



Makara Sankranti



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2007

At

BHARATIYA TEMPLE INC.

1612 County Line Road, Montgomeryville, PA 18936
Phone: (215) 997-1181 Web Site: www.b-temple.org



10:00 am Lakshmi Narayana Abhishekam
11:00 am Goda Kalyanam
12:00 Noon Arti and Prasadam

- * Thiruppalli Ezhucchi and Thiruppaavai will be recited at 8.30 AM.
- * Aditya Hrdayam will be recited before Goda Kalyanam to mark Makara Sankranti.

Suggested donation: Kalyanam - \$31, Archana - \$11

Makara Sankranti is the day the Sun enters Makara (Capricorn) rasi. The festival called variously as **Pongal**, **Makara Sankranti**, **Utharayana Punya Kala**, **Bhogali Bihu** and **Lohri** occurs on January 14. As the sun enters Makara rasi, it is called Makara Sankranti; as the sun moves northwards from the south it is named after Utharayana; and as the sun is worshipped with sweet rice pongal, it is called Pongal. This is a day for worship of Surya.

Andal (Goda) is one of the twelve Aalvaars, great devotees of Vishnu. She sculpted a new religious heritage of intensely emotional *bhakti*, or love of the Divine. She composed Thiruppavai, a poem of 30 verses. "To see the Lord, to serve Him and to be a part of Him" is the heart-rending theme of this immortal poem. The verses are created to simulate the waking up of the Lord and the spiritual awakening of bound souls. It is the age-old practice of Sri Vaishnavas to sing these stanzas every day of the year in the presence of the Lord in the temple as well as in their homes. This practice assumes special significance during Margazhi (Dhanur), the month she observed Pavai Nonbu/Vrat and merged with Lord Ranganatha in Srirangam. This union is celebrated as **Andal Kalyanam**.

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