



Hindu Temple and Cultural Society of USA, Inc.

SRI VENKATESWARA TEMPLE (BALAJI MANDIR) AND COMMUNITY CENTER



One Balaji Temple Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, USA | Telephone 908-725-4477 | www.venkateswaratemple.org

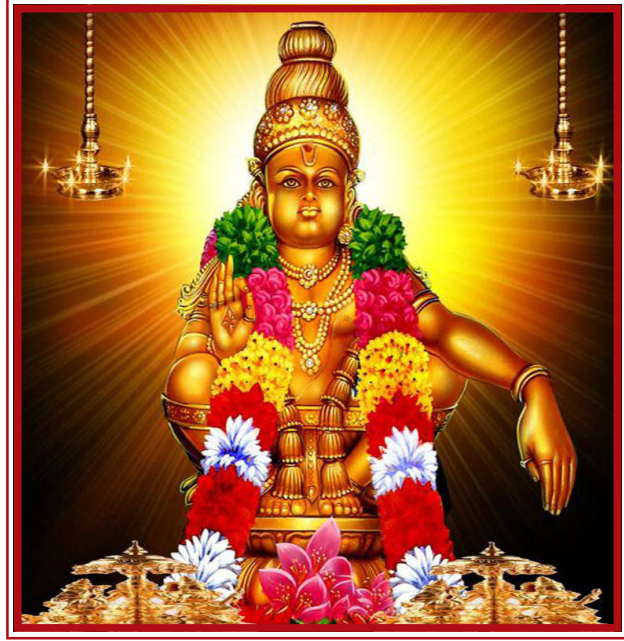
Makara Sankranti

Thurs, Jan 14, 2021

Note: Temple is open on Jan 14th for darshan only between 6:30 PM and 8 PM



Sri Surya Bhagavan



Sri Ayyappa Swamy

09:00 AM Aruna Prasna Parayanam

09:45 AM Navagraha Abhishekam, **Special Puja to Sri Suryanarayana Bhagavan** (Livestream only)

05:00 PM Sri Ayyappa Swamy Abhishekam, Sri Ayyappa Swamy Mandala Puja Purti (Livestream only)

The Sun traverses from one Raasi (Zodiac) to another Raasi every month, which is called Masa Sankramanam. When the Sun moves from Dhanu Raasi (Sagittarius) to Makara Raasi (Capricorn) it is known as Makara Sankranti - the beginning of Uttarayana (Journey towards North) and the start of the day for Devatas. Many auspicious rituals are performed after this day.

Makara Sankranti is the biggest harvest festival celebrated in different parts of the country with devotion and enthusiasm over 4 days. People decorate in front of their homes with colorful Rangolis and Gobbemmalu. The Gopikas in Dwapara Yuga performed a Katyayani puja which became known as the Gopi puja and later the Gobbemma puja. Goda Devi performed the Thiruppavai (Holy Vow, similar to Katyayani puja) with utmost devotion and was blessed with a marriage to Bhagavan Narayana. This auspicious day of the divine wedding is celebrated as Bhogi.

On the next day Kanumu is celebrated by praying to the Shakti devatas (Grama Devatas) and offering them delicious Naivedyas. The festival concludes on the fourth day (Mukkanumu or Kaanum Pongal) by decorating and thanking the cattle, which are also part of the Agriculture.

NOTE: ALL PUJAS CAN BE SPONSORED ONLINE ONLY

Sponsorship: <https://balajimandir.formstack.com/forms/sankranti>

YouTube: <http://youtube.com/c/SriVenkateswaraTempleBridgewaterNJUSA>

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