



Hindu Temple and Cultural Society of USA, Inc.

Sri Venkateswara Temple (Balaji Mandir) And Community Center

1 Balaji Temple Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 || Ph: 908-725-4477 || www.venkateswara.org



Makara Sankranti **Sunday, Jan 14th 2018**

9:00 AM
Aruna Prasna
Parayanam

10:30 AM
Navagraha
Abhishekam



6:30 PM
Sri Ayyappa Swamy
Abhishekam

Sri Ayyappa Swamy
Mandala Puja
Purti

Special Puja To Suryanarayana Bhagavan (10:30 AM)

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 Tiruppavai (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 Kanuma is celebrated by praying to the Shakti devatas (Gramma Devatas) and offering them delicious Naivedyas.

The festival concludes on the fourth day (Mukkanuma or Kaanum Pongal) by decorating and thanking the cattle, which are also instrumental in the agriculture.

12 – 2PM Annadanam