



The Hindu Temple of Greater Springfield (HTGS)  
1001 West Walnut Street, Chatham, IL 62629 Ph: 217-697-8174  
[www.SpringfieldTemple.org](http://www.SpringfieldTemple.org) Email: [Manager@SpringfieldTemple.org](mailto:Manager@SpringfieldTemple.org)  
Tax-Exempt 501(C) (3) Organization

January 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

Weekly Bulletin

Namaste!

## Administrative News

We request current members to please renew your 2019 annual membership and encourage others to become a member. Please note that your membership fee goes a long way in meeting our temple's operation and general expenses. The **annual membership fee is \$101.00** for families, which works out to **\$8.41 a month or 27 cents a day!**

Please visit our new and improved website [www.springfieldtemple.org](http://www.springfieldtemple.org) where you can renew your membership, make donations securely and schedule private pujas.

**Please note our new weekend hours starting 1/5/2019:**

**Saturday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm; 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Sunday 9:00 am – 1:00pm.**

**Tax-Donation Letters:** The HTGS management plans to send the 2018 HTGS contribution summary via email and not USPS mail. You will receive an email in the next few weeks.

**Tamil Classes:** Tamil class at 4pm on January 12th at HTGS

## *Did you know?*

*The Puri Jagannath in Odisha temple is one of the 'Char Dham' temples, as defined by Adi Sankaracharya, in India. The other 3 are Badrinath, Dwarka and Rameswaram. The vast temple complex occupies an area of around 400,000 square feet and is surrounded by a 20 foot fortified wall. It contains around 120 temples and shrines. The Jagannath idol in this temple is made of wood unlike traditional Hindu temples where the idols are stone or metal. The temple has four entrances/gates which are named the Lion gate, Elephant gate, Horse gate and Tiger gate. The Sudharshana chakra atop the temple is 20 feet tall and weighs almost one ton. It is said that the chakra is visible from every corner in the city and is installed in such a way it makes you feel it faces you regardless of where you see it from.....**more about temples next week***

## Annadatha

### Annadatha cancelled due to winter storm forecast

We will see you all next Saturday with a great menu.

The Annadatha sign up sheet for 2019 is open. Please sign-up [here](#) and support this program. Divya Paranji Srirama is the Program coordinator for Annadatha program. Please contact [divya.paranji@gmail.com](mailto:divya.paranji@gmail.com) 217 503 3816 if you have any questions.

### PUJA Committee News

We began the new year on an auspicious note with Lakshmi Ganapathi Puja to invoke the blessings and grace of Lord Ganapathi and Goddess MahaLakshmi. 2019 HTGS Calendar is now available at the front desk. Members, please pick up your free copy on your next visit. Calendar is available to non-members for \$5.00. Now, would be a good time to renew your annual sponsorships for the weekly pujas and abhishekams. The annual sponsorship includes your family gotra and names each week in the Sankalpam of the puja/abhishekam sponsored.

The next major festival we look forward to is Pongal.

### Bhogi/Pongal/Kanuma

The festival is spread over three days and is the most important and most fervently-celebrated harvest festival of India. It is celebrated all over India on the same day, but has different names in each region. However, being a harvest festival, bonfires and feasts are the main thing common to all the celebrations of Pongal festival.

A special puja is performed on the first day of Pongal before the cutting of the paddy. Farmers worship the sun and the earth by anointing their ploughs and sickles with sandal wood paste. It is with these consecrated tools that the newly-harvested rice is cut.

Each of the three days are marked by different festivities. The first day, Bhogi Pongal, is a day for the family. Surya Pongal, the second day, is dedicated to the worship of Surya, the Sun God. Boiled milk and jaggery is offered to the Sun God. The third day of Pongal, Mattu Pongal, is for worship of the cattle known as Mattu. Cattle are bathed, their horns polished and painted in bright colors, and garlands of flowers placed around their necks. The Pongal that has been offered to the Gods is then given to cattle and birds to eat.

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Devotees who wish to perform any rituals at home may contact Mridula Mara at [calendar.htgs@gmail.com](mailto:calendar.htgs@gmail.com) or 732-325-5335. Follow / Like / Share us on Facebook at HTGS

### PUJA Announcements

Date	Upcoming Puja Events for Early Jan. 2019
Sun, Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bhogi/Lohri
Mon, Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	Makara Sankranti/Pongal – Surya Narayana Puja @ 9:30 am
Tue, Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	Kanuma/Govardhan Puja @ 6:30 pm

**Temple Hours:** Monday – Friday except Wednesdays: 9 AM to 10 AM and 5:30 pm to 8 pm  
Wed: 6 PM to 8 PM; Sat. 9am to 2pm; 6 pm – 8pm; and Sunday: 9 am to 1 pm

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Please be aware that on non-festival days, although the temple is open on Wednesdays, the priest is off that day.