesha

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami (Kauai's Hindu Monastery) gave this talk in early 2003. This was shared by his swamis with the children attending MTNA's Religion Classes (See above) Here we share an excerpt from this talk with those children who don't attend the classes. Adults, please share this with your children or read it to them.

Ganesha as a Real Being

Many of the great saints and sages of Hinduism have had visions of Lord Ganesha and shared them with their devotees, thus strengthening the devotees' faith and understanding of these Divine Beings.

In ancient times such great saints as Auvaiyar had visions of Ganesha and wrote of her experiences in her devotional poems such as in Vinayaga Ahaval where Auvaiyar says:

"Desiring to make me yours this instant, you like a mother have appeared before me and cut the delusion of unending births." (Loving Ganesha, page 330).

In modern times Gurudeva, Sivaya Subramuniyaswami, has shared some of his mystical perspectives and experiences on Ganesha in his book Loving Ganesha:

"There are a great many liberal Hindus and/or Western-influenced Hindus who don't think of Ganesha as a real being. To them He is a symbol, a superstition, a way of explaining philosophy to children and the uneducated. But this has not been my experience of our loving Lord. I have seen Him with my own eye. He has come to me in visions several times and convinced my lower mind of His reality."

Though few living today have had such a vision, in the year 1995 Hindus saw first hand the milk miracle where in temples around the world devotees offered milk to the murthi of Lord Ganesha and it was drunk by Him. This surely increased the faith of many in the reality of Lord Ganesha.

Second, Blesses Us through the Temple

Knowing that the Gods are real beings and that the purpose of going to the temple is to experience Their blessings is what transforms the temple from a cultural hall to a truly sacred place.

The stone or metal Deity images are not mere symbols of the Gods; they are the form through which their love, power and blessings flood forth into this world. This is like our ability to communicate with others through the telephone. We do not talk to the telephone; rather we use a telephone as a means of communication with another person who is perhaps thousands of miles away. Without the telephone, we could not converse across such distances; and without the sanctified murthi in the temple or shrine we cannot

easily commune with the Deity. His vibration and presence can be felt in the image, and He can use the image as a temporary physical-plane body or channel. As we progress in our worship, we begin to adore the image as the Deity's physical body, for we know that He is actually present and conscious in it during puja, aware of our thoughts and feelings and even sensing the pujari's gentle touch on the metal or stone.

Ganesha as a Friend

Lord Ganesha is my friend because I spent time over the years getting to know Him including by conducting daily pujas in our temple in Hawaii. There is a common Hindu saying, Ganapathi Tunai, Ganesha is my support, and that is certainly how I feel, in that He influences everything in my life for the better.

Ganesha can be your friend also if you take the time to get to know Him through Bhakti yoga, the practice of devotional disciplines, worship, prayer, chanting and singing with the aim of awakening love in the heart and opening oneself to the Deity's grace.

Bhakti, devotion to Ganesha, can be increased, or cultivated. Here are some specific suggestions:

- 1) Make the travel time to the temple be a religious time, don't allow yourself to focus on problems at home, work or school.
- 2) Bring an offering. The act of giving opens you to the blessings of the Deity.
- 3) Put as much time and prana into the offering as possible. Buying a garland at the store is good but making it yourself is even better. The prana in the offering is like touching the Deity and creates an even greater closeness.
- 4) Pay attention, don't let the mind wander. During the puja keep focused on the murthi and the priest's chant. When singing bhajan keep focused on the meaning of the words.
- 5) The blessings, the shakti of the Deity, is stronger on some days than others, so attending the temple on the strong days is helpful to attuning oneself to the shakti. For example, there is a stronger shakti on yearly festival days such as Ganesha Chaturthi. *(End of excerpt)*

OHM, A Homage to the Priest

Sri T.S.Sambamurthy Sivachariar of Mennadi, Chennai attained Swargam on the 7th of July, 2003. He was one of the main Gurukkal conducting the Murugan Temple Kumbhabhishekam in 1999. He had participated in more than 2000 Kumbhabhishekams, the important function in temples. He was conferred Hindu Renaissance Award and proclaimed as "Hindu of the year- 2001" by Satguru Sivasubramaniaswamy as reported in Hinduism Today joining the eminent group of gurus like Swami (Story continued on page 5)

New Priest Joins MTNA

Sri Thyagarajan Shastrigal, a priest from Chennai, has joined Sri Sivanatha Gurukkal at MTNA. Sri Raja Shanmugam, a priest from Palani will also be arriving later in September.

MTNA is pleased to serve the devotees in offering the Priest services to conduct poojas in their homes or in the Temple premises, such as, Grahapravesam, Shanthy Homam, Parikara Homams, Poonool Kalyanam (Thread Ceremony), Namakaranam, Jathakarma Prayogam, and all the other poojas as needed by the devotees. *Please contact the Temple to arrange pooja bookings.*

Sponsorships

Regular Sponsorships

- \$101 ... Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
 \$ 51 ... Abishekam to Sri Maha Ganapathi, Sri Palani Andavar, Sri Navagraha, Sri Sundareswara Swami, or to Devi Meenakshi Amman
 \$ 25 ... Abishekam to Sri Dakshinamurthi or Devi Durgai Amman
 \$341 ... Sponsorship of ALL Abishekams (includes Priest Dakshina)
 \$ 51 ... Garlands for Sri Subrahmanya Swami
 \$ 25 ... Garlands for Sri Maha Ganapathi, Sri Palani Andavar, Sri Navagraha, Sri Sundareswara Swami, Devi Meenakshi Amman, or for Sri Dakshinamurthi
 \$ 11 ... Garlands for Devi Durgai Amman
 \$101 ... Sponsorship of ALL Garlands for All Deities
 \$ 11 ... Sahasranama Archana
 \$ 6 ... Rahu Kala Pooja
 \$ 11 ... Pal Kudam
 \$ 21 ... Kavadi
 \$ 11 ... Flowers
 \$ 501 .. Sponsorship of ALL Events listed above
 Sponsorships of Abishekams on Pradoshams, Skanda Shashti, and Thirukkarthigai
 \$ 51 ... Abishekams to Sri Sundareswara Swami on every Pradosham in September & October
 \$101 ... Sponsorship of Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami on every Sukla Shashti in September & October
 \$ 51 ... Sponsorship of Abishekam to Devi Meenakshi Amman on every Poonima in September and October, or Abishekam to Sri Palani Andavar on every Kritikai In September and October

Sponsorships of Daily Archana

- \$151 ... Daily Archana in September & October - (Please specify Deity)

Sponsorships of THIRUSATI (300 NAMA ON LORD MURUGA) AND SAHASRANAMAS

- \$ 51 Sponsorship of Thirusati (300 Nama) to Lord Muruga. Every Tue in September and October Sahasranama Archana on every Sukla Shashti in September & October
 \$ 21 Sponsorship of Sahasranama Archana on every Sankatahara Chaturthi to Sri Maha Ganapathi in September & October
 \$ 21 Sponsorship of Sahasranama Archana to Devi Meenakshi Amman on every Poonima in September & October

Please make your checks to "MTNA" and write your name, address, Gothram, and name of the family members and their star along with your check for any sponsorship of Poojas or donation to the Temple.

Homage to the Priest (continued from page 4)

Paramananda Bharati ('90), Swami Chidananda Saraswati, "Muniji" of Parmath Niketan ('91), Swami Chinmayananda ('92), Mata Amritanandamayi Ma ('93), Swami Satchidananda ('94), Pramukhswami Maharaj ('95), Sri Satya Sai Baba ('96), Sri Chinmoy ('97), Swami Bua ('98), Swami Chidananda Saraswati of Divine Life Society ('99) and Ma Yoga Shakti ('00)

He will be sorely missed by the Hindu community around the world. Our prayers to his family to carry his tradition and values.

Announcements

- ◆ Thanks to all the devotees and their families for their service to the Temple and for their continued support. We will uphold your trust in the MTNA.
- ◆ Look Forward and Support Planned Rajagopuram and Kumbhabhishekam in 2005 - 2006.

- ◆ We are planning regular religious discourses. Seasoned speakers who wish to share their knowledge to the devotees call Seshadri @ 410-544-2408

- ◆ Volunteers, please register at the Temple.

Please consider enrolling in MTNA's monthly remittance plan. For details, visit our website at www.murugantemple.org or contact the Temple Manager at 301 552-4889.

Daily Pooja

- 9.00 am Nithya Aradhana, Palli Eluchi, Uchakaala Pooja
 10.00 am Kala Santhi Pooja for Sri Ganapathi, Sri Sundareswara Swami (Lord Shiva), Devi Meenakshi Amman, Sri Palani Andavar
 6.00 pm Sayangala Pooja for Sri Maha Ganapathi, Sri Sundareswara Swami (Lord Shiva), Devi Meenakshi Amman, Sri Palani Andavar, Sri Navagraha, Sri Subrahmanya Swami
 9.00 pm Pooja for Sri Subrahmanya Swami. Milk offering/ Palliyarai Pooja
 Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
 Thirumurai Parayanam

Daily & Weekly Schedule of Abeshekams

DAY	TIME	EVENT	FE
DAILY			
	9.15 am	Sri Maha Ganapathi	\$ 51
	9:30 am	Sri Sundareswara Swami (Lord Shiva)	\$ 51
	10.00 am	Sri Subrahmanya Swami	\$101
WEEKLY			
Mon	7.00 pm	SriSundareswara Swami (Lord Shiva)	\$ 51
Tue	7.00 pm	Devi Meenakshi Amman	\$ 51
Wed	7.00 pm	Aradanai Koshtam Deities	
Thu	7.00 pm	Sri Palani Aandavar	\$ 51
	7.30 pm	Sri Dakshinamurthi Swami	\$ 25
Fri	7.00 pm	Sri Maha Ganapathi <i>Pooja for Sri Sundareswara Swami, Sri Subrahmanya Swami, Devi Meenakshi Amman, Sri Palani Andavar, Sri Navagraha</i>	\$ 51
	7.30 pm	Devi Meenakshi Amman	\$ 51
Sat	9.30 am	Sri Navagraha	\$ 51
	10.00 am	Sri Palani Andavar	\$ 51
	11.00 am	Sri Subrahmanya Swami	\$101
Sun	11.00 am	Sri Subrahmanya Swami	\$101
	6.00 pm	Rahu Kala Pooja Abishkem and Archana to Devi Durgai Amman	\$ 25

Monthly Special Events

- 1st Friday of the month after Sri Maha Ganapathi Abishekam Bajans
 1st Sunday of the month Sri Subrahmanya Homam (9.30 am) Poonahudhi
 Abishekam to Sri Subrahmanya Swami
 Deeparadhana & Prasadam
 Last Sunday of the month Adhi Parasakthi Deepa Puja (September 28th and October 26th)

Sahasranamas

EVENT	SAHASRANAMA TO
Sankatahara Chaturthi	Sri Maha Ganapathi
Krittigai	Sri Palani Aandavar
Poonima	Devi Meenakshi Amman
Maha Pradosham	Sri Sundareswara Swami
Shashti	Sri Subrahmanya Swami

Thirusati (300 Nama on Muruga)

Every Tuesday	Sri Subrahmanya Swami
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TEMPLE SERVICES

The following services will be provided at the temple or at devotees' residences as appropriate, upon request. Devotees are urged to make prior arrangements by calling the temple in advance to make reservations and to ascertain that priests will be available to perform these special requests. Appropriate charge for the services including *Sambhavanai* for the priests will be payable to the temple. Call the Temple Manager at 301 552-4889 to make prior arrangements for performing the following ceremonies:

Ganapathi Homam	Navagraha Homam	Mruthyunjaya Homam	Chandi Homam
Maha Sathyanarayana Pooja	Bhoomi Pooja	Graha Shanti	Graha Pravesam
Naamakaranam	Punyaahavaachanam	Sarpabali	Seemantham
Sashtiabdapoorty	Sataabishekam	Shraadham	Tarpanam
Upayayanam	Annaprasnam	Vahana Pooja	Vidyaarambam
Vivaaham	Funeral Rites		

TEMPLE HOURS: Monday – Friday 9 am – 12 noon & 5 pm - 9 pm; Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays 9 am – 9 pm

AUDITORIUM: The Temple's auditorium capable of seating about 300 people in the basement is available for rent by Devotees. The Temple has also ample parking space. Call the Temple Manager at 301 552-4889 for reservations.

DIRECTIONS TO MURUGAN TEMPLE

From I-95 (also 495, Capital Beltway), take exit 20-A, Lahnham (Rte 450 East). Then follow the signs to Princess Garden Parkway. Turn right on Princess Garden Parkway. "Murugan Temple" is on your left within half a mile (6300 Princess Garden Parkway)

From Baltimore-Washington Parkway take Exit to Rt. 193 East Greenbelt Road. Make left on Greenbelt Road. Turn right on Hanover Parkway, which becomes Princess Garden Parkway. Drive about 2.5 miles. The temple is on the right side.

NEARBY HOTELS *CALL THE BEST WESTERN AND RAMADA INN NEW CARROLLTON FOR MTNA DEVOTEES' SPECIAL RATES.*

Days Inn	9025 Annapolis Road, Lanham, MD 20706	Tel: 301-459-6600	Toll Free: 800-325-2525
Ramada Inn	8500 Annapolis Road, Lanham, MD 20706	Tel: 301-459-6700	Toll Free: 800-436-0614
Best Western	5910 Princess Garden Pkwy, Lanham, MD 20706	Tel: 301-459-1000	Toll Free: 800-528-1234
Holiday Inn	7200 Hanover Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20706	Tel: 301-982-7000	Toll Free: 800-465-4329
Red Roof Inn	9050 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, MD 20706	Tel: 301-731-8830	Toll Free: 800-733-7663