



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Last Updated July 2, 2021

### Welcome to Sri Venkateswara Temple, Pittsburgh.

In order to make most of the information readily available to you, we have compiled the most frequently asked questions. Hope this will be helpful to you. If you still need further information, please send an email to [srivaru@svtemple.org](mailto:srivaru@svtemple.org) with your questions and contact information. We will respond to you at the earliest possible time.

**Question1: What are the temple hours.**

**Answer:** Temple is open every day from 9am to 8:30pm (Spring and summer hours) and 9am to 730pm (winter hours)

**Question 2: What pujas/services are performed at the temple?**

**Answer:** Please refer to "[View Daily Puja Schedule](#)" link. All the pujas and the sponsorship amounts are listed here will be performed at the stated times only. Devotees who are interested in attending in person can [sponsor the service online](#) and bring the proof of sponsorship or can sponsor when they come to the temple.

**Question 3: When can I do a simple Archana for a deity?**

**Answer:** Archana's for Sri Venkateswara, Sri Lakshmi, Sri Andal, Sri Ganesha and Sri Hanuman are performed upon request from 9:30am to 8pm. Please note that Archana for a deity cannot be performed during other scheduled services such as Abhishekam or Sahasranama Archana for that deity. During Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam on Sundays no other services will be performed from 10:45am to 2pm on Sundays.

**Question 4: Can I bring food items to offer to the deities?**

**Answer:** No food items brought by the devotees will be offered to the deities. There is no requirement to bring any offerings for any services at the temple. Devotees can bring flowers. Temple will accept commercially packaged nuts and will be used by the temple appropriately.

**Question 5: Can I have Hair offering service for myself or my child?**

**Hair offering** service is available at the temple from 9:30am to 7pm on all days. But it depends on priest's availability at the time of your service request because priests might be busy with Nitya Seva services. We request you to wait until priest is available. There is no barber available at the temple. Priest will perform a small service and guide the devotee to cut 3 strands of hair and deposit them in the hair offering hundi. This hair is not recycled or sent to Tirupati. After the service devotee can go to the barbershop for full tonsure and come back to take shower at the temple. Private shower facility is available at the temple. Please do not forget to bring any accessories you need to take the shower. After the shower devotee can perform Archana for Sri Venkateswara. Hair offering sponsorship includes the 3-cut service and Archana. You have to make your own barber arrangements. You can ask temple to provide nearby barber contact details.

**Question 6: What other special services are available besides Hair offering?**

**Answer:** Besides Hair offering NamaKaranam, Annaprasana, Akshraabhyasam and Car Puja services are at the temple from 9:30am to 7pm daily, subject to priest availability at the time of your arrival.

**Namakaranam** : You need to bring 2 pounds of rice to write the baby's name during the service.

**Annaprasana**: You can bring payasam (rice pudding). If not, temple will make a simple payasam as part of the sponsorship.

**Akshraabhyasam**: You need to bring a slate and a chalk for the child to write his first words.

**Car Puja**: If you wish you can bring 4 lemons to drive your car over the lemons after the car puja.

**Question 7: Can I request the temple to stay open just a few minutes longer if I am running late?**

**Answer:** Temple services will be done on time to the best of our ability. God's services will not be delayed accommodating anyone. Sayanotsavam starts 15 minutes before temple closing time. Devotees who are in the temple before this service will get the blessings and prasadam.

**Question 8: Is there any prasadam of food items available at the temple?**

**Answer:** Every morning salt or sweet Pongal is made by the priests to offer to God. This will be distributed in the Prakaram to devotees as prasadam after the morning services to Lord Venkateswara.

**In the temple cafeteria (kitchen prasadam):**

Tamarind rice (Puli hora) and Yogurt rice are available at the temple from 10am till closing. On weekends and holidays other rice items such as salt Pongal and upma in the morning and sambar rice in the afternoon will be available. Temple also may have sweet bhoondi, mixture and laddu available all days. Please note that these are made weekly, and it is possible that we may run out of these items sometimes due to high demand. Self-serving coffee-tea station is also available in the food serving area.

**Question 9: Is there parking available at the temple?**

**Answer:** There is adequate parking at the temple for most of the days. During long-weekends and special events temple may request devotees to park at the temple's off-site parking lot which is very close to the temple and provide shuttle services for devotees to come to the temple. Please check temple's ([www.svtemple.org](http://www.svtemple.org)) homepage for such special instructions.

**Question 10: Are there any accommodations available at the temple for devotees?**

**Answer:** Unfortunately, there are no accommodations available at the temple for devotees. There are many hotels and motels nearby.

**Question 11: Does temple offer priest services for personal services such as weddings, seemanthams, homams, shraddam, etc.,**

**Answer:** Yes. Temple offers priest services for such individual services. Please refer to "[Services outside the temple](#)" link under "Services" on the temple website for the list of such services and the costs. If you wish to request a priest for such services, please send an email to [svrvaru@svtemple.org](mailto:svrvaru@svtemple.org) with all the details and contact information and temple office will get back to you within 48 hours. If possible, please have more than one option for the date of service just in case priest is not available for your first choice.

**Question 12: Are there any facilities available at the temple for private events?**

**Answer:** Yes. Temple has a 400 seats capacity auditorium, 125 people capacity multi-purpose hall, 200 people capacity dining hall (dining hall is closed at this time) and 60 people capacity small auditorium. Please refer to "[Rentals](#)" link under "Services" on the temple website for the list of facilities and the costs. If you wish to rent one of these facilities, please send an email to [svrvaru@svtemple.org](mailto:svrvaru@svtemple.org) with all the details and contact information and temple office will get back to you within 48 hours. If possible, please have more than one option for the date of event just

in case facility is not available for your first choice. Only vegetarian food is allowed in the temple premises. No alcohol beverages can be served in the temple premises.

If you do not find an answer for your question, please send an email to [srivaru@svtemple.org](mailto:srivaru@svtemple.org) and we will respond to you as soon as possible. . If you do not get a response in 48 hours, please call **412-373-3880**. If no one is answering the call, please leave a brief message with the details, and an office staff will return your call in the order they receive to discuss with you personally.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

**Question 13: What are on-line links to book personal services and other services at temple.**

Jot Form link - <https://form.jotform.com/srivaru/donation>

Web Site – [www.svtemple.org](http://www.svtemple.org) and select services.

**Question 14: What is the process to book Abhishekam on Saturday and Sunday's.**

**Answer:** Please call or visit temple after 1pm EST day before to Abhishekam time to register for Abhishekam. For Example: if you want to book for Sunday 11am Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam then you need to visit temple or call temple after day before Saturday at 1pm EST.

**Question 15: What is the temple contact details.**

Website – [www.svtemple.org](http://www.svtemple.org)

E-mail address – [srivaru@svtemple.org](mailto:srivaru@svtemple.org)

Phone number – 412 373 3380

Ext: 112 for priest services, Ext: 105 for front desk and Ext 106 for kitchen

Please leave name, number, and brief message if your call is not answered while we are answering other devotees. We will get back to you at the earliest possible time.

**Question 16: Are we allowed to do the 108 Pradikshana?**

**Answer:** Not during July 3rd and July 4th. But you are allowed to take Pradikshana on weekdays.

**Question 17: How do I get temple calendar?**

**Answer:** Visit [www.svtemple.org](http://www.svtemple.org) and look for Annual calendar on the main page. If you want hard copy, then please send an e-mail to [srivaru@svtemple.org](mailto:srivaru@svtemple.org). you can also request at front desk when you visit the temple.

**Question 18: What COVID restrictions in place currently?**

**Answer:** Face mask and social distancing is mandatory. Please follow volunteer instructions when you visit the temple. No Mask – No Entry. Please co-operate and follow the COVID guidelines.

**Question 19: If I know the priest and can I call him directly to arrange personal services?**

**Answer:** We request everyone to go thru the temple office and they will help you to plan. We may not be able to accommodate your request due to other commitment for the same priest at the same time. So, please call / send an e-mail to temple or visit temple to record your service request.

**Question 20: What are the peak times during weekends at the temple and when is Darshan closed due to services to GOD?**

**Answer:** It depends. But mostly 11am to 2pm are busy with many devotees visiting the temple. Darshan to Sri Venkateswara will be closed for 10 / 15 mins prior to Sunday Abhishekam and up to 1 hour 30 mins after Abhishekam. Same is true for Saturday Abhishekam too.

Saturday (**10:45am to 11am approx. and 12pm to 1pm approx.** – this is for Abhishekam on Saturday)

Sunday (**10:45am to 11am and 12pm to 1:30pm approx.** for Sri Venkateswara) Also, Saturday **4:30pm to 5:15pm approx.** for Nija Paada Seva for Srivaru.

Also, darshan will be closed (for 5 to 10mins) during Naivaydhyam offer in the morning and evening after Sahasranama Archana.

**Question 21: Is there any construction going on at temple?**

**Answer:** Yes. Starting July 1, 2021, major construction in front of the temple (near Raja gopuram). Car's need to go thru Ratham road and walk-way in front of Raja gopuram is closed until further notice. Also, Mukha mandapam, Dining hall access is limited at this time.

**May the blessings of Lord Venkateswara and Goddess Padmavathi be with us always!**





## SRI VENKATESWARA TEMPLE

Location: 1230 S. McCully Dr., Penn Hills, PA 15235

Phone: 412-373-3380 Fax: 412-373-7650 email: [svivaru@svtemple.org](mailto:svivaru@svtemple.org)

### **Saturday: Temple hours 9AM to 830PM**

- 9:00AM Suprabatham
- 9:25AM First Archana for all Deities
- 9:30AM Sri Venkateswara Sahasranama Archana
- 9:30AM Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Puja
- 9:30AMonwards – personal services start based on priest availability.
- 9:45AM Thomala Seva
- 10:30AM Archana Sponsors allowed as part of Sahasranama.
- 11:00AM Abhishekam (each week different)
- 01:00PM Swarna Pushpa Archana (time might vary little)
- 02:00PM Sri Srinivasa Kalyanotsavam
- 04:00PM Sri Satyanarayana swamy puja
- 04:30PM Preparing for Nija Paada Seva
- 05:00PM Ashtadala Paada Padmaradana
- 05:30PM Sri Lakshmi Sahasranama Archana
- 06:00PM Sri Venkateswara Sahasranama Archana
- \*Archana during this time will be allowed as part of Sahasranama Archana.
- 08:15PM Ekanta Seva / Sayanotsavam
- 08:30PM Temple Closed.

## **Sunday: Temple hours 9am to 830pm**

9:00AM Suprabatham

9:25AM First Archana for all Deities

9:30AM Sri Venkateswara Sahasranama Archana

9:30AM Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Puja

9:30AMonwards – personal services start based on priest availability.

10:30AM Archana Sponsors allowed as part of Sahasranama.

11:00AM Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam

12 to 1:30 Swamy Darshan closed for Alankaram.

01:30PM Swarna Pushpa Archana (time might vary little)

02:00PM Sri Srinivasa Kalyanotsavam

04:00PM Sri Satyanarayana swamy puja

05:30PM Sri Lakshmi Sahasranama Archana

06:00PM Sri Venkateswara Sahasranama Archana

\*Archana during this time will be allowed as part of Sahasranama Archana.

08:15PM Ekanta Seva / Sayanotsavam

08:30PM Temple Closed.

\*\* Archana's will be closed by 8:00PM. No more Archana tickets issued after 8:00PM.

\*\* No Archana or Personal services during Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam.

\*\* Due to limited priest availability, please let the devotee know that there will be extended delay for their Archana service , personal services like hair offering, Akshraabhyasam, annaprasana, etc., We request devotees wait for the priest availability.

\*\* Access to Mukha Mandapam and Dining hall closed at this time, and it will be further reviewed at later point of time.

\*\* Harati, Theertham and Shatari will be given by priests.

\*\* Prasadam distribution at Prakaram is normal (this is after Naivaydhyam, Satyanarayana swamy puja and not all the time)

\*\* Everyone MUST wear MASK and maintain social distancing. No exceptions PLEASE.

TIME DELAY is expected and may cancel some services if no sponsors available.