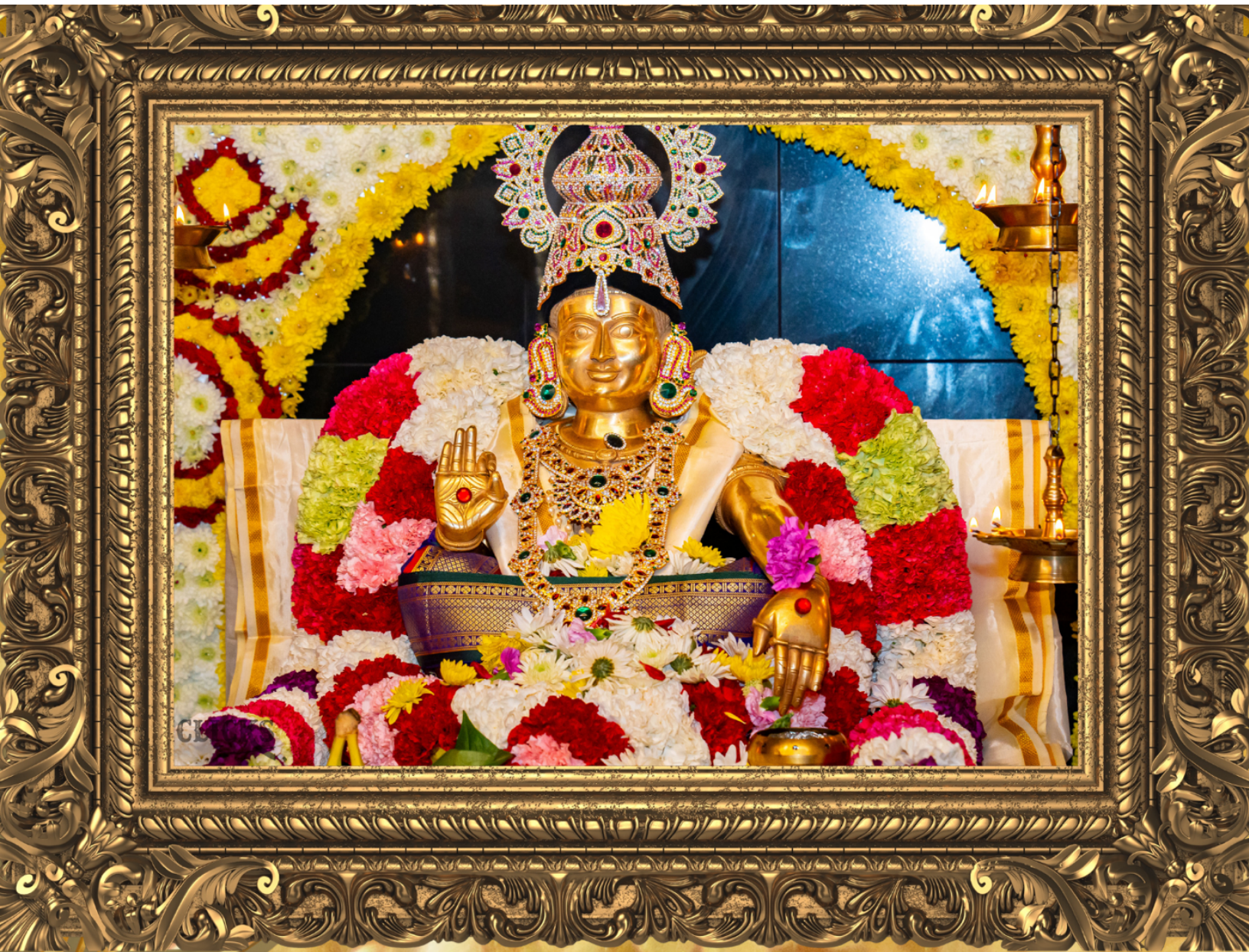




HOME PADI POOJA GUIDELINES

Atlanta Ayyappa Temple

5910 Bethelview Rd, Cumming, GA 30040

Phone: (470) 210-4492



**Bhoothanatha, Sadananda Sarva bhootha daya para,
Raksha raksha maha baho, Sasthre thubham namo nama**

Salutations and salutations to that Sastha, Who is the lord of all beings, Who is
perennially ever happy, Who shows mercy towards all beings, And I pray,
Protect me great hero

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Message from Guruswami

Swamiye saranam! It is with immense joy and gratitude that I present to you this comprehensive guide on hosting the sacred Padi Pooja in your homes. This document is a spiritual beacon, guiding you through every step of the divine journey you are about to embark upon.

Hosting Padi Pooja in your home is not just a ceremonial act; it is a profound opportunity for spiritual growth and connection with Lord Ayyappa. This guide has been meticulously crafted to assist you in every aspect of your preparations, from booking the Pooja to the final moments of the ceremony.

As you navigate through these pages, you will find detailed instructions, spiritual insights, and practical advice to make your Padi Pooja a deeply enriching experience. It is my sincere hope that this document serves as a constant companion on your spiritual path, providing you with the wisdom and guidance you seek.

Remember that this journey is not just about the rituals and traditions; it is about the transformation of the soul. It is about creating a sacred space within your home where the divine presence can manifest. It is about surrendering to the divine grace and receiving blessings beyond measure.

I encourage you to approach this guide with an open heart and a receptive mind. Allow it to be your spiritual companion as you prepare to host the divine presence in your home. May Lord Ayyappa's blessings be with you every step of the way.

Swamiye saranam Ayyappa!

Naga Ravi Kumar Medicherla

Guruswami

Atlanta Ayyappa Temple

+1 678 549 4646

Introduction

Swami saranam! With profound devotion and reverence, we present this guide to assist you in preparing for the sacred Padi Pooja conducted by our Ayyappa temple. This timeless tradition is observed during the holy Mandala kalam period, which extends from the first week of November until January 14.

Mandala kalam is a spiritually significant time when devotees embark on a pilgrimage of faith, dedicating themselves to Lord Ayyappa's divine grace. Padi Pooja holds a special place in this journey. During this period, our temple offers Ayyappa devotees the opportunity to host the Padi Pooja in their homes, specifically on days other than Saturdays or major event days.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with comprehensive guidance on how to prepare for this divine event. It contains essential information, including details on how to book the Padi Pooja, a list of items you'll need for the ceremony, and step-by-step instructions on how to prepare your home and your heart for this spiritually enriching experience.

As you embark on this sacred journey, may Lord Ayyappa's blessings be upon you, filling your life with divine grace, wisdom, and spiritual fulfillment.

Swamiye saranam Ayyappa!

How to Reserve a Slot for Home Padi Pooja

Ayyappa Swamies who are on dheeksha can schedule a slot for home Padi Pooja by following these guidelines:

Available Days:

Home Padi Pooja can be scheduled from Monday to Friday and Sunday. Saturdays are reserved exclusively for Padi Pooja at the temple.

Event Restrictions:

Please be aware that not all weekdays are available for booking due to temple events or other special occasions. Before making a reservation, kindly check for event restrictions. For any inquiries or clarifications, contact Guruswami.

Reservation Process:

To schedule a slot, visit the following URL and complete the registration:

Alternate Booking:

If you prefer an alternative method, you can reach out to Guruswami Ravi garu to verify availability and confirm your booking.

<http://www.atlantaayyappatemple.org/House-Padi-Pooja.php>

These steps ensure a smooth and meaningful experience for devotees wishing to host the sacred Padi Pooja in their homes.

Preparation - Before event day

After booking the date for your Home Padi Pooja, please follow these instructions to better prepare for the event day:

- Attend/assist at least 3 or 4 padi poojas at other swamis home to understand how this event is held. This would help you be ready for your home padi pooja.
- Prepare an Evite: Create an invitation (Evite) to welcome other Swamies to the Pooja. Include the following details for clarity:
 - Your Padi Pooja date and time
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - Parking instructions (if any)
 - Gate code (if any)
- Once the Evite is created, contact the temple to have it added to the 'Temple Whatsapp Group' so you can invite all the Swamis.
- Share the Invite: You can also forward the Evite to your friends and family group for their participation and blessings.
- Prepare Padi Pooja Items: Collect all the Padi Pooja-related items from the temple and ensure they are washed cleanly before arranging for the Pooja.
- Purchase Necessary Items: Buy all the items listed in the guide well in advance to avoid any last-minute rush.

Preparation on the Event Day

Stage and Padi Setup:

On the day of the event, please follow these instructions for the stage and Padi preparation:

- 1) Begin by cleaning your entire home, especially the hall or room where the Padi Pooja will be performed.
- 2) Create a sacred stage by arranging a table, covering it with a saree, and placing Ganesha, Ayyappa, and Muruga in that order.
- 3) Use a damp tissue paper to clean all the photos of the deities.
- 4) Ensure that Lord Ayyappa is positioned exactly at the center of the table.
- 5) To prevent any movement during the Pooja, use wooden planks or hollow blocks to stabilize the photos of the deities.
- 6) Apply Chandan (sandalwood paste) and Kumkum (vermilion) to all three moorthis (deities) and to all the padis.
- 7) Position the Padi exactly in the center of the table.
- 8) Hang garlands for all three moorthis (deities).
- 9) Hang lime garland for Ayyappa
- 10) Decorate the Padi according to your preference. The minimum requirements include:
 - a. Two flowers
 - b. Two fruits
 - c. Two lamps from the temple
 - d. Kalasam (if you plan an elaborate Pooja)
- 11) Elaborate Padi Pooja (If Applicable): For an elaborate Padi Pooja, prepare 18 Kalasams as follows:
 - a. Place empty Kalasams on a table or the floor.
 - b. Add the following items into each Kalasam:
 - i. Kalasa powder (1 pinch)
 - ii. Turmeric sticks (2)

- iii. Dry dates (2)
 - iv. Pooja supari (2)
 - v. Coins (2)
 - vi. Mango leaves (5)
 - vii. Water (fill half of the Kalasam)
 - viii. Coconut
 - ix. Vastram
- 12) Prepare the lamps by placing three cotton wicks rolled into one. Fill the lamps with oil and add a small amount of smoke camphor on the tip of the cotton wicks. Place one or two wick sets per lamp, following your tradition. The list of lamps to prepare includes:
- a. Ganesha lamp (from the temple) - to be placed in front of Ganesha
 - b. Muruga lamp (from the temple) - to be placed in front of Muruga
 - c. Ayyappa lamp (trikani) - to be placed in front of Ayyappa
 - d. Ayyappa lamp - Big (from the temple) - to be placed in front of the Padi
 - e. 36 Padi lamps (from the temple) - place two in each Padi
- 13) Prepare the Padi Pattu lamps by filling them with viboothi
- a. For the first 6 padis, use 3 smokeless camphors and 1 smoke camphor each.
 - b. For the next 6 padis, use 2 smokeless camphors and 1 smoke camphor each.
 - c. For the remaining 6 padis, use 1 smokeless camphor and 1 smoke camphor each.
- 14) Place the Padi Pattu lamps in a tray. These will be used after Ayyappa abhishekam.
- 15) In a large tray, prepare 22 thamboolams for archana and Padi. Each thamboolam should contain:
- a. Beetle leaves (2)
 - b. Beetle nuts (2)
 - c. Turmeric sticks (2)

- d. Dry dates (2)
- e. Coins (2)
- 16) In a big tray, have 36 bananas for Padi Pooja.
- 17) Have a separate/clean place/setup to keep the utsava moorthi till abhishekam. A small elevated platform, covered with a new cloth should be fine.

Pooja Preparation:

- 1) Prepare loose flowers for the Padi and Aaradhana. Remove the stems from roses or mums and place them in large trays.
- 2) In a small tray, have four bowls filled with Turmeric powder, Kumkum, Sandal powder, and Akshada.
- 3) To make Akshada for the Pooja, take a bowl of sona masoori rice, add a few drops of Ghee, and one teaspoon of turmeric powder. Mix well.
- 4) Prepare prasadam for Ganesha and Murugan in two trays as follows:
 - a. Ganesha Tray: Aval (Flattened rice), jaggery, sugar candy.
 - b. Muruga Tray: Pori (Puffed rice), jaggery, sugar candy.
- 5) Prepare the Yeka Harathi lamp by placing cotton wicks and oil.
- 6) In a small tray, place all the items required for the Pooja:
 - a. Yeka harathi
 - b. Agarbathi and stand
 - c. Smokeless camphor
 - d. Smoke camphor
 - e. Beetle leaves (6)
 - f. Bell
- 7) Have two plates of neivedyam and thamboolam ready for Ganesha and Muruga, including the following items:
 - a. One set thamboolam
 - b. 2 Bananas
 - c. One whole coconut (to be broken just before the Pooja)

8) For Ganesha Pooja: The following items are needed:

- a. Beetle leaves (2)
- b. Sona masoori rice
- c. Turmeric powder (for making a Ganesha)

Abhishekam preparation:

1) Have the below items ready for abhishekam

- a. Milk
- b. Curd
- c. Ghee (need to be melted just before abhishekam so that it don't freeze)
- d. Honey
- e. Brown Sugar
- f. Panchamrutham (Refer pachamrutham prep guidelines below)
- g. Chandan paste (flowy consistency not too water)
- h. Viboothi powder

2) Use abhishekapatra from temple and fill it with warm water for abhishekam (just before abhishekam)

3) Prepare panchamruta as below

- a. Only swamis who are on maala should prepare panchamrutam
- b. Swamis should cover their mouth with their black towel while preparing panchamrutam
- c. Cut the following fruits and mash it using sugarcane stick
 - i. Banana
 - ii. Pomegranate
 - iii. Dry fruits
 - iv. Honey
 - v. Jaggery
- d. Add milk to adjust consistency

4) Have enough silver or new metal tumblers or bowls ready for abhishekam.

Please don't use paper or plastic tumblers.

Bhajan Preparation:

For Home Padi Pooja, our temple provides the audio system for Bhajan. Follow these steps to prepare for the Bhajan session:

- 1) Pre-plan a suitable place in your home where the Bhajan team can sit comfortably. Ensure that there is enough space and seating for the team.
- 2) Connect the provided speakers, microphones, and any necessary equipment to the mixer. Make sure everything is properly connected and functioning. If you have any questions or concerns about the audio setup, reach out to the Bhajan team coordinator for assistance.
- 3) In case you have any doubts or require assistance related to the Bhajan session, don't hesitate to reach out to the Bhajan team coordinator for guidance and support.
- 4) Treat the audio systems and equipment with the utmost care. Ensure that they are returned in the same condition as when they were picked up. This includes proper packaging and safe transportation to the temple.

Preparation - After event day

The day following your home Padi Pooja, please follow these steps:

- 1) Begin your day with a bath and get ready for the Pooja of the Utsava Moorthi (festival deity).
- 2) Sing or play the Ayyappa Subrapatham, invoking Lord Ayyappa's divine blessings.
- 3) Perform your regular Ayyappa Pooja, offering neivedhyam (sacred food offering) and aarathi.
- 4) Remove all the lamps, flowers, and clean the Padi thoroughly with a wet cloth.
- 5) Wash all the lamps meticulously with tamarind paste and peetambari powder to restore their divine radiance.
- 6) Use a fresh wet cloth to clean the photos of the deities.
- 7) Load all the items that need to be returned to the temple into your car.
- 8) Ensure that someone from your family or a friend carries the Utsava Moorthi by hand while you drive to the temple.
- 9) Upon unloading the items at the temple, have them verified by the temple priest or the person in charge to ensure that everything is returned in proper condition.
- 10) Be extremely cautious during the transportation process to prevent any damage to the items borrowed from the temple.**
- 11) In the event of any damage or loss, please promptly inform the temple priest or the person in charge for necessary action.**

FAQs

What is Home Padi Pooja, and when is it typically conducted?

Home Padi Pooja is a sacred ritual conducted in the homes of Ayyappa devotees during the Mandala kalam period, excluding Saturdays and major event days.

Who can host a Home Padi Pooja?

Ayyappa swamies who are on dheeksha can host a Home Padi Pooja.

How do I reserve a slot for Home Padi Pooja?

You can reserve a slot by visiting the temple's website or by contacting Guruswami Ravi garu.

Are there any restrictions on the days when Home Padi Pooja can be conducted?

Yes, Home Padi Pooja can be conducted from Monday to Friday and Sunday, excluding Saturdays. However, please note that certain weekdays may be unavailable due to temple events or special occasions.

Are there any food restrictions to prepare on the Pooja day?

Yes, food prepared on the Pooja day should be vegetarian, and without onions and garlic.

Home Padi pooja timings:

Morning:

Ganapathi Homam	8:00 AM
Ganesh Pooja	8:30 AM
Subramanya Pooja	9:00 AM
Ayyappa Padi Pooja	9:30 AM
Ayyappa Abhishekam	11:00 AM
Padi paatu	12:15 AM
Sabarigireesashtakam	12: 30 PM
Prasadham distribution	12: 45 PM

Evening:

Ganapathi Homam	4:00 PM
Ganesh Pooja	4:30 PM
Subramanya Pooja	5:00 PM
Ayyappa Padi Pooja	5:30 PM
Ayyappa Abhishekam	7:00 PM
Padi paatu	8:15 PM
Harivarasanam	8: 30 PM
Prasadham distribution	8:45 PM

Items to buy for the event

Padi Pooja Items:

Garland for Ayyappa Photo	4 ft
Garland for small for vigraha	2ft
Garland for Ganesha Photo	3 ft
Garland for GanMuruga Photo	3 ft
Garland for Gaja Stambam	3 ft
Loose flowers for Pooja, Archana & Decoration	5 Kg
Turmeric powder packet	100 g
Chandan (Sandalwood powder)	250 g
Kumkum	100 g
Bhasmam(Viboothi)	500 g
Raw Turmeric roots	Count 100
Betel (Paan) leaves	Count 100
Dry Dates	Count 100
Small size green lime for garlands **Make small lemon garland ahead of puja	Count 21
Betel Nuts	Count 100
Mango Leaves	2 lb
Coins	Count 100
Aval (flatten rice) & Pori (puffed rice)	Both Small Bags
Roasted Dalia	
Coconut	Count 30
Oil for lamp (Gingelly oil)	1 Big Bottle
Long Lamp Wicks	1 thread from pooja store
Agarpathi (Incense sticks)	1 Box
Smokeless camphor	4 Boxes
Matchbox or lighter ready	4
Tulasi Leaves (If available)	

Abhishekam Items:

Milk	3 Ltrs
Curd	1 Big Bottle
Ghee	1 Big Bottle
Honey	1 medium bottle
Brown Sugar	1/2lb
Sugarcane	Count 4 Small size
Jaggery - get the cubes	250 g
Seedless Dates (For panchaamrutham)	2 boxes
Pomegranate (For panchaamrutham)	2 Count
Rose Water	Count 1 Small
Vasthuram (Thundu) for small moorthy	Count 1
Vasthuram for Gajasthabam	Count 1
Tender Coconut with shell	Count 2
Dry Cocounts	12 Count
Dry Almonds	Medium Pocket
Dry Cashews	Medium Pocket

Items needed from temple

**MAKE 2 COPIES OF THIS LIST AND
CHECKOUT/IN EVERY ITEM
BEFORE GETTING/AFTER RETURNING FROM
TEMPLE**

Pooja Items:

Sl No	Item	Quantity
1	Small 18 Kalasham Pots (threaded)	18
2	Medium Kalasham Pots	6
3	Yeka harati	1
4	Padi Lamps	34
5	18 th Padi Peacock lamps	2
6	Big Kalasham (for Murugan - threaded)	1
7	Kommu chambu	1
8	Trikanthi (3 in 1 Ayyappa Lamp)	1
9	XL deepapu kundi	2
10	XXL Deepapu Kundi	1
11	Pancha Harathi	1
12	XL plates	1
13	L Plate	1
14	Wooden Abhishekam Table	1
15	Karpura Harathi	1
16	Abhishekam Plate	1
17	Karpuram ginnelu	18
18	Abhishekapatra stockpot	1
19	Panchamrutam stockpot	1
20	Wooden Petalu for Guru Swamy	4
21	Back Seat Support for Guru Swamy	1
22	Wooden frame support for photos	3
23	Padi	1
24	Photos (Ganesha,Ayappa and Murugan)	3
25	Table 3X6	1
26	Ghanta (Bell)	1
27	Stone	3
28	Wooden Blocks	3

Audio System:

Sl No	Item	Quantity
1	Big EV Speakers with stand and power cables	2
2	Mikes	3
3	Colored mike wires	6
4	Mixer with power cable	1
5	Mixer Case	1