

## Skanda Sashti Festival

The festival of Skanda Shasti occurs on the sixth day of the bright lunar fortnight in the month of Asvayuja (Tamil Aippasi) which usually occurs during October or November. Skanda Shashti is the sixth day after Diwali, and is the conclusion of the six day festival. This celebration commemorates the victory of Skanda (Shanmukha, Murgan) over the demon Surapadman. For devotees of Skanda, this is the main celebration of the year, which is celebrated in a grand scale at all the temples of Murugan, especially at his six abodes: Thiruparankunram, Thiruchendur, Palani, Swamimalai, Tiruthani and Pazhamudhir Solai

According to legend, demon Surapadman performed rigorous penance and obtained rare boons. Armed with the power of these boons, Surapadman harassed Devas and human beings. Shanmukha obtained a "Vel" (spear with special powers) from his mother Devi Parvati and killed Tarakasura and Simhmukhasura. In the final battle, Lord Muruga sent his Vel towards Surapadman and split his body into two halves. As a show of compassion, Shanmukha then changed one half of Surapadman into a peacock (Muruga's chariot) and other half into a rooster (flag of this chariot). All the Devas and humans were delighted at Lord Muruga's victory and their freedom from suffering.



We welcome all of you to come and join us at the West Michigan Hindu Temple for Skanda Sashti Festival

October 29 <sup>th</sup> and November 4 <sup>th</sup>	- 6:30 pm	Abishekam for Lord Muruga (first and last day of Sashti)
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	- 10:30 am	Abishekam and Kalyanam for Lord Murugan
Oct. 29 through Nov. 4	- 7:30 pm	Each day Skanda Sashti Kavasam will be read during the 6 days.

If anyone is interested in participating in the Abishekam or Kalyanam please contact:

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