Krishna Janmashtami at Home

Tuesday 24 August 2027

Short puja: about 30 minutes



Janmashtami celebrates Krishna's birth at midnight in a prison cell in Mathura. Families fast, decorate a cradle, draw tiny footprints from the door to the puja room, and break the fast after the midnight puja. Maharashtra celebrates the next day with Dahi Handi.

What you need

- Butter, poha, jaggery and coconut
- A small cradle or decorated basket
- Tulsi, flowers and a peacock feather
- Milk, curd and honey for abhisheka
- Rice flour for footprints
- A flute or yellow cloth for the children's costume

Before the puja

- Clean the puja place and take a bath; wear fresh clothes.
- Set out a lamp, incense, flowers, turmeric, kumkum, rice and water.
- Read the story to the family before you begin.

Short puja, step by step

1. **Light the lamp** and say the lamp prayer, then pray to Ganesha.
2. **Fast and decorate.** Fast during the day or keep it light. Decorate a small cradle with flowers.
3. **Draw footprints.** Draw little rice-flour footprints from the front door to the puja place.
4. **Midnight abhisheka.** At midnight, bathe a small Krishna idol with milk, curd, honey and water, dress it and place it in the cradle.
5. **Rock the cradle.** Rock the cradle and sing.
6. **Offer and break the fast.** Offer butter, sweet poha, fruit and milk sweets. Break the fast with this prasada.
7. **Arati.** Wave the lamp, ask forgiveness for anything missed and share the prasada.

Prayers to chant

> शुभं करोति कल्याणम् आरोग्यं धनसम्पदः । शत्रुबुद्धिविनाशाय दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तु ते ॥
>
> I bow to the light of the lamp, which brings goodness, health and wealth, and removes harmful thoughts.

वक्रतुण्ड महाकाय सूर्यकोटि समप्रभ । निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥

O Lord with the curved trunk, shining like a million suns, remove the obstacles from all my work, always.

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

Salutations to Lord Krishna, son of Vasudeva.

कृष्णाय वासुदेवाय हरये परमात्मने । प्रणतक्लेशनाशाय गोविन्दाय नमो नमः ॥

Salutations to Krishna, Govinda, who removes the troubles of all who bow to him.

ॐ प्राणाय स्वाहा । ॐ अपानाय स्वाहा । ॐ व्यानाय स्वाहा । ॐ उदानाय स्वाहा । ॐ समानाय स्वाहा ॥

Offering the food to the five breaths of life.

यानि कानि च पापानि जन्मान्तरकृतानि च । तानि तानि विनश्यन्ति प्रदक्षिण पदे पदे ॥

With every step around the altar, may all past wrongs fall away.

With children

- Draw Krishna's footprints: Mix rice flour with water to a thin paste.
- Tell the story of Krishna Janmashtami before the puja.

A simple home guide from VedaVidesh. Every family and region has its own customs, so follow yours where they differ, and check a local panchanga for the exact time in your city. Dates are for India; abroad they can differ by a day. Members also get the full puja with every mantra.