

# akhand ramayan puja

Please join us to celebrate Shri Rama Navami  
at Shanthi Mandir with an Akhand Ramayan puja

## The Program

**Saturday, March 24, 2007**

**9:00 am Venkateshwara  
Suprabhatam**  
**9:20 am Vishnu Sahasranaamam**  
**9:50 am Rama Ashtotra Naamavali**  
**10:00 am Akhand Ramayan Paath  
(Non-stop overnight reading  
of the Ram Charit Manas by  
a team of dedicated  
volunteer readers)**

**Sunday, March 25, 2007**

**10:00 am Hanuman Chalisa  
Hanuman Aarti  
Rama Aarti  
Universal Aarti**  
**11:30 am Prasad and Bhog (lunch)**

**Saturday/Sunday  
March 24-25, 2007**



**You can help  
us in several ways!**

To volunteer to read\* please contact:  
**Chandra Rawlani** at 446-5960  
[rawlani@yahoo.com](mailto:rawlanic@yahoo.com) or  
**Punam Sethi** at 514-0486  
[punamsethi@hotmail.com](mailto:punamsethi@hotmail.com)

To help with food preparations, please contact:

**Varsha Pherwani** at 256-8904  
[varshapher@hotmail.com](mailto:varshapher@hotmail.com) or  
**Hema Srinivasan** at 445-2854  
[srinivasanh@missouri.edu](mailto:srinivasanh@missouri.edu)

For all other volunteer task  
assignments please contact:  
**Kusum Malhotra** at 445-1867  
[Kusum65203@yahoo.com](mailto:Kusum65203@yahoo.com)

\* The text is in Devnagri script

Please do not park on the street if the Mandir lot is full. We have a standing arrangement with the Sunrise Optimist Club for overflow parking for special events. Their lot is on northwest corner of the Holly-Parker intersection. We will have a "on request" volunteer shuttle van service available between the lots during evening/night hours.

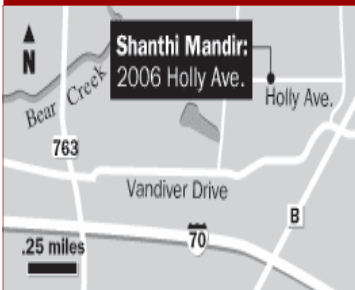
## About Shri Rama Navami and the Akhand Ramayan Puja

Shri Rama Navami is a celebration of the birth of Lord Rama. At Shanthi Mandir we are embarking on our first Akhand Ramayan puja this year (Akhand means "uninterrupted" or "eternal", and Akhand Ramayan puja therefore involves the non-stop reading of the epic Ramayana). Tulsi Ramayan, the Ram Charit Manas, is a popular Avadhi (Eastern Hindi dialect) presentation of the great epic originally written in Sanskrit by Maharishi Valmiki. The Ram Charit Manas, written by Saint Goswami Tulsidas consists of seven chapters namely, Baal Kaand, Ayodhya Kaand, Aranya Kaand, Kiskindha Kaand, Sundar Kaand, Lanka Kaand and Uttar Kaand containing tales of King Dasaratha's court, the birth and boyhood of Rama and his brethren, his marriage with Sita - daughter of Janaka, his voluntary exile, the result of Kaikeyi's guile and Dasaratha's rash vow, the life together of Rama and Sita in the great central Indian forest, her abduction by Ravana, the expedition to Lanka and the overthrow of the demon-king, and the life at Ayodhya after the return of the reunited pair. The Ram Charit Manas is written in stanzas called chaupais, broken by dohas or couplets, with an occasional sortha and chhand. In addition to the two main readers, reading alternately, others can join in the regular "easy-to-follow" refrain. Those volunteering for the main reading task will be relieved on an hourly basis during the puja.

Please join us by reading, participating in the refrains, or listening to the Ramayan. We can also use lots of volunteers to organize the grand celebration. Volunteers can assist in the event by providing rides to students and the elderly, cooking, serving, supervising children, help with set-up/clean-up and numerous other chores.

Refreshments and food will be available for the duration of the puja. The "food and relaxation station" is located at the HTCC Educational Center on the Shanthi Mandir property (home behind the Mandir). Provisions for keeping the children safely occupied at this location are also available, thanks to parent volunteers.

Please remember to bring cans and other non-perishable food items for our ongoing **Anna Daan** project. Collections are donated to the Central Missouri Food Bank as and when our collection drums are full.



### Directions:

Take Exit 127 on Interstate 70, Head north on Rangeline Street, Right at first traffic light on Vandiver Drive, Left on Parker Street, Right on Holly Avenue, Shanthi Mandir sign-board will be visible on the right after 5-6 homes.

**Shanthi Mandir**  
Hindu Temple and Community Center  
of Mid-Missouri (HTCC)

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<http://shanthimandir.missouri.org>, (573) 814-1AUM (286)