

90th Jayanthi Celebration of Pujya Swamiji at AVG Saylorsburg

The sun rose to a cool balmy morning on the 9th of August 2020. The air in Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Pennsylvania was palpable with excitement since it was the first celebration after the four and a half month lockdown was lifted. The management at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam (AVG) had locked its gates for the first time in thirty-five years as the shelter in place was announced. It was indeed an auspicious occasion to celebrate the 90th Jayanthi of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, the founder of AVG.



The gates were opened as pre-registered guests pulled in one by one. Everyone's registration and temperature was taken. The temple auditorium was organized in small groups of families sitting together yet six feet apart from other family groups. As one entered the temple hall temperature was taken and people used hand sanitizers to ensure personal safety. All the attendees had assigned seats so there would be no confusion and the CDC guidelines and protocols were implemented.



Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati ji's 90th Jayanthi celebrations started with a Vigneshwara Puja. With the auspicious blessings of Lord Ganesha, the Samashti Sankalpa was done, followed by the Kumbha Puja and the Lahunysa purvaka. The audience sat in rapt awe as a group of six priests and the audience chanted the Sri Rudra chanting twice. It was a unique experience as it was history in the making with people chanting in masks. Following the parayanam was the Rudra Homa and Trishati. The celebrations concluded with the Deeparadhana. Under the able guidance of Swami Viditatmanada ji and Swami Tattvavidanand ji the swamijis at the ashram , Swami Pratyagbodhananda ji, Swami Jnanananda ji, and Swami Muktatmananda were honored. Following which the priest Sambhavan was done. The limited guests of 50 were thanked and there was a joyous air as everyone was thrilled to be a part of this celebration, which concluded with a sumptuous lunch at the new dining hall. The event was also live streamed for one and all around the world. The continued and generous support of AVG by Piyush and Abantika Shah is greatly appreciated.



Pujya Swamiji jayanthi at Saylorburg Ashram



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