



STATEN ISLAND HINDU TEMPLE

Shree Ram Mandir

1318 Victory Blvd. Staten Island, 10301

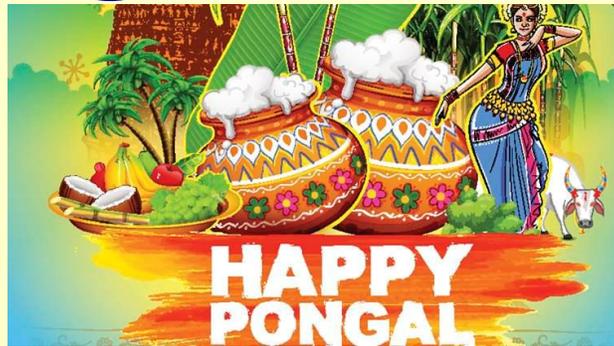
Phone: (718) 727-5151, Email: statenishland.hindutemple@gmail.com

Come And Celebrate With Us

Pongal Festival



Happy Pongal



Happy Pongal

Sunday, January 14th, 2018

Special Auspicious Day of Prayer & Cultural Enrichment

Program

9:30 AM to 10:30 AM - Nitya Pooja

10:30 AM to 11:30 AM - Abhisekham to Lord Ganesha & Murugan, Pooja to Lord Surya and Chandra (Plate Puja by individuals)

11:30 AM to 12 Noon - Bhajans

12 Noon to 12:45 PM - Archana and Aarathi

12:45 PM to 1:30 PM - Lunch (Pongal Feast)

2:00PM to 4:00 PM - Cultural Program

Sponsorships:

Pooja Major Sponsorship - \$ 101.00 (Family Participates in Puja)

Individual Plate Pooja - \$ 21.00 / Archana - \$ 11.00

(Sponsors, please be in the temple by 10 AM)

Pooja Sponsors/Pongal Funds Contribution: **Bhanu Iyer** at Bhanusi@yahoo.com or 718-864-6171

Food Prasadam Sponsors: Please contact **Saroja** at Sarojavikram@hotmail.com Ph# 917-306-5253

ALL ARE WELCOME TO CELEBRATE AND ENJOY THE DAY!

Let Shree Rama's Blessings Be With Us Always

Jai Shree Ram



Pongal Celebra-

tion :

The meaning and how it is celebrated in Tamil Nadu

Pongal, the harvest festival, symbolizes the veneration of the new harvest. For Hindus this follows a solar calendar and is celebrated on the 14th of January every year. Pongal coincides with **Makara Sankranti** and **Lohri** of the north, and it is also called **Pongal/Sankranti**. This has astronomical significance. It marks the beginning of **Uttarayana**, the Sun's movement northward for a six month period. In Hinduism, Uttarayana is considered auspicious, and all important events are scheduled during this period. **Makara Sankranti** refers to the Sun entering the zodiac sign of Makara or Capricorn. Even though Pongal was originally a festival for the farming community, today it is celebrated by all.

In Hindu temples bells, drums, clarinets and conch shells herald the joyous occasion of Pongal. To symbolize a bountiful harvest, rice is cooked in new pots until the milk boils over. Newly harvested foods such as rice, vegetables, sugar cane and spices are offered to the gods. Pongal also signals the end of the traditional farming season, giving farmers a break from their hard routine.

In Tamil Nadu Pongal is celebrated for four consecutive days. First day '**Bogi**' is celebrated on January 13 with the cleansing of the house in and out, discarding old things and marking the beginning of a new life. The second day '**Pongal**' on Jan 14th is celebrated by boiling fresh milk with rice and jaggery, early in the morning and allowing it to boil over the vessel - a tradition that is the literal translation for Pongal. People also prepare savories and sweets, visit each other's homes, and exchange greetings. The third day, '**Maattupongal**' on Jan 15, is meant to offer thanks to the cows and buffaloes, as they are used to plough the lands. On the fourth day, on Kanum Pongal, feed all other birds and animals with colored rice on plantain leaf and families go out on picnic by river and lake side. '**Thiruvalluvar Day**' is also celebrated on Jan 16 in Tamil Nadu.

A game/sport called **Jalli kattu** is held in Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Tanjavur, all in Tamil Nadu, on this day. Bundles of money are tied to the horns of ferocious bulls which the villagers try to retrieve. Everyone joins in the community meal, at which the food is made of the freshly harvested grain. This day is named and celebrated as **Tamilan Thirunal** in a fitting manner through out Tamil Nadu.