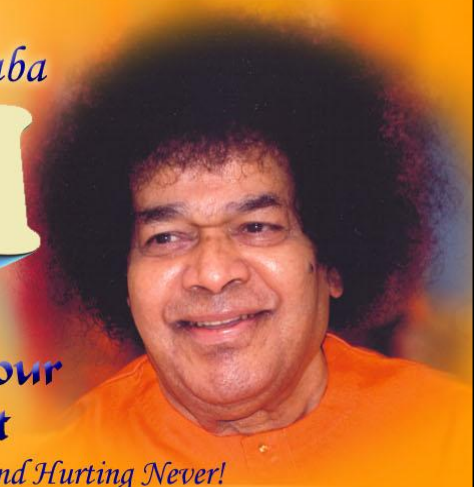


Aum Sri Sai Ram

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 Chicago Metro

June 2011

Upcoming Events!

Membership Meeting:

June 12th, Sunday 11.30 AM - 12.30 PM
Longfellow Center, Oak Park, IL

Guru Poornima Devotional Programs:

July 16th, Saturday 10.00 AM - 01.00 PM
Holiday Inn Express, Palatine, IL

July 17th, Sunday 10.30 AM - 12.30 PM
Longfellow Center, Oak Park, IL



Love All, Serve All

Date

Calendar of Events

06/04 – 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.)
06/05 – Sunday	09:45 am – 11:15 am: Sunday Center Program 11:15 am – 11:45 pm: Experience Sharing – Dr.Jeevanandam 11:45 am – 12:30 pm: Guru Stotrams Practice Session
06/11 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter by Young Adults (on Lawrence Ave.)
06/12 – Sunday	10:00 am – 11:00 am: Service at Woodbine Nursing Home 09:45 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Membership Meeting
06/18 – Saturday	07:00 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.)
06/19 – Sunday	09:45 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Guru Stotrams Practice Session
06/25 - Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
06/26 – Sunday	09:45 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Guru Stotrams Practice Session
	<p>Sunday Center Schedule: 09:00 am – 09:45 am: Center Setup 09:45 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>Ongoing service projects on Sundays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.)



Love Is God – Live In Love



Embodiments of Love! It is the power of love that is responsible for the earth to rotate without a pivot. It is the power of love that makes the stars stand across the sky without falling on the ground. It is the power of love that restrains the ocean within its limits. It is the power of love that makes the wind blow incessantly in all the worlds. That power of love is infinite, most wonderful and one without a second and permeates the entire cosmos. The entire creation is saturated with love. (Telugu Poem)

God is love. Love is the form of God. Lord Krishna declared in the Bhagavad Gita: *Mamaivaarso Jeevaloke Jeevabhuta Sanathanaha* (all beings are the eternal sparks of My Divinity). Just as God, the embodiment of love, showers His love on the entire world, man too should share his love with one and all. The principle of love is beyond definition or description. As man is not able to recognize the sacredness of love, he is directing it on the worldly and ephemeral objects. God transcends all attributes. The same can be said of love too. But man associates attribute to love and wastes his life. He uses the sacred word love to describe the relationships that exist between mother and child, wife and husband, brothers, friends and relatives, etc. Prior to birth, who is mother and who is child? Similarly, prior to marriage, who is husband and who is wife? The love that exists between mother and child, wife and husband, brothers, sisters, friends, relatives, etc., is related to the physical body and is negative in nature. This is only a physical relationship and cannot be called love in the true sense. The act of giving and receiving does not arise in love. Modern devotees pray, "O God, if you fulfill my desires, I will offer you ten coconuts." They offer their mean hair and pray for mighty favors. Can this be called devotion? No, not at all. A true devotee is one who only gives and does not expect anything in return. Surrender is the true sign of devotion.

Human life is a combination of physical and spiritual aspects, one is related to the head and the other to the Heart. But man follows the head and has only the physical world in view, thereby forgets the spiritual aspect. So long as man follows his head alone, neither he nor the society, nor the country at large can attain peace and security. Peace and security will reign supreme in this world only when man gives up body attachment and follows the principle of love that originates from his Heart.

The dualities of righteousness and unrighteousness, truth and falsehood, merit and sin, heat and cold, etc., coexist in this creation. People want Adharma (unrighteousness) to be eradicated completely from this world. They want only Dharma to exist, but it is not possible. In this world, Dharma cannot exist without Adharma and vice-versa. The world itself is a combination of Dharma and Adharma. It cannot exist if one of them is absent. Man should use his power of discrimination and lead a Dharmic life.

Man's Dharma (code of conduct) is different from the Dharma of animals. But man is unable to differentiate between the two. Man's Dharma is to adhere to the principles of truth, nonviolence and compassion. Man can never attain peace and security so long as he does not give up bestial qualities. Food, sleep, fear and procreation are common for man and animals. Then, what is man's Dharma? To think that you are a human being constitutes only half of the total truth. The other part of the truth lies in understanding that you are not an animal. You should keep reminding yourself, "I am a human being, not an animal." Do not stop at this stage. There will be decline in Dharma giving rise to troubles and turmoil when man fails to adhere to Dharma appropriate to his stage in life.

Man today is unable to understand the principle of Dharma corresponding to each of the four stages of life. The code of conduct is different for different stages of life. Never be under the mistaken notion that Dharma is the same for all people irrespective of the stage of life they are in. The cause of Adharma is that man is trying to follow Dharma that is not appropriate to his age or stage in life. Each should strictly adhere to the *Dharma* corresponding to his or her age and stage in life.

Embodiments of Love!

I often address you as the 'embodiments' of love because love is your true form, which is pure, unsullied, eternal, ancient, formless and non-dual. You love your mother because you have the confidence that she is your mother.

Where there is confidence, there is Love,
Where there is Love, there is Peace,
Where there is Peace, there is Truth,
Where there is Truth, there is Bliss,
Where there is Bliss, there is God.

Peace, Truth and Bliss are not elsewhere. They are in you. You are the embodiment of peace, truth and bliss. It is foolish on your part to search for peace and bliss in the external world. Nothing exists separate from you. Everything is the reflection of the inner being. Just as you love your own reflection in the mirror, love one and all. Try to visualize your reflection in everybody. In order to propagate this truth, Lord Krishna declared: "Mamaivaarso...". You are a part of My being. You and I are not separate. The principle of love is one and the same in both of us. All your spiritual practices will prove futile, if you do not adhere to the principle of love.

World is like a mirror. All that you feed in this mirror is only the reflection, not the reality. Your right eye appears as left eye in the mirror. Then how can you consider it as reality? When the mirror is removed, reflection also disappears and reality remains. That is called Saakshaatkaara (vision of the Self). Some people claim to have the vision of the Self in meditation, but that is only a reflection, an illusion. The vision of your reality is true Saakshaatkaara. All the worldly relationships are temporary like passing clouds. They are subjected to change in the passage of time, but the reality is absolutely changeless. That is the principle of love. Worldly love may turn into hatred with the change in time. What is liked today may not be liked tomorrow. But love has no likes and dislikes. There is no Divinity other than love. You may adore Him as Jesus, Zoroastra, Allah, Rama, Krishna, Buddha or Guru Nanak. You may call Him by any name. All these are Pettina Perlu (names given by somebody). Love alone is Puttina Perlu (natural name). The names given are bound to change, but love is changeless. You should aspire for that love. That is true Bhakti (devotion). Bhakti confers on you Yukti (discrimination), Virakti (detachment) and Mukti (liberation).

In this world, everything is suffused with Divinity. Other than Divinity nothing exists. Even this cloth (handkerchief) is Divine, this flower is Divine, everything is Divine. If there is no Divinity in this cloth, one will not desire for it. Love pervades everything. You should make every effort to understand this. Human heart is full of love. Easwara Sarva Bhutaanaam (God dwells in all beings). Isavaasyam Idam Jagat (God permeates the entire universe). Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma (Brahma pervades the entire universe). Share your love not only with your fellow beings, but also with birds and beasts. Stand united. Consider the entire universe as a single family.

- Divine Discourse on Guru Poornima, July 16th 2000



Embodiments of Love!

The modern man has no idea of what forbearance is. He is not able to realise that forbearance is the real beauty in this sacred land. One bereft of forbearance is no human being at all. We should have sympathy and forbearance toward the poor and the physically challenged. But modern man shows disgust toward such unfortunate people. In fact, sahana (tolerance) is the most valuable and sacred mantra of the Bharatiyas (Indians). But man, out of his ignorance, has given up such a sacred mantra and is carried away by yantra and tantra.

The foremost quality expected of a devotee is forbearance. What is bhakti (devotion)? Several people are under the mistaken notion that worshipping some idols, observing certain vows and performing some rituals is bhakti. It is not as simple as that. The foremost duty of a devotee, especially of the Bharatiya, is observing the quality of forbearance in practice.

Adherence to truth is the real thapas (penance). Man, today, has forgotten this principle. Forbearance is a quality that inspires people to undertake noble deeds. This noble quality is to be taught to others as well, to enable them to imbibe it.

The nectarine feeling in this country is the feeling of love toward one's mother. Today, people overlook the most important duty to look upon every woman as one's own mother. There is nothing greater and sweeter than this motherly love in the world. One who has cultivated such noble feeling is most fortunate. It is not a quality that can be purchased or hired. This motherly feeling flows from the natural love that one has for one's own mother. The people of Bharat are forsaking such noble qualities and are trying to imitate and cultivate alien cultures and traditions today. In fact, they are running after alien culture with excessive enthusiasm, treating it as their very life breath.

Embodiments of Love!

You cannot find anything more sacred than love in the world. Today, you will find worldly and physical love everywhere. But, it is very difficult to find love suffused with Atmic bliss.

Embodiments of Love!

Cultivate and strengthen such divine love. When you cultivate such love, you will not be lacking in anything. It is only when you cultivate such noble love that you will be entitled to be called "Embodiments of love". God is omnipresent. Who is God? In fact, you are verily God. You must strive to attain that state. Though God is present everywhere, you should not forget the divinity immanent in you. Some people think that God exists separately in some distant place.

Prahlada, the child devotee of Lord Vishnu declared:



Never doubt that God is here and not there.
Wherever you search for Him,
He is there. (Telugu Poem)

This is the real culture of Bharat, which we are not able to perceive today. Everyone chants the name of God. But, where is God? In fact, you yourself are God. You and God are not separate. Man forgets the divinity latent in him and runs after trivial and mundane things.

Embodiments of Love!

Under all circumstances, do not give up love. Love is your greatest treasure. One who forgets this treasure is not a human being at all! We love our father, mother, brothers, sisters, etc. All these relationships are but mere roles in the Divine Drama. You must try to apprehend true love. In fact, it is always in us. You need not search for it outside.

Unfortunately, today we are going after things that are not real and permanent. (Showing a flower) What is this? This is a flower. Everybody says so. But, the truth is, it is a manifestation of Divinity. There are several petals in it, which represent Divinity. If the petals are taken out one by one, it cannot be called a flower. Similarly, if there is no love in a human being, the human being cannot be called an "Embodiment of love".

All the forms you come across in this world are embodiments of Divinity. There is nothing in this universe that is not divine. You consider the different objects in the universe as mere objects. No! No! Consider them as "Embodiments of Divinity". Unfortunately, today we have become foolish and are searching for God in some distant corner. Wherever you see, there is God. Therefore, it is the noblest feeling to consider everything in the universe as "Embodiments of Divinity". The universe is but a form of God! God is manifest in all forms. Consider such an omnipresent divinity as God.

-Divine Discourse on Guru Poornima, July 2nd 2004.



Everyone must have Faith in himself!



There is no one who does not love himself, has no belief in himself and has no ambition to rise higher and higher. Even a man who does not have faith in God has faith in himself and desires to have strength by which to cultivate faith in himself. There was once a guru communicating wisdom to people who came for his darshan with flowers and fruits. One day, as the offerings were plenty, he called a disciple and asked him to cut the fruits and arrange for its distribution as prasâdam.

The disciple reported to the guru that all was ready for distribution and asked him who would be given first. The guru asked him to start with the person in whom he has the greatest faith and the highest confidence. All the people assembled there thought that the disciple would first give the fruit to the teacher and then distribute to the others. But the disciple did not do so. He took the first fruit himself. When the surprised onlookers asked for an explanation he said that since he had had the greatest confidence and affection for himself, he took the first fruit.

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 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, June 18 – Padhuka Puja	03:00 pm to 05:00 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081
Thursday, June 23	07:30 pm to 08:30 pm	Hoffman Estates	224-548-1703

For more information, please contact any of the Center Officers

Role	Name	Phone	e-mail
President:	Shankar Uppala	708-642-1400	uppalasrao@yahoo.com
Vice-President:	Anand Girap	630-730-4849	argsscmcvp@gmail.com
Devotion Coordinator:	Srividhya Ganesh	847-452-2505	srividhyaganesh@yahoo.com
Education Coordinator:	Sai Prasanna Ravichandran	860-558-0976	sairavichan@gmail.com
Service Coordinator:	Ravi Vemulapalli	732-322-7802	rkvemulapa@yahoo.com
Bookstore & Library Coordinator:	Rani Sanka	847-478-1475	ranisanka@yahoo.com
Study Circle Coordinator:	Suriya Sastri	630-842-9214	ssastri@hotmail.com
YA Male Representative:	Srinu Raghupatruni	248-346-5675	srinuraghu@gmail.com
YA Female Representative:	Aparna Sekhar	314-315-1479	aparnasekhar@gmail.com