

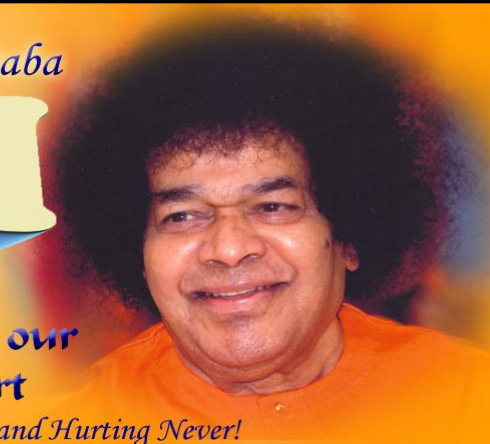
*Aum Sri Sai Ram*

*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!*



**Upcoming Events!**

**Guru Poornima Devotional Programs:**

**Friday, July 15th.**

**Venue:** 5779 Acorn Dr., Hoffman Estates, IL 60120  
07:30 PM - 09:15 PM Devotional Singing, Guest Speaker Session

**Saturday, July 16th.**

**Venue:** Holiday Inn, 1550 E Dundee Rd., Palatine, IL 60074  
10:00 AM - 12:30 Guru Stotrams, Devotional Singing & Guest Speaker Session

**Sunday, July 17th.**

**Venue:** Longfellow Center  
09:45 AM - 12:30 PM Study Circle, Devotional Singing, Guest Speaker Session & Musical Presentation

**July 30th, Saturday** - Building Construction Project – 8.00 AM to 2.00 PM

**August 13th, Saturday** – Bread Truck Project - 6AM to 9AM

**Venue to prepare sandwiches & Lunch bags:** 1979 Stanford Dr., Naperville, IL

**August 14th, Sunday** - Bone Marrow Drive - 10 AM to 2 PM

**Venue:** Sikh Religious Society, 1280 Winnetka St., Palatine, IL

Date	Calendar of Events
07/02 – 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.)
07/03 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program
07/09 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
07/10 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program 10:00 am – 11:00 am: Service at Woodbine Nursing Home 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Guru Stotrams Practice Session
07/16 – Saturday	06:30 pm – 10:00 pm: Dinner Service Project at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.) 06:30 pm – 10:00 pm: Dinner Service Project at Jesus People USA Men’s Shelter (on Kenmore Ave.) 10:00 am – 01.00 pm: Guru Poornima Program @Holiday Inn Express, Palatine
07/17 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:15 am: Sunday Center Program 11:15 am – 12:30 pm: Guru Poornima Celebrations - Guest Speaker Session and Musical Presentation
07/23 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
07/24 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program
07/30 – Saturday	08:00 am - 2:00 pm – Building Construction Project
07/31 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program
	<p><b>Sunday Center Schedule:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Ongoing service projects on Sundays:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grocery collection for the needy families (Delivered at the end of every month)</li> <li>• Sandwich preparation and delivery for the residents of R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)</li> </ul>



## Do Not Allow Your Mind to Waver Due to Doubts



The (Lord's) Name is like the seed, implanted in your heart; when the shower of His Grace falls upon it, it sprouts into a lovely tree. All trees that sprout from the Names of the Lord are equally lovely and shady. If you have Krishna-*naama* (Lord Krishna's name), the vision that you win and the form that you evoke is that of Lord Krishna; if you have Rama-*naama* (Lord Rama's name), it is Lord Rama's form that sprouts.

Leelaashukha (a devotee of Lord Krishna) had the Name of Krishna embedded in the well ploughed field of his heart and so, the Lord appeared before him with a peacock feather, a flute and a charming mischievous smile! He fulfils your innermost aspiration in a flash, if it is compelling enough.

Only you should not allow your mind to waver due to doubt or disappointment. Leave all to Him and be at ease; it is the man with no faith that is tossed about on the sea, like a ship caught in a storm with neither rudder nor anchor. The *Bhaktha* (devotee) bears the ups and downs of life, keeping the balance of his mind even. You sometimes talk as if the devotee leads a life beset with hardships and sorrows and that the man who does not bend before a Higher Power is carefree and prosperous; but this is a totally wrong idea. The devotee sails on an even keel; he has inner peace, a spring of joy which sustains him and keeps him together.

Bairaagi Shaastri (the previous speaker) said that this is an auspicious day for you because this is My Birthday; but let Me tell you, I have many Birthdays like this. The Auspicious Day for you is the day on which your mind is cleansed and not the day on which I took this human form.

I am ever new and ever ancient, ever *noothana* (modern) and ever *sanaathana* (ancient). I come always for the sake of reviving Dharma, for tending the virtuous and ensuring them conditions congenial for progress.

Some doubters might ask, "Can *Paramaathma* (The Supreme Lord) assume human form?" Well, man can derive *aanandha* (bliss) only through the human form; we can receive instruction, inspiration, illumination only through human language and human communication.

### God Bows To Your Will and Carries Your Burden

I will never force you to take up a particular Name or Form of the Lord as your *ishtam* (chosen deity). The Lord has a million Names and a million Forms, and He wants that faith and attachment should be evoked in you by any one of them, as you recite the Names or contemplate the Forms. That is why they have a string of 1008 Names for use to worship; the devotee might be drawn closer to the Lord while any one Name is being repeated, however distracted or inattentive he might be during the rest of the list.

Like the coldness of the atmosphere which freezes the water, the compelling agony of the devotee's heart solidifies the *Niraakaar* (Formless Absolute) into the shape and the attitude that are yearned for. "*Yadh bhaavare, thath bhavathi*" ---"as felt, so fashioned." He bows to your will, He carries your burden, provided you trust Him with it. Therefore, so act and feel and speak that you get "*iha soukhyam, para soukhyam and kaivalya soukhyam*" ("joy here, joy hereafter, joy everlasting" all three). I bless you all that you get more success in the struggle. -*Swami's Birthday Discourse on 11/23/1960*

### WHO IS SAI?

GOD is inscrutable. He cannot be realized in the outer objective world; He is in the very heart of every being. Gemstones have to be sought deep underground; they do not float in mid-air. Seek God in the depths of yourself, not in tantalizing, kaleidoscopic Nature. The body is granted to you for this high purpose; but, you are now misusing it, like the person who cooked his daily food in the gem studded gold vase that came into his hands as an heirloom.

Man extols God as omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent, but, he ignores His Presence in himself! Of course, many venture to describe the attributes of God and proclaim Him to be such and such; but, these are but their own guesses and the reflections of their own predilections and preferences.

Who can affirm that God is this or that? Who can affirm that God is not of this form or with this attribute? Each one can acquire from the vast expanse of the ocean only as much as can be contained in the vessel he carries to its shore. From that quantity, they can grasp but little of that immensity.

Each religion defines God within the limits it demarcates and then claims to have grasped Him. Like the seven blind men who spoke of the elephant as a pillar, a fan, a rope or a wall, because they contacted but a part and could not comprehend the entire animal, so too, religions speak of a part and assert that its vision is full and total.

### There is Only One Religion - The Religion of Love

Each religion forgets that God is all Forms and all Names, all attributes and all assertions. The religion of Humanity is the sum and substance of all these partial faiths; for, there is only one Religion and that is the Religion of Love. The various limbs of the elephant that seemed separate and distinct to the eye-less seekers of its truth were all fostered and activated by one single stream of blood; the various religions and faiths that feel separate and distinct are all fostered by one single stream of love. The optical sense cannot visualize the Truth. It gives only false and fogged information. For example, there are many who observe My actions and start declaring that My nature is such and such. They are unable to gauge the sanctity, the majesty and the eternal reality that is Me. The power of Sai is limitless; It manifests forever. All forms of 'power' are resident in this Sai palm.



Your virtue, your self-control, your detachment, your faith, your steadfastness: these are the signs by which people read my glory. You can lay claim to be a devotee only when you have placed yourself in my hands fully and completely with no trace of ego. You can enjoy the bliss through the experience the Avatar confers. Realizing the Lord within you as the motivator is the task for which He comes in human form.

You may benefit from God, but you cannot explain Him. Bring something into your daily practice as evidence of your having known the secret of higher life from me. Show that you have greater brotherliness. Speak with more sweetness and self control. Bear defeat as well as victory with calm resignation.

I am always aware of the future and the past as well as the present of every one of you, so I am not so moved by mercy. Since I know the past, the background, the reaction is different. It is your consequence of evil deliberately done in the previous birth, and so I allow your suffering to continue, often modified by some little compensation. I do not cause either joy or grief. You are the designer of both these chains that bind you.

Many of you come to me with problems of health and mental worry of one sort or another. They are mere baits by which you have been brought here. But the main purpose is that you may have grace and strengthen your faith in the divine. But I call you to me and even grant worldly boons so that you may turn Godward. No Avatar has done like this before, going among the masses, counseling them, guiding them, consoling them, uplifting them and directing them along the path of satya, dharma, shanti and prema.

Cultivate nearness with me in the heart and it will be rewarded. Then you too will acquire a fraction of that supreme love. This is a great chance. Be confident that you will be liberated. Know that you are saved. Many hesitate to believe that things will improve, that life will be happy for all and full of joy, and that the golden age will recur. Let me assure you that this dharmaswarupa, that this divine body, has not come in vain. It will succeed in averting the crisis that has come upon humanity.

Keep your association with anyone to the barest minimum. Genuine spiritual aspirants should be particularly careful in eschewing bad company. They should create an environment conducive to their spiritual progress and mental peace. That is the only thing Swami wants.

What does the word 'Bhagavan' mean? 'Bha' represents effulgence. 'Ga' signifies the one who radiates effulgence and 'Va' symbolises the power to propagate effulgence. Therefore, 'Bhagavan' is one who spreads the shine of effulgence everywhere. He has no form of any kind. 'He is subtler than space and the atom.' How can you attribute any form to such a One? He fills the entire universe, but is not attached to anything. 'Brahma' - God is in you and you are in 'Brahma.' Since we see duality in such non-dualistic principle, we suffer many sorrows. Though He has no particular form, all forms are His.

There is love in everyone's heart. Share it at least with ten persons every day. This is seldom done. People are keener on receiving than on giving. They are willing to give away only things, which they do not relish. There is no sacrifice in this.



You need not undertake any difficult spiritual practices to attain Divinity. You need not fast or do any chanting or meditation. Love Him from the depths of your heart. Devotees want to offer many types of service to God. These are the characteristics of faith. When you have such faith, you should not sully your sacred body by partaking wrong food. Gradually, you should intensify your love for God, fear of sin and morality in society. Morality rules the society only when people have love for God since fear of sin follows it.

Adore man; the adoration reaches Me. Neglect man; you neglect Me. Of what avail is it to worship the Lord and to suppress man, His counterpart? Love for God must be manifested as love for man, and love must express itself as service. Through love alone -- love acquired through spiritual discipline and shared with all as spiritual discipline -- can peace be attained, by the individual as well as by the nation.

You have to know one important thing. Swami does not need anything. He does not expect any dress. Swami belongs to you. Swami is not separate from you. You are not separate from Swami. That is the intimate relation between Swami and you.

Right from this day our organization should expand and spread all over the world. We should forget individual differences; keep in view the welfare of the society. The welfare of the society is our welfare. Let it be in any village, region or country, we should participate in all activities in all areas, regions and countries

Do not attach much importance to the body. Take to heart the Love principle that is being conveyed to you. My entire life is filled with love (cheers). I have never put anyone at any time to any kind of suffering. I have never done any harm to anyone. I have hated no one. I have no aversion to anybody. What is the reason? It is my love that is transforming others.

Some may ask why they are not attracted to Swami if that magnet is so powerful. The reason is that these persons are like rusted iron which no magnet can attract. Let them remove the rust and dust and they will be drawn to the magnet. Their hatred and desires, their envy and greed are the rust and dust covering them. If you cleanse yourselves of these, wherever you are, you will be mine and I will be yours. The hapless and the forlorn, wherever they may be, are the concern of Sai. Promote sacred love in your hearts. That love will not only redeem your lives but will promote the well-being of all around you.

--- Source: Heart2Heart



## Guru – The Last Resort



An aspirant after spiritual realization went off into a jungle and was plodding across the infested region, through the thick undergrowth, when he heard the angry roar of a lion. He climbed a tree to escape from the beast, but the lion saw him among the branches and roamed round and round the trunk in terrific rage. On the tree, he was attacked by a bear and so, he slid down the roots that descended from one of the branches of that banyan tree. Luckily, there were two roots hanging from the branch, so that he could hang on in midair clinging to them, one in each hand. Just then, he saw two rats, one white and the other black, which were gnawing at the base of the roots, endangering his life with every bite.

While in this perilous state, a honeycomb which was full of sweet nectar situated on one of the top branches leaked a few drops which fell his way. So, the unfortunate man put out his tongue to catch a drop so that he may taste the delicious honey. But no drop reached his tongue. In despair and terror, he called on his Guru, “O Guruji, come and save me.” The Guru who was passing by heard his appeal. He sped to the rescue. He brought a bow and arrows and slew the lion and bear, frightened off the rats and saved the disciple from the fear of death. Then, he led the man to his own Ashram and taught him the path of liberation.

This is the story of every one of you. This world is the jungle in which you roam. Fear is the lion, which drives you up the tree of Samsara, worldly activities. Anxiety is the bear that terrifies you and dogs your steps in Samsara. So, you slide down into attachments and binding deeds, through the twin roots of hope and despair. The two rats are day and night which eat away the span of life. Meanwhile, you try to snatch a little joy from sweet drops of egoism and mine-feeling. Finding at last that the drops are trivial and out of reach, you shout in the agony of renunciation, calling on the Guru. The Guru appears, whether from within or without, and saves you from fear and anxiety.

### 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	630-655-1718
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, July 23 – Padhuka Puja	02:30 pm to 05:00 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081
Saturday, July 23 - Bhajans	06:00 pm to 07:00 pm	Bolingbrook	630-846-1644

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

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