

Namah Parvati Pataye! Hara! Hara! Mahadeva!

MAHASIVARATRI: GUIDELINES FOR PUJARIS

Thank you for participating in the upcoming Sivaratri. Here are a few details to review. The attached outline can be helpful in organizing your puja. Please note that Amritapaneeyam, Naivedyam and rose petals will be provided. Pujaris/assistants are asked to set up and clean up their respective pujas.

For Abhishekam, pujari/assistant select six pourers, one for each of the offerings. Rinsing and drying of the Lingam will be done by _____ or assignee, together with the pujaris. This is the order:

Short Rinse

Milk (1 cup) followed by short rinse

Yogurt (1 cup prepped to pour easily) followed by short rinse

Ghee (1/4 cup approximately heated prior to pour easily)

Honey (1/4 cup approximately diluted with little hot water followed by a full rinse and wiping of the Deity with towel)

Ganga Water

Rose Water followed by complete drying of Deity and removal of

Abishekam bowl, then Deity is installed on the altar.

Pujaris, please review the procedure for pouring with the selected devotees. The areas to be covered are:

- Use right hand only, supported by left hand.*
- Refrain from touching Lingam with pitcher.*
- Pour steadily and slowly over the top of the Lingam. with full mindfulness and devotion.*

Other Points to remember:

- OM HREEM NAMAH SIVAYA mantram is repeated all through the Abishekam and up to the Naivedyam offerings.*
- Archanam: two to offer petals alternately (if enough petals, then simultaneously). The attached Holy Names of Lord Siva may be repeated 54 times in Sanskrit or English.*
- Camphor Arathi may be accompanied by the “Om Namah Sivaaya Chant”.*
- After closing slokas:*
 - 1. All Chant Shambo Mahadeva...*
 - 2. Previously selected devotees come forward to hold petal baskets, distribute holy ash, sandalpaste, kumkum, holy water, abhishekam and naivedyam food prasad. (Please put towel in front of person applying the red kumkum to prevent staining of the carpet)*
 - 3. In order to prevent confusion, please invite devotees to offer petals only after the people in (2.) are in place.*