



DHANUR MASA SPECIAL PUJAS



SATURDAY SCHEDULE **DEC 20, 2008, DEC 27, 2008** **JAN 3, 2009, JAN 10, 2009**

- Temple will open at 8.30 AM with Sri Venkateswara Suprabhatam and reciting of Andal Thiruppavai. Normal Saturday rituals will follow.
- On January 11, 2009 there will be Sri Andal Kalyanotsav.

The month of Margazi or Dhanur when Sun enters the Zodiac sign of Sagittarius is set apart as very auspicious. There are special prayers in Tamil nadu and most of the temples in the South. According to the solar calendar Sun enters Dhanur Rasi in the middle of December and ends the day before the Makara Sankranti in the middle of January. This is a month of early morning Bhajans, Temple visits and Prasadam distribution. There are also many music concerts, Devotional Music programs, Harikatha and religious discourses during the days.

Every day of the month starts with the recital of verses written in the Tamil Language by great Bhaktas born between 7th and 9th century AD known as Thiruvembaavai in Saiva temples and Thiruppaavai in Vaishnava temples. The word Paavai means literally an icon which used to be made for the occasion and used as a medium for worship. The prayer is for the wellbeing of the community and is expected to ensure desirable marriages for the girls, religious and virtuous persons. The verses are wake up calls for all souls and are steeped in Bhakti, singing the praise of the Gods. They lead gradually to spiritual awakening.

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