

Record Breaking 2023 Sri Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations

“Janma karma ca me divyam evam yo vetti tattvatah” - The Lord's appearance is not like that of an ordinary human being, who is forced to accept a material body. He appears out of His own sweet will.

For the first time in Pittsburgh, a huge celebration was conducted on the actual day of Janmashtami, the appearance day of Lord Sri Krishna. Over 650 people attended this day-long event.

The Venango Trails Clubhouse was transformed into a Radha Krishna temple on September 6th. The festivities began at 5.00 am with a typical temple schedule for arti's and bhoga offerings including Mangal Arti, Japa Meditation, Sringeri Darshan, Raj Bhoga Arti. The evening festivities started at 4.30 pm with cultural activities performed by the children which included singing of bhajans, devotional dance performances and sloka recitation.

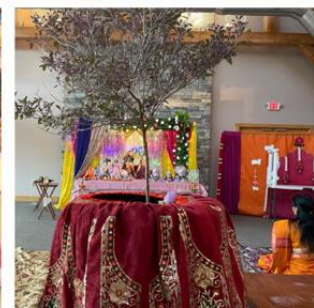
The highlight of the event was that all participants got the opportunity to perform heartfelt loving Abhishek to the deities of Sri Sri Radha Krsna. A total of 108 food items were prepared by many families and offered to the Lord. The evening arti and kirtan was enjoyed thoroughly by all after which sumptuous dinner prasadam was served. Prayerful kirtans were chanted until midnight leading into the climax of the day, the midnight arti, celebrating the appearance of the Lord. Devotees who fasted till midnight then broke their fast.

The appearance of Krishna brings about all auspiciousness in the world and in the lives of

people. On this day, the planetary systems align to bring about an atmosphere of peace, prosperity and joy in exactly the same way as it was when the Lord appeared 5000 years back. The Venango Trail clubhouse became divine and blissful thereby showering special and unlimited blessings from the Lord to all. The festival left an everlasting deep impression on the hearts of everyone.

Around 50 devotees worked together to plan and execute this unique festival. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the devotees who made the festival possible and to all the devotees who joined to observe the celebrations. With the great success of this festival, devotees are very energized to have even a bigger and better festival in 2024.

Special thanks to the VT residents who participated in the cultural events and contributed significantly to the bhoga offerings.





Imparting the Vedic culture & skills in the upcoming generation!

Sanskul, ISKCON Pittsburgh's children's school had a successful start on September 9th for Fall 2023 semester.

Sanskul classes follow a systematic curriculum that is prepared by a team of scholars led by Dr Shubha Vilas Das, who is a well-known scholar and author on Vedic texts including Ramayan and Mahabharat.

These classes teach Vedic knowledge in a delightful manner with emphasis on experiential learning. Kids are encouraged to participate in drama and presentations to help build their confidence and remove stage fear. These classes are followed by kirtan

performances where kids get an opportunity to learn musical instruments.

Please take full advantage of this wonderful experience after a busy packed week and come visit us next Saturday at 5.00pm at St. Brendan Church, 2365 Mcaleer Rd, Sewickley!

Mantra Meditations transforming lives in the hustle of downtown

ISKCON Pittsburgh's Kirtan Center in Lawrenceville conducts kirtans every Thursday evening, which is followed by a vegan/vegetarian feast. The Kirtan Center has become the epicenter of spiritual renaissance through beautiful chants!

Each Thursday the atmosphere fills with spiritual bliss through ancient chants which have been uplifting human consciousness for millions of years! Join these sessions to experience the magic!

Youtube: @pittsburghkirtancenter9380

Instagram: @steelcitykirtans

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/145947672174296/>

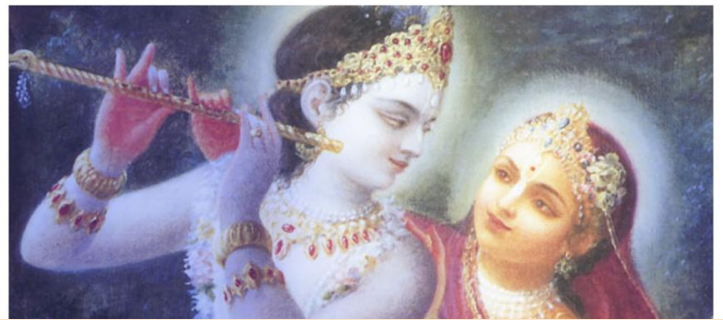


Srimati Radharani is the source of spiritual inspiration

**“tapta kancana gaurangi radhe vrinda vaneswari
Vrishabhanu sute devi pranamami hari priye”**

I offer my respects to Sri Radharani, who has molten gold complexion. O Goddess, You are the queen of Vrindavana, the daughter of King Vrishabhanu, and are very dear to Lord Krishna.

Srila Prabhupada says in a lecture :
Radharani is hari-priya, very dear to Krishna. So if we approach Krishna through the mercy of Radharani, then it becomes very easy. If Radharani recommends that, "This devotee is very nice," then Krishna immediately accepts, however foolish I may be. Because Radharani recommends it, Krishna accepts. Therefore, in Vrindavana you'll find all the devotees chanting Radharani's name more than Krishna's. Wherever you'll go, you'll find the devotees addressing one another, "Jaya Radhe." They are glorifying Radharani. They're more interested in worshipping Her. This is because, however fallen I may be, if somehow or other I can please Radharani, then it is very easy for me to understand Krishna.



First time ever, Pittsburgh saw the most divine and beautiful Radhastami celebrations on 22nd September which was attended by around 100 devotees. Everyone immersed themselves in the Bhajan Session and were able to unwind from the week's stress and seek shelter in Mata's divine presence. Anandani Radha mataji gave a talk highlighting the essence of Radharani's grace to attain Krishna. This was followed by cultural events where congregation girls performed devotional dances. The festival was concluded by prayerful kirtan. Special homemade prasadam was served and cherished by everyone. This special occasion left long lasting memories in the hearts of one and all.





ISKCON Pittsburgh participated first time in Bhadra Purnima 2023 Campaign.

17 Bhagavatam sets have been distributed by us!



Saturday Yoga Classes at CMU started by ISKCON Pittsburgh for college students!

The first session attracted many students to learn yoga from our experienced teacher Radha Priti Mataji (Rachel)

Special thanks to all our members!

It's a wonderful gift to see something grow and more wonderful to be part of that growth! With Lord Krishna's blessings and each and every devotees' support, ISKCON Pittsburgh has organized many memorable and record breaking events this month: Janmashtami, Radhashtami, Special Thursday kirtans and many more!

As we reflect back, the past month gives us a realization of growth and unity of our devotees.

The most important thing for spiritual realization is the company of pure devotees and realized souls. When devotees come together to make things happen, anything is possible. The Pittsburgh community has demonstrated this!

We are deeply grateful to all the devotees who came together and offered their service to make this a significant month in the history of ISKCON Pittsburgh. This is a momentous start and with Krishna's blessings there is a whole lot to achieve together!

Become a member of ISKCON Pittsburgh:

You can become a member of ISKCON Pittsburgh group by clicking on the link below. You will receive details of all festivities and invitations to all open and closed programs.

<https://forms.gle/eWve654VFfz3KMWD8>

Thanks to all our donors for the Janmashtami Event! Your generosity knows no bounds, and we couldn't be more grateful!

Vijaya Gummadi	Srinivas Garimella	Ruby Bhargava	Mohit Panjani
Ashvin Nakrani	Shyamsundar Das	Prabhat Chauhan	Sravantu Durishetti
Annapurna Manchella	Srinivasa Dokku	Suresh Palli	Sarvajeet Singh
Rajasekhar Natt	Lakshmi Vangala	Dr Vivek Sharma	Priya Saxena
RamaKrishna Bodupalli	Amit Sethi	Krishna Prasad Chetla	Ramdas Mayya
Rajeev Papneja	Mangesh Kulkarni	Nagesh Cowlagi	RMS Innovations LLC
Subramaniam	Uma Natarajan	Pradeep Gali	Srinivas Narain
Praveena Kandala	Senthil	Mani Madasu	Karteek Yadavalli
Scott Manley	Laxman Pulumati	Sriram Bulusu	Jitendra Myla
Srinivas Venkatadri	Hina Patel	Kannan	Mallika Sharma

How can I donate?

Please donate generously to support and grow the activities for our community. You can make a contribution via Zelle - email id - iskconpgh108@gmail.com

Contact Info: Sanskriti V Walia at 412-888-9577

OCTOBER VAISNAVA CALENDER

- Oct 5:** Srila Prabhupada's arrival in the USA, 1965
- Oct 10:** Indira Ekadashi, Vyanjuli Mahadvadashi
- Oct 24:** Ramachandra Vijayotsava
Shri Madvacharya: Appearance
Pashankusha Ekadashi
- Oct 25:** Shрила Krishnadasa Kaviraja Goswami: Disappearance
Shрила Raghunatha Bhatta Goswami : Disappearance
Shрила Raghunatha Dasa Goswami : Disappearance
- Oct 27:** Last day of the 3rd Chaturmasya
- Oct 28:** *Beginning of Kartik Month*
Shri Krishna Sharadiya Rasayatra
4th Chaturmasya begins: Urad Dal fast
Lakshmi Puja
Shri Murari Gupta: Disappearance

SEVEN DAY GITA SESSION BY

SHYAMSUNDAR DAS

Venue: Zoom Every Thursday

Oct 5 : *Who Am I? The Science of Soul*

Oct 12: *Why bad things happen to good people?*

Oct 19 : *The Topmost Yoga for this Age*

Oct 26 : *Practical Application of Gita in our lives*

THURSDAY KIRTANS

Venue: Pittsburgh Kirtan Centre,
3513A Butler St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Oct 5 : *Special Event by Kripamaya Prabhu*

Oct 12: *Musical Meditation*

Oct 19 : *Musical Meditation*

Oct 26 : *Musical Meditation*

SATURDAY WEEKLY SATSANG

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

5.00 pm: Sanskul Drama Class , Teacher: Laxmananda Das

6.00 pm: Sanskul L1 Kids Class , Teacher: Srinivas Ananda Das

Sanskul L2 Kids Class, Teacher: Anandani Radha Devidasi

Sanskul Youth class, Teacher: Shyamsundar Das

Srimad Bhagvatam Discussion for Adults

7.00 pm: *Arti & Kirtan*

7.30 pm: *Dinner*

Special birthday celebrations also every Saturday!

Venue: St. Brendan Church, 2365 Mcaleer Rd, Sewickely, PA 15143

DAILY JAPA SESSION

Venue: Zoom 6:30am to 8:30am

Zoom link:

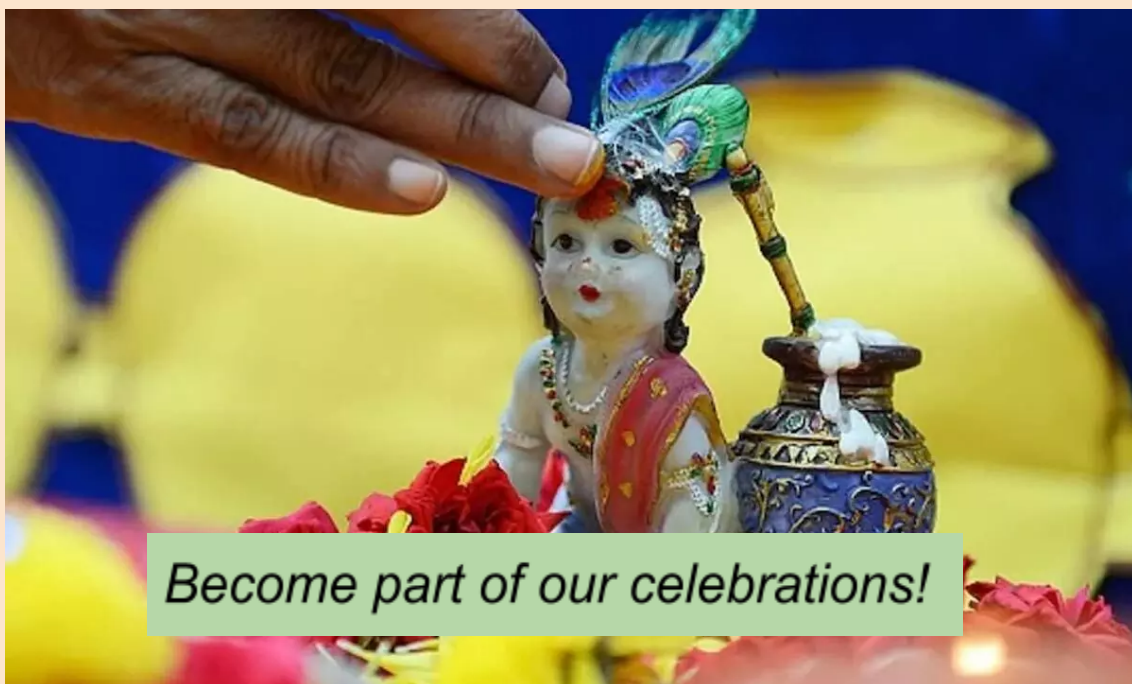
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2929737853?pwd=S0xNcThad0JRCi8rTi8vcW1Ob2RZQT09>

IN-PERSON JAPA SESSION

Venue:

329 Providence Dr
Wexford PA 15090

Every Saturday 6:30am to 8:30am



Become part of our celebrations!