

## Regular Programs | Activities

- Sunday Service : 5:00 - 6:00 PM  
Daily Morning : 5:45 - 7:20 AM  
Prayers|Reading|Meditation  
Daily Evening : 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Prayers|Reading|Meditation  
Tues|Fridays : 7:00 - 8:30 PM - Vedanta Classes  
Saturdays : 8:30 - 10:30 AM - Karma Yoga  
: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Guided Meditation|Prayers  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat of month : 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM - Daylong Meditation  
1<sup>st</sup> Sun of month : 4:00 - 6:00 PM - Children Activities  
As announced : Hatha Yoga Class

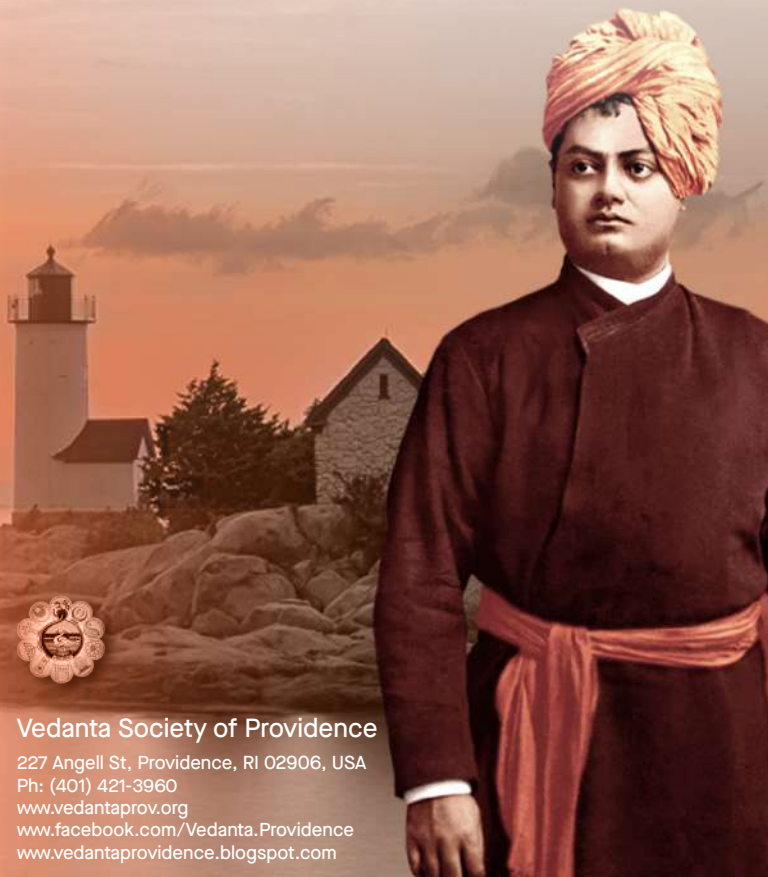
## Special Days in 2021

Please verify dates in monthly flyers and newsletters

- Jan 01 (Fri)** : Kalpataru Day | Worship of Sri Sarada Devi  
**Jan 05 (Tue)** : Sri Sarada Devi's Birthday  
(Worship at the Center on Fri Jan 01)  
Jan 09 (Sat) : Swami Shivananda's Birthday  
Jan 19 (Tue) : Swami Saradananda's Birthday  
Jan 27 (Wed) : Swami Turiyananda's Birthday  
**Feb 04 (Thu)** : Swami Vivekananda's Birthday  
(Worship at the Center on Sun Feb 07)  
Feb 13 (Sat) : Swami Brahmananda's Birthday  
Feb 15 (Mon) : Swami Trigunatitananda's Birthday  
Feb 27 (Sat) : Swami Adbhutananda's Birthday  
Mar 11 (Thu) : Shivaratri  
**Mar 15 (Mon)** : Sri Ramakrishna's Birthday  
(Worship at the Center on Sun Mar 14)  
Mar 28 (Sun) : Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Birthday  
Apr 01 (Thu) : Swami Yogananda's Birthday  
Apr 04 (Sun) : Easter  
Apr 21 (Wed) : Ramanavami  
May 17 (Mon) : Sri Shankaracharya's Birthday  
May 26 (Wed) : Lord Buddha's Birthday  
Jul 04 (Sun) : Independence Day Celebration  
**Jul 24 (Sat)** : Guru Purnima  
Aug 06 (Fri) : Swami Ramakrishnananda's Birthday  
Aug 22 (Sun) : Swami Niranjanananda's Birthday  
**Aug 30 (Mon)** : Krishna Janmashtami  
(Celebration at the Center on Sun Aug 29)  
Sep 06 (Mon) : Swami Advaitananda's Birthday  
**Sep 12 (Sun)** : Universal Brotherhood Day  
Sep 30 (Thu) : Swami Abhedananda's Birthday  
Oct 06 (Wed) : Swami Akhandananda's Birthday  
**Oct 10 (Sun)** : Sri Durga Puja  
Nov 04 (Thu) : Sri Kali Puja  
Nov 16 (Tue) : Swami Subodhananda's Birthday  
Nov 18 (Thu) : Swami Vijnanananda's Birthday  
Dec 12 (Sun) : Swami Premananda's Birthday  
Dec 24 (Fri) : Christmas Eve  
**Dec 26 (Sun)** : Sri Sarada Devi's Birthday  
Dec 30 (Thu) : Swami Shivananda's Birthday

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Swami Yogātmānanda



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# SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S First public speech to the West

In 1893, Swami Vivekananda travelled from India to Chicago to participate in the Parliament of Religions to be held in September. Upon reaching the venue earlier in July, Swamiji learned that he did not have the requisite credentials to participate in the parliament. Further, the deadline to accept the delegates had passed. So, Swamiji travelled to Boston with the hope of acquiring patronage from Miss Kate Sanborn, who he had met on a train ride from Vancouver to Chicago. Miss Sanborn had invited Swamiji to live at her village home in Metcalf, Massachusetts. Through Miss Sanborn, a meeting was arranged with Prof. John Wright, a professor of philology at Harvard University. The meeting was held in Annisquam, Massachusetts where Prof. Wright was vacationing.



**Above** - The historic Annisquam Village Church

**Cover** - Annisquam harbor lighthouse, originally built in 1801 and rebuilt in 1897.

Annisquam, a small waterfront town about 40 miles north-east of Boston, had its first European settlement in 1631. The name 'Annisquam' comes from the Algonquian word meaning 'top of the rock.' New England at the time was a melting-pot of cultural and religious practices and therefore a much more accepting society to receive the message of Swami Vivekananda. The mesmerizing personality and oratory of the young monk from India piqued considerable interest and curiosity in the people of Annisquam.

Swami Vivekananda gave informal talks in Annisquam at the homes of Prof. Eugene Wambaugh and Prof. Alpheus Hyatt on Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26. On Sunday evening, August 27, he delivered his first public speech to the West, at the Annisquam Village Church (Universalist), marking the beginning of his message of inter-faith unity to the world.

Prof. Wright and others were very impressed by Swami Vivekananda's erudition and eloquence. On learning that Swami Vivekananda lacked credentials to speak at the parliament, Prof. Wright said *"to ask for your credentials is like asking the sun to state its right to shine in the heavens."* In the process of obtaining the requisite credentials which would allow him to speak at the parliament, Prof. Wright wrote to its director: *"He is more learned than all of our professors together."*

After attaining a remarkable success at the Parliament of Religions, Swami Vivekananda returned to Annisquam for a few days in August of 1894. The people of the small town of Annisquam and the congregation of the Annisquam Village Church in particular, provided the foundation to catapult Swami Vivekananda to a bigger stage and ignite a gigantic blaze of spirituality which would later engulf the world.



'Light at Annisquam' a painting by A. W. Buhler, 1895