

MAHA SIVARATRI PUJA AT AVG

Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati said that spiritual practices undertaken on Sivaratri are effective and yield good spiritual results. Traditional Hindus observe fast during the day and remain awake during the night, doing nama japa and pancaksari mantra japa.



Lord Jana Ganapati



Lord Medha Dakshinamurti



Lord Narmadeshvarar



Jnaneshvari

AkandanamaBhajan

AVG, Anaikatti observed Maha Sivaratri Puja in a time-honored and solemn manner on March 7, 2016.

NITYA PUJA: Daily puja was done at Lord Dakshinamurti temple from 5 a.m. Special abhisheka were performed accompanied by vedic chanting.

AKHANDA NAMA JAPA: There was *akhanda nama japa* of the *pancaksari mantra* 'Om Namah Sivaya' from 7 AM to 3 PM. Swami Atmatriptananda from Kolkata led the chant. All the Swamis, Swaminis and students at AVG, Anaikatti took turns and chanted the mantra continuously. Many musical instruments accompanied the chanting. The atmosphere was filled with divinity and the mantra continued to echo in minds of the participants for many more days even after Sivaratri.

EKADASA RUDRA ABHISEKA: The chanting of Sri Rudram commenced at 4 pm, and during each of the 11 chants, 11 different *dravya abhisheka* was performed to Lord Medha Daksinamurthy and Lord Narmadesvara.

MAHA ARATI: The *Maha Arati* took place at 8 PM.

RATRI PUJA: During the night, three kala pujas were performed for Lord Narmadesvara. Led by Swami Atmatriptananda, many participated in the bhajans in the temple all night. There was divine ecstasy and the atmosphere was charged with devotion to the Lord.

The Swamis, Swaminis and Students observed fast and kept vigil for the whole night and spent the day in a memorable manner.



AkandanamaBhajan



Report by N. Avinashilingam & Photos by Uga Tomoko