

# Amaravani Newsletter

An Official Newsletter from the Flower Mound Hindu Temple | Author: Communication Team

Monthly

Volume 2. February, 2025

## Message from the Flower Mound Hindu Temple Management:

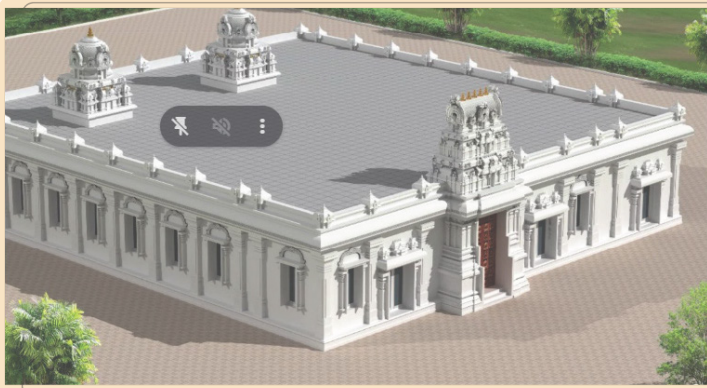
We are excited to share the latest updates, events, and spiritual insights with you through our temple newsletter. This platform helps foster a deeper connection to our faith, community, and cultural heritage.

On the auspicious occasion of Mahasivaratri, we extend our heartfelt greetings to you and your families. This sacred night dedicated to Lord Shiva is a time for prayer, devotion, and spiritual reflection. It is a reminder of the eternal truth that through devotion, self-discipline, and surrender, we can overcome ignorance and find the path to liberation.

Mahasivaratri symbolizes the cosmic dance of creation, preservation, and transformation. Observing this festival with fasting, meditation, and chanting the sacred mantra Om Namah Shivaya brings peace, prosperity, and divine blessings.

We invite you to join us in celebrating this divine night at the temple. Together, we will perform the abhishekam, offer prayers, and immerse ourselves in the vibrations of devotional chants and bhajans.

May Lord Shiva bless you with wisdom, health, and happiness, and may His divine grace guide you in all your endeavors.



## Fundraising Goal

\$3,000,000



Raised  
\$1.36 Million  
as of Jan 2025

FMHTCC is a non-profit exempt organization  
Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code 1986.

## New Temple Progress

We are excited to share updates on the temple construction and fundraising efforts.

Our design team, which includes the Civil Engineer, Architect, and Stapati, is diligently working on submitting the revised temple plan to the Flower Mound city for approval. We anticipate undergoing a few rounds of revisions before securing final approval. Once approved, we will proceed towards the groundbreaking ceremony—an auspicious milestone bringing us closer to realizing our collective dream.

On the fundraising front, we are pleased to report significant progress. As of January 23rd, we have raised \$1.36 million through pledges and donations. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all devotees and corporate supporters, including Bank of America, Capital One, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Verizon, AT&T, Charles Schwab, ExxonMobil, Raytheon, and Salesforce, for their generous matching contributions and volunteer reward programs. We encourage all donors to utilize these programs to amplify their impact.

To ensure we can fully fund the temple without relying heavily on loans, we urge everyone to participate in our fundraising efforts. You can contribute by hosting events within your communities and inspiring others to join this noble cause.

Together, let us achieve this sacred mission and bring our dream temple to life!"



# President's Message

Namaste and Pranam to all our beloved devotees.

I am truly honored and grateful to have been chosen as President for 2025, and I look forward to working with all of you to achieve our goals and serve our community. I want to express my sincere appreciation for the previous leadership provided by Dhananjay Darke and last year's (2024) board. I look forward to building upon the foundations they have put in place. I am also excited to welcome the new class of Executive committee members to the Board – both new and returning – who I am confident will successfully fulfill their predecessors' shoes.

As the President of Flower Mound Hindu Temple, I am deeply grateful for our community members' unwavering support and devotion. Your commitment to preserving our cultural and spiritual heritage is truly inspiring.

As we look forward to the future of this great establishment, it is important to recognize the successes of the last month, such as the accomplishments of several enriching events, including Vaikunta Ekadashi, Samohika Satyanarayana Puja, Bhogi Godha Kalyanam, and Makara Sankranti. We are excited to continue the festivities throughout February, and we invite everyone to join us in these joyous occasions.

1. Feb 2nd, Sunday - Vasantha Panchami - Students & Job seekers Saraswati Puja @ 10:30 AM
2. Feb 4th, Tuesday - Krithika and Rathasapthami - Subramanya Swami Abhishekam & Archana @ 6:30 PM
3. Feb 8th, Saturday - Bhishma Ekadashi- Will be Balaji Moolamoorthy abhishekam @ 10:30 AM
4. Feb 11th, Tuesday - Purnima - Satyanarayana Puja @ 6:30 PM
5. Feb 15th, Saturday- Sankatahara Chaturthi - Ganesha Abhishekam @ 6:30 PM
6. Feb 25th, Tuesday - Mahashivaratri

I encourage all devotees to actively participate in our temple's events, volunteer opportunities, and spiritual classes. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and harmonious community.

This year, we are excited to continue our mission of constructing the new temple, which fosters spiritual connection and preserves our rich traditions. We plan to host several festivals, cultural programs, initiatives to engage our younger generations in our timeless heritage, and fundraising events.

We are also working to improve our temple facilities to meet your needs better and provide a serene and welcoming environment for everyone. Your ongoing contributions, whether in time, energy, or resources, are crucial in achieving these objectives.

Let us begin this year with renewed faith and unity, working together to create a stronger and more vibrant community.

I extend my heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a year filled with peace, prosperity, and spiritual growth. This temple stands as a beacon of devotion, community, and culture, and your unwavering support and participation have been the cornerstone of its success.

May the Lord bless you and your families with peace, prosperity, and happiness.

Warm Regards,  
Pradeep Rangachar  
2025 President - FMHTCC



## About FMHTCC

Welcome to the Flower Mound Hindu Temple! Established in 2009 to preserve Sanatana Dharma, commonly known as Hinduism, the Flower Mound Hindu Temple has been a cornerstone of the community. Since its inception, the temple has offered a wide range of religious and language classes, while joyfully celebrating various festivals and special events that are significant in Hinduism. With the expansion of the community and the development of new neighborhoods in and around Flower Mound, the current temple space has outgrown its capacity to accommodate the growing needs of our community. Recognizing this need, the community and the temple committee have united to construct a new temple at 3131 Old Settlers Road, Flower Mound, to better serve the spiritual and cultural needs of our community.

## Join Flower Mound Hindu

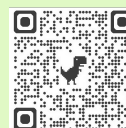
**Temple's WhatsApp Group!** Receive temple announcements including upcoming religious, cultural, and educational events! Open the camera on your phone, point to this QR code on the left, and click on the WhatsApp link to join!



## Temple Hours

Monday - Friday	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM & 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Saturday-Sunday	9:30 AM - 1:30 PM & 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM

The one God, in His/Her infinite compassion, takes on several forms (*Ishta Devata* – personal God) to fulfill the needs and aspirations of His/Her devotees. Flower Mound Hindu Temple Community Center was founded on this principle of having several *Ishta Devatas* to meet the needs of a wide range of devotees. Worship of *Ishta Devata* and *Kula Devata* (Family Deity) is a special tradition to all Hindus. Supporting the rituals to various Deities according to one's choice and ability not only helps in maintaining this tradition, but it is recommended by the scriptures as one's duty. By supporting such activities in the temple, benefits accrue to the masses, and it sets a good example for future generations to follow.



The Annual Puja/Ishta Devata Puja  
Please scan this QR code

## Significance of the Month of February in Hinduism

### MAGHA MASAM SHASHIRA RUTU

According to the Hindu Calendar, Magha Masam starts on 29 January 2025. It is the 11th Month of the Sri Krodhinama year. The name is derived from the Star Magha on PURNIMA day. This month is considered auspicious for Marriage, Upanayanam, housewarming, Akshrabhyasam, and other sacred and significant days. Magham is a Sanskrit word Ma + Agham. Ma means not present. Agham means Sin, Evil, Suffering, and Grief. This month is highly Auspicious and free from sin or suffering.

#### Sacred and Significant Days to be Celebrated:

1. **Vasanta Panchami:** Magha Shukla Panchami Day is also called Sri Panchami. Goddess for Knowledge, Learning, and Wisdom Saraswati is born on this auspicious day. Auspicious for Akshrabhyasam. Children attend puja with books in the temple on 2nd February this year.
2. **Ratha Saptami:** This festival is dedicated to Sun god (Suryanarayana) on Magha Shukla Saptami. Today marks the birth of Lord Surya to his parents, Sage Kashyapa and Aditi. On the Surya Jayanthi, devotees boil Cow Milk, make Payasam with Rice offered to the Sun God, and recite Aditya Hrudayam. This auspicious day will be celebrated on the 4th of February this year.
3. **Bhishma Ashtami:** Bhishma Ashtami, observed this year on February 5th, honors Bhishma Pitamaha, a revered figure from the Mahabharata. This day marks his passing. Although Bhishma was on his deathbed during the Dakshinyanam period, he chose to wait until Uttarayanam before peacefully passing away (Nirvana) on the Magha Shukla Paksha Ashtami (the 8th day of the lunar fortnight). Hindus believe that those who die during Uttarayanam ascend to heaven. On Bhishma Ashtami, devotees offer Arghyam to Bhishmacharya.
4. **Magha Pournima:** The Full Moon Day of Maghamasam is very auspicious for sacred baths in the sea or river, prayers, and charity. This year Full Moon Day is on the 12th of February.
5. **Maha Shivaratri** is a significant religious observance celebrated by devotees on Magha Krishna Chaturdasi every year. According to the Puranas, Lord Shiva manifested as a Jyotirlingam at midnight during this time. Devotees fast throughout the day and night, offering prayers to Lord Shiva and performing abhishekam until midnight, known as Lingodbhava Kalam. The night is dedicated to jagaran, where devotees sing Shiva bhajans and often take a holy bath in the sea or river early in the morning. This sacred event concludes with Parvati Parameshwara's Kalyanam (Vivaha) and the breaking of the fast.

During this auspicious month, activities such as bathing in the sea or river, fasting, prayer, and charity are vital for all devotees as they seek to deepen their spiritual knowledge (Gnanam).

Author  
Veerabhardra Rao Ivaturi



## Youth Voice – Teen Reporter

Typically celebrated in February, Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu festival that honors the deity Shiva. The festival is marked by a day of fasting, prayer, chanting mantras like “Om Namah Shivaya,” and other devotional rituals by devotees. It is an important festival in Hinduism that commemorates the Vivaha of Lord Shiva to Goddess Parvati and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. Unlike other Hindu festivals, Maha Shivaratri is celebrated at night, so that night, temples are bustling with devotees who stay awake all night offering prayers and devotional hymns.

The University of Texas at Dallas  
Srinidhi Gunda

To publish articles, please send an email to: [contactus@fmhtcc.org](mailto:contactus@fmhtcc.org)

# RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

## February 2025

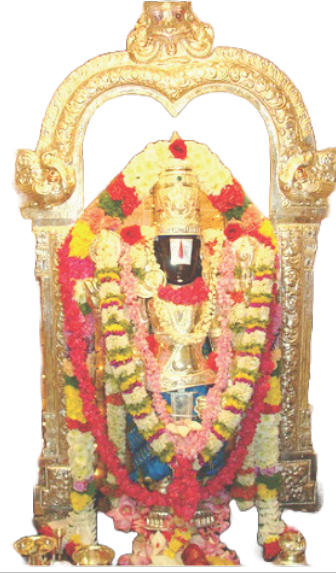
- Sun 2 **VASANT PANCHAMI**  
1:30 AM Saraswati Puja
- Tue 4 **RATHA SAPHAMI**  
09:30 AM Surya Puja & Navagraha  
06:30 PM Krithika - Subramanya Swami Abhishekam
- Tue 11 **PURNIMA/SATYANARAYANA PUJA**  
06:30 PM Satyanarayana Puja
- Sat 15 **SANKATA HARA CHATURDHI**  
06:30 PM Ganesha Abhishekam
- Tue 25 **MAHA SHIVARATRI**  
09:30 AM Shiva Abhishekam  
0:30 PM Shiva Abhishekam and Bhajans

## March 2025

- Tue 4 **KRITHIKA/SUBRAMANYA SWAMI**  
06:30 PM Subramanya Swami Abhishekam
- Thu 13 **PURNIMA/HOLIKA DAHAN**  
06:30 PM Holika Dahan  
07:30 PM Lunar Eclips - Temple closing
- Tue 11 **PURNIMA/SATYANARAYANA PUJA**  
06:30 PM Satyanarayana Puja
- Mon 17 **SANKATA HARA CHATURDHI**  
06:30 PM Ganesha Abhishekam Uthsava Murthy with Shiva Abhishekam
- Sat 29 **UGADI/GUDI PADAWA**  
10:00 AM Balaji Mula murthy Abhishekam followed by Panchanga Sravanam



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### TEMPLE HOURS

Monday through Friday: 09:30 AM - 12:30 PM & 05:30 PM - 08:30 PM  
Saturday and Sunday: 09:30 AM - 01:30 PM & 04:30 PM - 08:30 PM

### WEEKLY ABHISHEKAM

Monday: 06:45 PM Rudrabhishekam  
Tuesday: 07:30 PM Sri Hanuman Chalisa & Bhajan  
2nd Thursday: 06:45 PM Sri Shiridi Saibaba Abhishekam  
Saturday: 10:30 AM Sri Balaji Abhishekam

### MONTHLY PUJA

Purnima 06:30 PM Samuhika Satyanarayana Vratam  
Sankatahara Chaturthi 07:00 PM Sri Ganesh Abhishekam  
Krittika: 07:00 PM Murgugan Abhishekam  
Nagara Abhishekam: 05:30 PM Last Sunday of every Month

### Annual and Lifetime Puja Sponsorship

एकं सद्विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति (Ekam Sat Vipraha Bahuda Vadanti) -Rig Veda (1.164.46)

The truth is one; but the wise, talk of many.

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Certain pujas are not conducive to be performed at home on a regular basis (ex. Siva Abhisheka, Lord Balaji Abhisheka) but are easily possible in a temple setting. Our scriptures place an emphasis on doing Pujas for the various deities on important days at the appropriate time (thithis); but due to schedules and other responsibilities, devotees may not be able to personally participate in these activities.

Supporting the worship of your *Ishta Devatas* on important days during the year has been made easy through the *Annual Puja Sponsorship Program* at FMHtCC. Sponsorship of your favorite deities will ensure that Pujas are done on your behalf on special days regardless of if you are present on that day. These tax-deductible sponsorship donations are at a discount compared to sponsorship of individual programs during the course of the year. Annual sponsorships are valid for one year from the date of sponsorship. Lifetime sponsorships are valid in perpetuity and are deposited into the Flower Mound Hindu Temple Community Center.

You have helped build one of the largest temples in the United States; now consider extending the same generosity to ensure its future. Sponsor an *Ishta Deity* for a year, or in perpetuity and preserve Dharma today and for the future.

“धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः” meaning *Dharma protects those who protect Dharma*.

For more information and sponsorship details – please contact [contactus@fmhtcc.org](mailto:contactus@fmhtcc.org) or by phone at (214)513-2562. Thank you for your support!



# Employer Matching Contributions

Employer contribution matches for religious or charitable organizations typically depend on the specific policies of the employer's matching gift program. Here's an overview of how it usually works:

1. Check Eligibility
  - Employers usually provide a list of eligible organizations or categories, such as religious, educational, or nonprofit organizations. Some employers exclude religious organizations unless the donation is for non-religious activities like community outreach or education.
2. Donation by the Employee
  - The employee makes a personal donation to a qualifying religious or charitable organization, like a Hindu temple.
  - The donation amount should meet the employer's minimum requirements (e.g., \$25).
3. Submit Matching Gift Request
  - The employee submits a matching gift request through the company's platform or by filling out a matching gift form.
  - This could include: The donation receipt.
  - Information about the organization (e.g., tax-exempt status like 501(c)(3) in the U.S.).
  - Some companies use platforms like Benevity or Double the Donation to manage these requests.
4. Employer Verification
  - The employer verifies whether the organization and donation meet their eligibility criteria.
  - If approved, the employer matches the donation, usually up to a specified limit (e.g., \$1,000 annually).
5. Funds Disbursed
  - Once approved, the matching amount is sent directly to the organization by the employer.

## Important Considerations

- **Tax-Exempt Status:** Most employers require the organization to have a recognized charitable status, like 501(c)(3) in the U.S.
- **Restrictions on Religious Use:** Some employers restrict matching to non-religious purposes, like community services or educational programs offered by the religious organization.
- **Annual Caps:** Employers often have an annual maximum they will match per employee.

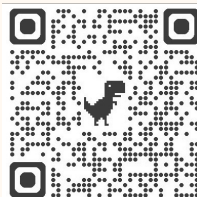
To ensure the temple qualifies and the match is successful, check with your HR or your employer's matching gift policy.

## Join Flower Mound Hindu Temple's WhatsApp Group!



Receive temple announcements including upcoming religious, cultural, and educational events! Open the camera on your phone, point to this QR code on the left, and click on the WhatsApp link to join!

The Annual Puja/Ishta Devata Puja  
Please scan this QR code



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# January Fundraising Event -2025

## Villas at Southgate - Flower Mound



We are grateful for your hospitality. Meeting all of you was delightful. Your hard work in organizing this gathering is truly valued and inspiring. Thank you!

**CALL TO HOST A FUNDRAISING EVENT!**

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**Devotee Support Community**

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**Contact: 214-513-2562 [www.fmhtcc.org](http://www.fmhtcc.org)**



## GANESHA ABHISHEKAM

The Flower Mound Hindu Temple celebrated Godha Kalyanam on Wednesday, January 1. Several families participated in the event. For a picture gallery, please visit our website [www.FMHTCC.org](http://www.FMHTCC.org).

Sri Ganesha Abhishekam is a ritual that involves pouring sacred nectars over the deity while chanting mantras. This act symbolizes purification, sanctification, and divine anointment. The term "Abhisheka" comes from the Sanskrit roots "abhi," meaning "towards," and "sheka," meaning "to pour."

## GODHA KALYANAM

The Flower Mound Hindu Temple celebrated Godha Kalyanam on Monday, January 13. Several families participated in the event. For a picture gallery, please visit our website [www.FMHTCC.org](http://www.FMHTCC.org).

Godha Kalyanam marks the conclusion of Dhanurmasam and commemorates the marriage of Goda Devi—who is an incarnation of Lakshmi Devi—with Lord Sri Krishna in the form of Lord Ranganatha. Goda Devi, also known as Sri Andal, composed the hymn Tiruppavai, which expresses her devotional service to Lord Sri Krishna. Andal is the only female Alvar among the twelve Alvar saints of South India, known for their devotion to Vaishnavism. Active in the 8th century, with some suggesting she may have been from the 7th century, Andal is credited with the renowned Tamil texts Thiruppavai and Nachiar Tirumozhi, which continue to be recited by devotees during the Margazhi winter festival season.



## Godha Kalyanam



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# Sacred Sounds



**Gita Yagna (Proficient)**  
**Bhagavad Gita - भाग एकम् ३**  
**Sunday - 01:15 PM to 02:15 PM**  
The Bhagavad Gita, a timeless spiritual classic, comprises 700 verses that offer profound wisdom and guidance on leading a righteous life. Rooted in the Mahabharata, The Gita encapsulates the teachings of Sri Krishna to Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Its teachings transcend time and space, providing invaluable insights into the nature of duty, devotion, and the self.



**Sunday - 2:25 PM to 03:25 PM**  
A Stotram is a devotional hymn or song composed in praise of a specific deity or divine being in Hinduism. It may be a simple poem expressing praise and personal devotion to a deity, or poems with embedded spiritual & philosophical doctrines. Stotrams are written in various Bharateeya languages, including Sanskrit and others. A Stotram is often made up of individual Shlokas.

**Bala Upasaka (Beginner)**  
**Sloka**  
**Sunday - 03:35 PM to 04:30 PM**  
A Sloka is a verse or poetic form commonly used in ancient Bharateeya literature and religious scriptures. Slokas typically composed in the classical Sanskrit language and are known for their rhythmic meter and precise structure. Each Sloka usually consists of two lines, and the verses often convey profound meanings, spiritual teachings, or praises of deities.

## Prasanna Gopalam

**To access more information, click on the link.**

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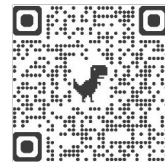
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# MAHA SHIVRATRI

Tuesday 25th February

The Annual Puja/Ishta Devata Puja  
Please scan this QR code



Temple opens at 9:30 AM Lord  
Shiva Abhishekam : 05:30 PM

Sponsorships:

Abhishekam \$51.00 Archana \$31.00  
Mahaprasad \$101.00 Flowers \$101.00

Contact: 214-513-2562 [www.fmhtcc.org](http://www.fmhtcc.org)



**Flower Mound Hindu Temple**  
**MAHA SHIVARATRI**  
**Tuesday 25th February**



10:30 AM : Ekavara Rudrabhishekam - Sponsorship \$51.00

04:00 PM : Mahanyasam

06:00 PM to 11:00 PM: Ekadasha Rudrabhishekam

**Scan**



Scan the QR code to RSVP and join

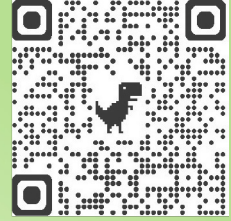
Participants are welcome to register  
for the Abhishekam sessions  
happening every 30 minutes from  
6:30 PM to 11:00 PM. Advance  
registration is necessary.

**Brahma-Muraari-Sura-Arcita-Linggam**  
**Nirmala-Bhaasita-Shobhita-Linggam |**  
**Janmaja-Duhkha-Vinaashaka-Linggam Tat Prannamaami**  
**Sadaashiva-Linggam ||1||**

Flower Mound Hindu Temple  
WhatsApp Group Please  
scan this QR code



The Annual Puja/Ishta Devata Puja  
Please scan this QR code



Saturday 29th March

# HAPPY Ugadi

Common Traditions:



Flower Mound Hindu Temple  
WhatsApp Group Please  
scan this QR code



Contact: 214-513-2562 [www.fmhtcc.org](http://www.fmhtcc.org)

# *In loving Memory of Kiran Ladkat*



With a heavy heart, we share the sudden passing of our dear friend, devotee, and dedicated volunteer, Kiran Ladkat, on January 30, 2025, due to a heart attack. He leaves behind his wife and two daughters. May God grant his soul sadgati and give his family the strength to bear this loss.

Kiran selflessly served our community, volunteering every Thursday as part of the cleaning team and playing a key role in organizing Ganesh Utsava each year. His presence and dedication will be deeply missed.

In his memory, our doctor devotees are planning an awareness event on recognizing and managing chronic health risks. Stay tuned for details. Let us honor Kiran by prioritizing our well-being and supporting each other.

Family & Friends and FMHTCC volunteers