

## Bhagavān Śiva Pūjā Vidhi

What is a pūjā? Pūjā is a way of worshipping the Divine God or God that resides within our hearts. God or God doesn't actually need our praise or worship but we need to worship Him/His because when we think about Him/His, we become Divine. Pūjā also involves the body, speech and mind so when we worship this way, our body, speech and mind become filled with Divinity and they all become integrated into one Divine Vision.

### Materials Required:

Idol or picture of the Bhagavān/ Bhagavatī being worshipped
diyas placed around your altar
bell
One glass, spoon and small bowl for each person performing the pūjā
Akṣata or turmeric rice (whole)
Flowers
*Both akṣata and flowers will be offered when chanting the name of God so make sure you have enough. Alternately, you can use almonds or other nuts as offerings.
one small piece of cloth/dress to offer to God or a piece of cotton ball
candan / kumkum
naivedya (sweets/nuts/fruits or any offering to God)
agarbati
ārti thālī with oil or ghee lamp (to be lit during ārti time)
plates for offerings
napkins for wiping hands

### Pūrva Pūja (Preparation)

#### 1. Atha Vighneśvara dhyānam

**śuklām-barādharam viṣṇuṃ śaśi-varṇaṃ caturbhujam I  
prasanna vadanaṃ dhyāyet sarva vighnopaśāntaye II**

*We meditate upon Lord Gaṇeśa, who wears white garments, who is all-pervading, whose color is that of the moon, who is four-armed, whose face is always peaceful and happy; Please remove all our obstacles.*

#### 2. Atha Ācamanam

Make a hollow of the right palm by bending all fingers except the little finger and the thumb.

Take a little water in that hollow and chant:

**Om Keśavāya Svāhā** and sip the water

Again take a little water in that hollow and chant:

**Om Nārāyaṇāya Svāhā** and sip the water

Again take a little water in that hollow and chant

**Om Mādhavāya Svāhā** and sip the water

Now, take little water and wash your right palm. Then, touch your right ear with right palm and chant

**Om Govindāya Namaḥ**

*We purify ourselves so that our words are clean and pure.*

### 3. Atha Prāṇāyāmaḥ

Close the left nostril with the ring finger and small finger of the right hand. Take a deep breath through the right nostril, mentally chanting Om 33x or Gāyatrī mantra 3x, then breath out through the left nostril.

*We practice prāṇāyāma to calm our minds so that we can be focused for the pūjā.*

### 4. Atha Pūjā Saṅkalpaḥ

**Om mamopātta samasta duritakṣaya-dvārā śrī pārameśvarī prītyartham  
asmin śubha dine śubha muhūrte jñāna-vairāgya-siddhyartham vidyā-vinaya praptyartham  
śrī sadguru prāsāda siddhyartham ca dhyāna āvāhanādi ṣoḍa-śopacāraiḥ śrī bhagavān  
śiva pūjām kariṣye**

*We are performing this puja of 16 steps today on a good auspicious time for removal of all our sins, for the love of Bhagavān, to gain the blessings of our Guru, to gain knowledge of the Truth, dispassion and devotion and having gained all, may we be always humble.*

*Now, **ring the bell** so that any inauspicious thoughts or vibrations leave the area and do not disturb us while doing the pūjā.*

### 5. Gaṇeśa Guru Smaraṇam

**vakratuṅḍa mahākāya sūryakoṭi samaprabha I  
nirvighnaṃ kuru me deva sarva kāryeṣu sarvadā II**

*Oh Lord with the curved trunk and a mighty body, who has the luster of a million suns, I pray unto you to remove the obstacles from all actions I intend to perform.*

**gururbrahmā gururviṣṇuḥ gururdevo maheśvaraḥ I  
gurureva paraṃ brahma tasmai śrīgurave namaḥ II**

*Salutations to that Guru who is the Creator, the Sustainer and the Lord of Dissolution. Guru alone is the Supreme Brahman.*

### Mukhya Pūja (Main Pūjā - sixteen steps)

*\*For Bhagavān Śiva - Please chant Om Namaḥ Śivāya after every offering is made.*

#### 1. Atha Dhyānam - Contemplating on God's form

**dhyāye nityaṃ maheśaṃ rajata-giri-nibhaṃ cārū-candrāvataṃsaṃ I  
ratnā-kalpojivalāṅgaṃ paraśu-mṛgavarābhītihastaṃ prasannaṃ I I  
padmāsīnaṃ samaṃtāt stutam-amaragaṇair-vyāghrakṛttim vasānaṃ I  
viśvadyaṃ viśvabījaṃ nikhila-bhaya haram pañcavakraṃ trinetraṃ I I**

*“We always worship Mahesha, who is shining like a silver mountain and adorned with a small beautiful arc of the new moon; whose limbs are illuminant as if smeared with the essence of rare gems, and who, seated on deer skin wields an axe-like weapon, with the other hand indicating the assurance of fearlessness; who has happy countenance, seated in lotus position, hailed by the deities surrounding him, is attired in tiger skin; who is the originator of universe, worshiped by all, who removes all fears without leaving even a trace, who is five mouthed signifying that He has swallowed the five organs of perception, has three eyes which signify that He knows origin, sustenance and end of universe i.e. He knows the present, past and future.*

### ***Dhyāyāmi***

#### ***2. Atha Āvāhanam - Inviting God to our home***

Touch your heart with the left palm and touch the picture or idol of God with your right palm.

### ***Āvāhayāmi***

#### ***3. Atha Āsanam - Giving Him a comfortable seat***

Offer akṣata (yellow rice) as a symbol of the seat for God. Take a pinch of yellow rice (in the right hand) and offer at the feet of God.

### ***Āsanam samarpayāmi***

#### ***4. Atha Pādyam Washing His feet***

Take a spoonful of water to wash the feet of God.

### ***Pādyam samarpayāmi***

#### ***5. Atha Arghyam Washing His hands***

Take a spoonful of water to wash the hands of God.

### ***Arghyam samarpayāmi***

#### ***6. Atha Ācamanam Giving His water to drink***

Take a spoonful of water to give God to drink.

### ***Ācamanam samarpayāmi***

#### ***7. Atha Snānam Giving Him a bath***

Sprinkle water on God to give His a bath. Take a flower, dip it in water and then sprinkle.

### ***Snānam samarpayāmi***

#### ***8. Atha Vastram Giving Him clothes to wear***

Offer a piece of cloth or cotton or akṣata to God.

### ***Vastram samarpayāmi***

#### ***9. Atha gandhalepanam Giving Him candan and/or kumkum***

Take sandalwood paste with the right hand ring finger and offer it to God.

### ***Divya gandhān dhārayāmi***

#### ***10. Atha akṣatāh Giving Him akṣata***

Take rice grains and offer to God.

### ***Akṣatān samarpayāmi***

#### ***11. Atha puṣpam Decorating Him with flowers***

Take flowers and offer to God.

### ***Puṣpam samarpayāmi***

#### ***12. Atha arcanā Prasing Him***

Chant 27, 54 or 108 names of God

\*For this pūjā, we will chant 108 names. See below.

*\*For names in Devanagari script or complete list, kindly see*

*<https://vignanam.org/devanagari/shiva-ashtottara-sata-namavali.html>*

ōṃ śivāya namaḥ

ōṃ mahēśvarāya namaḥ

ōṃ śambhavē namaḥ

ōṃ pinākinē namaḥ

ōṃ śaśīśekharaḥ namaḥ

ōṃ vāmadēvāya namaḥ

ōṃ virūpākṣāya namaḥ

ōṃ kapardinē namaḥ

ōṃ nīlalōhitāya namaḥ

ōṃ śaṅkarāya namaḥ (10)

ōṃ śūlapāṇayē namaḥ

ōṃ khaṭvāṅginē namaḥ

ōṃ viṣṇuvallabhāya namaḥ

ōṃ śipiviṣṭāya namaḥ

ōṃ ambikānāthāya namaḥ

ōṃ śrīkaṅṭhāya namaḥ

ōṃ bhaktavatsalāya namaḥ

ōṃ bhavāya namaḥ

ōṃ śarvāya namaḥ

ōṃ trilōkēśāya namaḥ (20)

ōṃ śitikaṅṭhāya namaḥ

ōṃ śivāpriyāya namaḥ

ōṃ ugrāya namaḥ

ōṃ kapālinē namaḥ

ōṃ kaumārayē namaḥ

ōṃ andhakāsura sūdanāya namaḥ

ōṃ gaṅgādharāya namaḥ

ōṃ lalāṭākṣāya namaḥ

ōṃ kākālāya namaḥ

ōṃ kṛpānidhayē namaḥ (30)

ōṃ bhīmāya namaḥ

ōṃ paraśuhastāya namaḥ

ōṃ mṛgapāṇayē namaḥ

ōṃ jaṭādhārāya namaḥ

ōṃ kṭelāsavāsīnē namaḥ

ōṃ kavacinē namaḥ

ōṃ kaṭhōrāya namaḥ

ōṃ tripurāntakāya namaḥ

ōṃ vṛṣāṅkāya namaḥ

ōṃ vṛṣabhārūḍhāya namaḥ (40)

ōṃ bhasmōddhūlita vigrahāya namaḥ

ōṃ sāmāpriyāya namaḥ

ōṃ svaramayāya namaḥ

ōṃ trayīmūrtayē namaḥ

ōṃ anīśvarāya namaḥ

ōṃ sarvajñāya namaḥ

ōṃ paramātmanē namaḥ

ōṃ sōmasūryāgni lōcanāya namaḥ

ōṃ haviṣē namaḥ

ōṃ yajñamayāya namaḥ (50)

ōṃ sōmāya namaḥ

ōṃ pañcavaktrāya namaḥ

ōṃ sadāśivāya namaḥ

ōṃ viśvēśvarāya namaḥ

ōṃ vīrabhadrāya namaḥ

ōṃ gaṇanāthāya namaḥ

ōṃ prajāpatayē namaḥ

ōṃ hiraṇyarētasē namaḥ

ōṃ durdharṣāya namaḥ

ōṃ girīśāya namaḥ (60)

ōṃ giriśāya namaḥ  
ōṃ anaghāya namaḥ  
ōṃ bhujāṅga bhūṣaṅāya namaḥ  
ōṃ bhargāya namaḥ  
ōṃ giridhanvanē namaḥ  
ōṃ giripriyāya namaḥ  
ōṃ kṛttivāsasē namaḥ  
ōṃ purārātayē namaḥ  
ōṃ bhagavatē namaḥ  
ōṃ pramadhādhipāya namaḥ (70)  
ōṃ mṛtyuñjayāya namaḥ  
ōṃ sūkṣmatanavē namaḥ  
ōṃ jagadvyāpinē namaḥ  
ōṃ jagadguravē namaḥ  
ōṃ vyōmakēśāya namaḥ  
ōṃ mahāsēna janakāya namaḥ  
ōṃ cāruvikramāya namaḥ  
ōṃ rudrāya namaḥ  
ōṃ bhūtapatayē namaḥ  
ōṃ sthāṅnavē namaḥ (80)  
ōṃ ahirbhuthnyāya namaḥ  
ōṃ digambarāya namaḥ  
ōṃ aṣṭamūrtayē namaḥ  
ōṃ anēkātmanē namaḥ  
ōṃ svāttvikāya namaḥ  
ōṃ śuddhavigrahāya namaḥ  
ōṃ śāśvatāya namaḥ  
ōṃ khaṇḍaparaśavē namaḥ  
ōṃ ajāya namaḥ  
ōṃ pāśavimōcakāya namaḥ (90)  
ōṃ mṛḍāya namaḥ  
ōṃ paśupatayē namaḥ

ōṃ dēvāya namaḥ  
ōṃ mahādēvāya namaḥ  
ōṃ avyayāya namaḥ  
ōṃ harayē namaḥ  
ōṃ pūṣadantabhidē namaḥ  
ōṃ avyagrāya namaḥ  
ōṃ dakṣādhvaraharāya namaḥ  
ōṃ harāya namaḥ (100)  
ōṃ bhaganētrabhidē namaḥ  
ōṃ avyaktāya namaḥ  
ōṃ sahasrākṣāya namaḥ  
ōṃ sahasrapādē namaḥ  
ōṃ apapargapradāya namaḥ  
ōṃ anantāya namaḥ  
ōṃ tārakāya namaḥ  
ōṃ paramēśvarāya namaḥ (108)

13. Atha dhūpaḥ - *Offering Him fragrance*

Light the incense and offer to God.

***Dhūpam āghrāpayāmi***

14. Atha dīpaḥ - *Offering Him light*

Light the lamp. Hold your lamp and show it to God.

***Dīpam sandarśayāmi***

15. Atha Naivedyam - *Offering Him sweets*

Offer some sweets, nuts, fruits or whatever you have made with love to God.

***Naivedyam nivedayāmi***

Let the thumb touch the fingers as indicated below:

**Om Prāṇāya Svāhā** - thumb touches the pinky finger

**Om Apānāya Svāhā** - thumb touches the ring finger

**Om Vyānāya Svāhā** - thumb touches the middle finger

**Om Udānāya Svāhā** - thumb touches the index finger

**Om Samānāya Svāhā** - thumb touches all fingers

**Om Brahmaṇe Svāhā** - thumb touches all fingers

16. Atha Maṅgala-nīrājanam - *Offering Him ārati*

Now, we are coming to a close with āraṭi. For āraṭi, stand up, with your āraṭi plate in hand with a lit lamp and chant āraṭi. Move the āraṭi plate around in front of the deity in a clockwise manner till the chanting is over.

**Na tatra sūryo bhāti na candra tārakam  
nema vidyuto bhānti kuto'yam agniḥ  
tameva bhāntam anubhāti sarvam  
tasya bhāsa sarvam idam vibhāti**

*The sun doesn't shine there, nor does the moon, nor do the stars, nor the lightning and much less this fire. When That shines, everything shines after It. By That light, everything shines.*

***maṅgala nīrājanam samarpayāmi***

Offer the lamp to God and then take āraṭi and touch your eyes and put it over your head. Ask God to bless you with a divine vision and beautiful thoughts. May that same image which was lit up by the diya always stay fresh in my mind.

Conclusion

Atha Puṣpāñjaliḥ

Offer flowers to God.

Now, God is getting ready to go back. Mentally think of the gift that we want to offer Him. Actually He has given us everything so what can we offer Him? Our ego and our emotions of anger, jealousy, negative thinking. Let us offer those at His feet so he can take them away and make our minds fragrant like a flower.

***puṣpāñjalim samarpayāmi***

Atha Pradakṣiṇa Namaskāraḥ

Then, we ask for forgiveness from God. Turn clockwise, with folded hands over your head, three times. Chant the following verse which is asking for forgiveness.

**yāni kāni ca pāpāni janmāntare-kṛtāni ca I  
tāni tāni vinaśyanti pradakṣiṇapade pade II**

Oh Lord! Whichever sins have been committed in various births, may all those gets destroyed with every step of the pradakṣiṇa (circumambulation),

***pradakṣiṇa namaskārān samarpayāmi***

Atha Rājopacāra - Now is the time to entertain God. Sing a few bhajans or stotrams to liven the mood. After this, you can spend a few moments in silent prayer to God.

Atha Prārthanā

We may not perform pūjā daily so we are requesting the God - whatever I do with my body, speech, mind, senses, intellect, or my nature, I offer all my actions to You.

**kāyena vācā manasendriyairvā  
buddhyātmanā vā prakṛteḥ svabhāvāt I  
karomi yadyatsakalam parasmai  
nārāyaṇāyeti samarpayāmi**



As a symbol of completion, take a spoonful of water and pour it down the plate as you say:

***Om Tat Sat. Brahmārpaṇam astu.***

Atha Udvāsanam

Now we ask God to come back and reside in our hearts - where He came from. Touch your heart with the left palm and touch the picture or idol of God with your right palm.

**Om tiṣṭha tiṣṭha parasthāne svasthāne parameśvara  
Yatra brahmādayo devāḥ sarve tiṣṭhanti me ḥṛdi**

Atha Śāntimantraḥ

**om sarve bhavantu sukhinaḥ  
sarve santu nirāmayāḥ |  
sarve bhadraṇi paśyantū  
mā kaścīd-duḥkha-bhāg-bhavet |  
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ**

**hariḥ om | śri gurubhyo namaḥ | hariḥ om ||**

May all be happy,  
May all be healthy,  
May all see auspiciousness,  
May none suffer.

*Salutations unto all the Great Masters who have passed on this Knowledge to us!*

*Hariḥ Om*