



Sri Siva Vishnu Temple

6905 Cipriano Road, Lanham MD 20706
Tel: (301) 552-3335 Fax: (301) 552-1204



Krishna Jayanthi



The birthday of Lord Krishna, an incarnation of Vishnu, is celebrated on the eighth day of the dark fortnight in the month of Sravana (July-August) in India. Men and women fast and pray on the occasion of Janmashtami. As it is the worship of infant Krishna, who was fond of milk and butter. Women prepare a variety of delicacies with milk products as offerings. According to Hindu mythology, Krishna was born to destroy Mathura's demon King Kamsa, brother of his virtuous mother, Devaki. A celestial voice told Kamsa that he would be killed by the eighth child of Devaki. Alarmed by

the message, Kamsa imprisoned Devaki and her husband Vasudeva. Taking no chances, Kamsa went on killing Devaki's children soon after birth. Lord Krishna was born as the eighth child of Vasudeva at midnight. But at Krishna's birth, under divine instructions, Vasudeva left the prison unnoticed with the baby. He crossed the mighty river Yamuna which was in spate due to heavy rains. Without any difficulty, he walked across the river protected from rain by the mighty serpent Shesha, and reached Gokul. In Gokul, on the same midnight, a girl named Yogamaya had been born to Yasoda, wife of Nanda a herdsman. The babies were exchanged, and Vasudeva came back to prison with the girl. When Kamsa was told that his sister had given birth to a child, Kamsa attempted kill the child. But the baby who was Goddess Maya, flew off to the heaven, warning Kamsa that Krishna, who would kill him, had already been born and was alive. Eventually, Krishna killed Kamsa, and released his parents from the prison, and brought peace and happiness to the common people.