



THE HINDU TEMPLE OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

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5 Days of DIWALI CELEBRATIONS



1. **The 1st day (November 2, 2021, Tuesday) is Dhanteras.** "Dhan" means wealth and "teras" refers to the 13th day of a lunar fortnight on the Hindu calendar. Lord Dhanvantari, the Hindu god of medicine and an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is said to have brought Ayurveda and the nectar of immortality to mankind on this day. Legend also has it that Goddess Lakshmi was born from the churning of the ocean on this day, and she is welcomed with a special *pooja* (ritual). Gold and other metals (including kitchen utensils) are traditionally purchased.
2. **The 2nd day (November 3, 2021, Wednesday) is Naraka Chaturdasi or Chhoti Diwali (small Diwali).** "Naraka" means hell and "Chaturdashi" means 14th day of a lunar fortnight on the Hindu calendar. Goddess Kali and Lord Krishna are believed to have destroyed the demon Narakasura on this day.
3. **The 3rd day (November 4, 2020, Thursday) – DIWALI festival of Lights. *Join us for special Mata Lakshmi & Ganesh ji pooja from 6 pm to 7 pm.***
4. **The 4th day (November 5, 2020, Friday) - Govardhan Pooja/ Annakoot Festival.** It is celebrated as the day when Lord Krishna defeated Indra, the god of thunder and rain. ***Please join us for special celebrations and 56 Bhog Prasadam on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at our Temple from 5 pm to 7 pm.***
5. **The 5th day (November 6, 2020, Saturday) Bhai Duji.** It is dedicated to celebrating sisters, in a similar way that Raksha Bandhan is dedicated to brothers. Brothers and sisters get together and share food to honor the bond between them.