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Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir) and Community Center
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Vaikuntha Ekadasi:

Ekadasi in Sanskrit means eleven. Ekadasi is the eleventh day of the fifteen-days of the bright half (Sukla Paksha) and is also the eleventh day of the dark half (Krishna Paksha) of the lunar month. In the Sukla Paksha the moon grows from new moon to full moon and in the following half it diminishes from full moon to new moon. Ekadasi day is auspicious to Lord Vishnu. The Ekadasi day that falls during the Sukla Paksha of Dhanurmasa/Margahi (December middle to January middle) is very special. On this day, it is believed, that the gates of Vaikuntha are ceremoniously open for devotees to enter. This day is celebrated as Vaikuntha (Abode of The Lord Sriman Narayana) Ekadasai in all the Vaishnava Temples.

Stories from Puranas say that Lord Krishna discussed the special significance of Vaikuntha Ekadasi in one of His conversations with Yudhishthira. The Lord says that there is no better fasting day than the Ekadasai of the light fortnight of the Margazhi (Dhanurmasa) month. Who so ever is able to strictly observe this sacred Ekadasai, with worship, meditation, and fasting achieves complete liberation from the cycle of life and death.

In some Vaishnava Temples, they have Vaikuntha Dwaram (special doors that are symbolic of the doors to Vaikuntha) and are kept open on Vaikuntha Ekadasai day. Pilgrims pass through this gate on this auspicious day. In our Temple in Bridgewater, a nicely decorated Vaikuntha Dwaram is made on this special day. Lord Sri Srinivasa with Sri Devi and Bhu Devi gives direct Blessings to the Devotees, as they walk through this Vaikuntha Dwaram . Also, on this day, devotees get a chance to worship Lord Sri Venkateswara in close quarters from The Mukhamandapam. Special prayers and Bhajans are also conducted on this holy day.

May The Blessings of Lord Sri Venkateswara and Sri Mahalakshmi be with you and your family.

HTCS