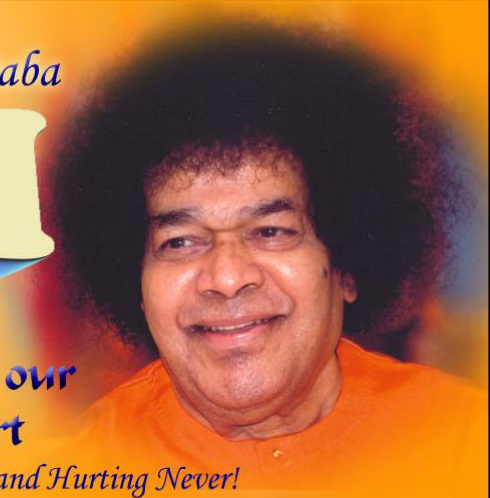


*Aum Sri Sai Ram*

*Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

# Chicago Sai WATCH



**Dear Swami, please help us to watch and control our Words, Actions, Thoughts, Character and Heart**

*So that we realize our inherent Divinity by Loving All, Serving All, Helping Ever, and Hurting Never!*

**Sathya Sai Baba Center of Metropolitan Chicago**

**MAY 2009**

**Upcoming Events!**

**Chicago – Parthi Trip – Mini-Retreat:**

**May 16th , 9:00 am – 5 pm.**

Ramada Inn, 780 North Av., Glendale Heights, IL 60139

More information: [www.sathysaicenters.org](http://www.sathysaicenters.org)

**Chicago – Parthi Trip - 2009:**

**From June 26th to July 5th, 2009.**

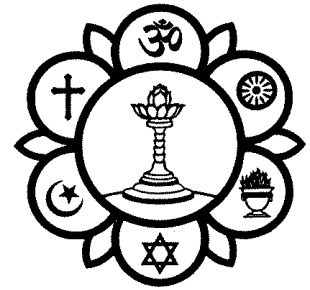
For more information: [www.sathysaicenters.org](http://www.sathysaicenters.org)

**First National Youth Conference in Chicago:**

**From May 29th to May 31st, 2009.**

YMCA Camp Duncan. 32405 North Hwy. 12. Ingleside, IL 60041

More information: [www.saiyausa.net](http://www.saiyausa.net)



**Date**

**Calendar of Events**

05/02 – Saturday	07:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Dinner Service Project at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.) 08:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Dinner Service Project at R.E.S.T Women’s Shelter (on Wilson Ave.)
05/03 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program; Special Program Celebrating Easwaramma Day 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: SSE Presentation and Fair on “Ceiling on Desires”
05/09 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter by Young Adults (on Lawrence Ave.) 06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at Jesus People USA Men’s Shelter (on Kenmore Ave.) 07:00 am – 10:00 am: Sandwich Preparation for Bread Truck Service Project 10:00 am – 02:00 pm: Sandwich Distribution for Bread Truck Service Project
05/10 – Sunday	09:30 am – 12:30 pm: Sunday Center Program 10:00 am – 11:00 am: Service at the Woodbine Nursing Home
05/16 – Saturday	07:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Dinner Service Project at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.) 07:15 pm – 10:00 pm: Dinner Service Project at Jesus People USA Men’s Shelter (on Kenmore Ave.)
05/17 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: SSE Graduation
05/23 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
05/24 – Sunday	09:30 am – 12:30 pm: Sunday Center Program
05/31 – Sunday	09:30 am – 12:30 pm: Sunday Center Program

**Sunday Center Schedule:**

09:00 am – 09:30 am: Center Setup

09:30 am – 10:25 am: Study Circle

10:00 am – 11:30 am: Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) classes for children

10:30 am – 11:30 am: Devotional Singing

**Ongoing service projects on Sundays:**

- Grocery collection for the needy families (Delivered at the end of every month)
- Sandwich preparation and delivery for the residents of R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)







## Pilgrimage to Prashanthi Nilayam from Region 5

### Swami on Unity



**Take the first step today, in this long pilgrimage. Give up, in order to gain; restrain, in order to receive; become blind (to the external view), in order to see more clearly (the inner vision). Prashanthi Nilayam: Birthday Festival, 23-11-1965**

You have a chance to see, experience and be sanctified by the incarnation of the Lord; this chance is as a result of accumulation of merit in many previous lives. That merit has brought you here when I have come down. For this chance sages and demi gods have prayed long in the past. Having won this chance, strive to taste the sweetness and achieve the bliss of merging without wasting even a single moment.

- Source: *Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. II. P. 209.*

“Unity is vital for all, wherever they are and whatever their country, religion or sex. Love should be the unifying force. Teachers! Promote the sense of human unity among all people, without regard to race, religion or caste.”

“When individuals change, society will change and when society changes, the whole world will change. The welfare of the individual is bound up with the welfare of society as a whole. Unity is the secret of social progress, and service to society is the means to promote it. Everyone, therefore, should devote himself to such service in a spirit of dedication. One who does not dedicate himself to such work is like a rusting machine. Concern for one’s own welfare and prosperity should not blind one to one’s social obligations or spiritual destiny....A society in which the individuals are concerned only about material welfare will not be able to achieve harmony and peace.”

“Man’s foremost task is to recognize the unity that underlies the multiplicity. If one enquires into the matter with a pure and unselfish mind, one will see what is common to all beings. Birth and death are common to all men. Hunger and thirst are experienced by every person. These are truths that apply to all persons, whether they are destitute or millionaires, whether they are scholars or ignorant men.”

Purity, unity and divinity are words which are familiar to you. Honesty, truth and purity are all one and they will lead you on to divinity, the true state of man at the highest level.

When the road ends, and the goal is gained, the pilgrim finds that he has traveled only from himself to himself.

**What a single individual cannot accomplish, a well-knit Group or society can achieve. A man walking alone will feel tired and miserable at the end of five miles; but, walking with ten others as a group he would find the five miles a jaunt. He arrives refreshed and strong.**

-Sevadal Conference, 11/19/1981

Riches beyond reasonable limits will result only in disaster. Unity of minds, mutual love and co-operation - these are the qualities we must develop continuously. One must not learn to live like a drop of oil on a pond, spreading all over the surface and refusing to merge with the water. One must join others in common tasks and contribute one’s strength and skill to the common pool. A single thin string cannot stop even an ant, but hundreds of them twisted into a rope can hold back an elephant. This is the effect of united effort. It is a very desirable trait to work for a common cause with others in co-operation; do not believe in mere operation tasks.

-Divine Discourse, Vol 14 Ch 20, Feb 18, 1980.

### Develop the Spirit of Oneness

God is extolled as, **Sabda Brahmamayi, Characharamayi, Jyotirmayi, Vangmayi, Nityanandamayi, Paratparamayi, Mayamayi and Sreemayi** (embodiment of sound, mobility and immobility, light, speech, eternal bliss, perfection, delusion and wealth). Hence, even the words that we utter manifest our innate divinity. It is God who speaks through each one of you. You should have this firm conviction. If someone accuses you, think that God in that form is accusing you. When you develop such spirit of oneness and tolerance, you will never be perturbed by censure and blame. Your mind will always remain in peace. Whatever may happen, accept it wholeheartedly as the Will of God. Have firm faith that it is God and God alone who is the doer.

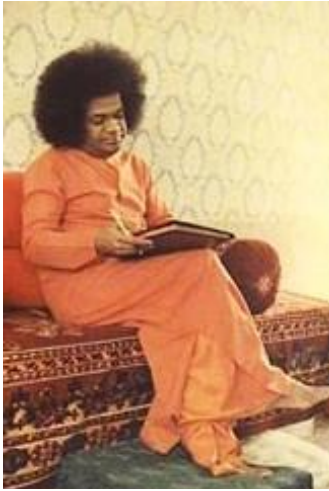
Do not consider your fellow human beings as mere individuals. When you talk to someone, think that you are talking to God. When you do not see God in others and treat them as your own, you will be giving room to evil qualities like anger, jealousy, hatred, etc. Develop the spirit of oneness. Only then will your life be redeemed.

*Divine Discourse on 19th November 2005 - Ladies' Day*





## Mathru Bhakti Must Precede Is'wara Bhakti



The first and foremost of my directions is: Revere your parents, especially the mother. There was once a place, which was hit by a hurricane so wild that all the houses were razed to the ground, and people had nothing to eat and nowhere to lay their heads. Among the worst hit were a mother and her two sons. The elder son was a gem of virtue; he felt responsible for the safety and care of the family; he loved his mother, and sought to win her love and blessings, more than anything else.

The mother with the younger child was going out begging and keeping alive on the little they could get from the famine-stricken land. Soon, she found that she was too weak even to walk a few steps and so, the elder son had to go begging, all alone, to feed the family. He said, falling at her feet, he would do what she was doing and collect food for all. He wanted that she should not over-exert, and worsen her health. How could three live on mere handfuls? The son too was rendered weak. With faint voice and fainter steps, he moved towards a zamindar's [mogol name for leaseholder in India to collect taxes from peasants] house and called out for a morsel. The lady of the house called him in and led him to a plate whereon she served some food. But he tottered into an upright position, and fell plump on the floor. The zamindar came running into the room and placed her ear near the dying boy's mouth, so that she could catch the last words that emerged from his lips. He was saying: *'No, no! First she must be given food. My turn comes next'*. You may be able to pay back any debt; but, the debt you owe your mother, you never can repay. Those who claim to be devotees of God must have this credential; they must revere the mother!

### Devotional Activities in Chicago and Suburbs

Activity	Time	Venue	Contact
Every Monday – Bhajans	07:00 pm to 08:00 pm	Aurora (Shirdi Mandir)	630-854-2004
Every Wednesday – Bhajans	07:30 pm to 08:30 pm	Hoffman Estates	847-519-1631
Every Thursday – Bhajans	08:00 pm to 09:00 pm	Aurora	630-761-2968
Every Friday – Bhajans	08:00 pm to 09:00 pm	Oak Brook	847-722-5477
1st Thursday of the Month – Bhajans	07:30 pm to 08:30 pm	Hoffman Estates	847-695-7110
1st Saturday of the Month – Bhajans	03:30 pm to 04:30 pm	Glenview	847-729-2779 / 773-510-5936
Saturday, May 9 – Bhajans	05:00 pm to 06:00 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081
Saturday, May 23 – Bhajans	06:30 pm to 07:30 pm	Aurora	630-340-0943
Monday, May 25 – Bhajans	11:00 am to 12:30 pm	Swami Narayana, Temple, Itasca	224-628-0181
Saturday, May 30 – Padhuka Puja	02:30 pm to 04:00 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081

### For more information, please contact any of the Center Officers

Role	Name	Phone	e-mail
President:	Ganesh Jayaraman	847-863-5299	gjayaraman@edgilent.com
Vice-President:	Shankar Uppala	708-642-1400	uppalasrao@yahoo.com
Devotion Coordinator:	Srividhya Ganesh	847-452-2505	srividhyaganesh@yahoo.com
Education Coordinator:	Vasantha Govindarajan	847-537-7574	sainara9@gmail.com
Service Coordinator:	Veera Kovelakuntla	847-924-6971	k_veera@yahoo.com
Bookstore & Library Coordinator:	Leenger Vargas	815-274-2162	Leenger108@gmail.com
Study Circle Coordinator:	Nalini Bidani	773-643-4191	n.bidani@att.net
YA Male Rep:	Sagar Varanasi	812-219-1124	svaranasi@yahoo.com
YA Female Rep:	Anu Thakarar	630-862-0519	anuthakrar@hotmail.com