

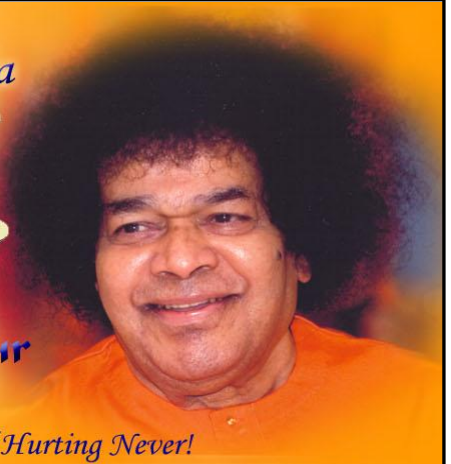
Aum Sri Sai Ram

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!

October 29th Saturday Regional Mini-Retreat: 10 AM to 4 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr.Narendranath Reddy, Chairman of the International Medical Committee and Member of Prashanthi Council

Venue: Ramada Inn, 780 North Avenue, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

November 12th Saturday and November 13th Sunday

Global Akhanda Bhajans - 6.00 PM on Saturday to 6.00 PM on Sunday

Venue: Manav Seva Mandir, 101 S Church St, Bensenville IL 60103

November 20th Sunday 86th Birthday Celebration: 10 AM to 5 PM

Guest Speaker - Jeremy Hoffer

Venue: Ramada Inn, 780 North Avenue, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

November 23rd Wednesday 86th Birthday Celebration: 7 PM to 9:30 PM

Venue: Manav Seva Mandir, 101 S Church St, Bensenville IL 60103



Love All , Serve All

Date	Calendar of Events
10/01 – 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.)
10/02 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program
10/08 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
10/09 – Sunday	10:00 am – 11:00 am: Bingo with Residents of Berkley Nursing & Rehab Center in Oak Park 09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program - Special Bhajans celebrating Dussera
10/15 – 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.)
10/16 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program
10/22 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at R.E.S.T Men’s Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.) 10:30 am – 12:30 pm: Children’s Tutoring, Mentoring Help, and Arts & Crafts Activities based on Human Values at The Mantle House (on S Armitage Ave.)
10/23 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program - Avatarhood Declaration Day
10/29 – Saturday	10:00 am – 04:00 pm: Regional Mini Retreat with Dr. Narendranath Reddy
10/30 – Sunday	09:30 am – 11:30 am: Sunday Center Program - Special Bhajans celebrating Diwali & Guest Speaker session with Dr. Narendranath Reddy
	<p>Sunday Center Schedule:</p> <p>09:00 am – 09:30 am: Center Setup 09:30 am – 10:25 am: Study Circle 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.)



Give up Dehabhimana, Develop Atmabhimana



The Vaishnavites say that Lord Vishnu is the greatest while Saivites declare that Lord Siva is the greatest of all. People may speak on the basis of their feelings, but in truth there is only GOD and the rest are names. (Telugu Poem)

You will not be respected if your thoughts and words are at variance. You may speak sweet words, but if your mind is filled with evil thoughts, how can you earn the respect of others? One can be called a human being, only when one's thoughts, words and deeds are in total harmony.

Embodiments of Love!

The Navaratri festival is celebrated all over India, but nobody seems to make any effort to comprehend the inner significance of this festival. The Hridaya (heart) is the abode of the Atma. No being can exist without the principle of Atma. God, who resides in all as the principle of Atma, has no specific name and form. But, People attribute various names and forms to Him. The Gaanapatyas (worshippers of Ganapati) consider Lord Ganapati as great; the Saivites consider there is none superior to Lord Siva. The devotees of Sai consider Him to be the greatest. Some devotees say all are one. In fact, all names and forms belong to the same God. He responds to the prayers of devotees in whatever form they worship Him. Hence, each one considers the form he worships to be superior to the other forms. It is a sign of ignorance to consider one form superior to the other. What is important is that your prayers should not be confined to mere words. They should be translated into action. It is easy to speak but not so easy to practise. True prayer is that which is translated into action.

During the Navaratri celebrations, the Divine Mother is extolled in various names and forms. All names and forms are based on your feelings. God has no differences whatsoever. No one can comprehend the nature of Divinity. Actually, the principle of love that exists in all beings is the principle of Divinity. Love has no specific form. Divinity transcends name and form. Love is God. Live in love. Truth is God. Truth is all-pervasive.

*The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,
Is there a place where truth does not exist?
Visualise such pure and unsullied truth. (Telugu Poem)*

There are no different truths for different countries such as American truth, Russian truth, Indian truth, Japanese truth, etc. Truth is one and the same for all. It is uniformly present in everyone. True celebration of Navaratri festival lies in contemplating on Sathyaswarupa (the embodiment of truth). Respect one and all, for, the divine Atma is present in all. To respect all is true worship. If you want to be respected, you should respect others in the first instance. Give respect and take respect. Understand the principle of oneness that is Divinity. The Vedas declare, Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). You may call Him by any name and form, but God is one. This principle of unity should be firmly installed in your heart.

God is present in everyone in the form of love. Wherever you go, He is with you. He is the eternal witness. Share your love with others and receive their love in turn. Love is your greatest virtue. Love confers the ultimate joy and bliss. God resides in the heart filled with love. Hence, it is essential that you fill your heart with love. Where there is love, there is God. You don't need to search for Him. He is always in you, with you, around you, above you and below you. Adhere to the principle of love. Never hate anyone. Hatred is your worst enemy. Once you develop love in you, hatred will naturally vanish. If you were to come across your bitter rival, greet him with love. He too will reciprocate the same

feeling. How can you expect love from others when you do not have any love for them? It is love and love alone that I practise and propagate. Try to understand the power of love. It is your greatest wealth. None can estimate its value. What does God expect from you? It is only your love. Love is the tax that you have to pay to God for all that He has given you.

During the Navaratri worship, you have to express your love to the Divine Mother in nine different ways. Sravanam (listening), Kirtanam (singing), Vishnusmaranam (contemplating on Vishnu), Padasevanam (serving His Lotus Feet), Vandanam (salutation), Archanam (worship), Dasyam (servitude), Sneham (friendship), Atmanivedanam (self-surrender). God wants your love and nothing else. Your love should not branch out in different directions. It should flow directly towards God. If you love others, you will be loved in turn. If you utter harsh words, they will come back to you as resound. Fill your heart with love and compassion. Hridaya is that which is filled with Daya (compassion). Compassion is the hallmark of a true devotee. One who lacks compassion cannot be called a human being. When you practise truth and righteousness, you will be successful in all your endeavours. That is why the Vedas teach, Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara (speak truth, practise righteousness). Your heart should melt with compassion when you see the poor and needy.

Embodiments of Love!

Having spent this Navaratri in the worship of Divine Mother, your heart should be filled with love and compassion. The heart bereft of love and compassion is verily a cemetery. Right from dawn to dusk, love should be the undercurrent of all your activities. The moment you get up from bed, resolve that you would tread the path of love. Only then can you have the vision of God, who is the very embodiment of love. True spiritual practice lies in connecting love to love. Love can transform even a hard stone into butter. Swami always teaches the principle of love. It is enough if you call 'Baba' with love from the depth of your heart. He will come to your rescue. Consider love as your life-breath. If there is no love in your prayer, it will prove futile. Love should be 'heartful' and not artificial. Be friendly with all and have a smiling countenance always. What is the use of talking sweetly if your heart is filled with bitterness? Only love can fill your heart with nectarous feelings.

Embodiments of Love!

Your entire life is based on love. Without love, you cannot exist even for a moment. Hence, develop love considering it as the very form of God. Today marks the culmination of Navaratri festival. Worship of Divine Mother is meant to destroy evil qualities and foster virtues in you. The more you distance yourself from evil, the nearer you will be to the principle of love. You don't need to make any efforts to acquire love. The moment you eschew evil, love will automatically enter your heart.

Students!

There is love inherent in all of you. But, you are diverting it on worldly matters. True love is related to the Atmic principle. Worldly love is bound to change with the passage of time, whereas spiritual love is permanent. Even your breathing process speaks of the presence of love in you. When you inhale, you make the sound 'So' and when you exhale 'Ham'; together 'Soham' means, 'I am That'. The principle of 'I' is uniformly present in all. This can be experienced by following the nine paths of devotion. Never give scope for differences. Understand the unity, "I and You are one". Your love gets fragmented when you fail to visualise unity in diversity. There is only one heart, which is changeless.

- Excerpt From Bhagavan's Discourse, Vijaya Dashami on 5th October 2003



Unity In Diversity - The Fundamental Truth



"Life in the world is impermanent. So are youth and wealth. Wife and children are also not permanent. Only truth and good name are permanent." In this world everything is bound to change, be it happiness or sorrow; peace or restlessness.

Man is unable to understand his true nature. He identifies himself with the body which is transient. He is not merely a Vyashti Jeevi (individual), he is a Samashti Jeevi (cosmic being). He does not want to lead a lonely life. The Purusha Sukta declares: Sahasra Seersha Purusha Sahasraksha Sahasra Pad (God has a thousand heads, eyes and feet). Man is unable to realize that he is Samashti Swarupa (Cosmic Form). He is under the delusion that he is a Vyashti Swarupa and thereby subjects himself to suffering.

The main principle of the culture of Bharat is to understand and experience unity in diversity. But, man today visualizes diversity in unity. He has forgotten the principle of equality and, consequently, becomes restless. Unity in diversity is the fundamental truth that one has to recognize. Since time immemorial, the Bharatiyas have been making concerted efforts to understand this truth and experience it.

Nobody has been able to understand the inner meaning of the Vedic teachings. However, a little knowledge can be gained by going through the sacred texts and listening to the teachings of scholars. In ancient times, even the demons used to study the Vedas. However, they could not comprehend the truth contained in the Vedas and hence led a life of untruth. Demons like Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakasipu were highly learned and well-versed in various disciplines of knowledge. They could reach up to the moon, the sun and even the stars and could understand their functioning. But they could not comprehend the latent positive principle in their own self, as their mind was filled with negative thoughts. The demon Narakasura also belonged to the same category. He was one of mighty power and knowledge. But they proved futile because of his negative qualities. One may be highly devoted one may have mastered the Vedas, but, all these will be of little consequence if one does not give up negative qualities.

Saint Thyagaraja was an ardent devotee of the Lord. In one of his compositions, he extolled the Lord thus: "Oh Krishna! You are beyond all description and human comprehension. Is it possible to estimate Your glory and splendor? I have been waiting for Your grace. Oh Lord! Listen to my prayer and redeem me. You are the one who brought back to life the dead son of Your Guru, Sandeepani. You are the one who humbled the serpent Kaliya, freed Vasudeva and Devaki and saved Droupadi from humiliation. You fulfilled Kuchela's desires; You made uglylooking Kubja beautiful. You protected the Pandavas and saved the 16,000 Gopikas. You are beyond all description and human comprehension. Krishna, it is not possible for even Brahma to describe Your glory. I have been praying for Your grace."

Once Chaitanya Mahaprabhu sought his mother's permission to go and pursue his studies. Then his mother said, "My dear one, there are various types of education in this world, but they are meant only for a living and not for life. Only the Adhyatmika Vidya (spiritual education) is true education. It is immortal and has no limitations. It is changeless in all the three periods of time. Make efforts to acquire such education." From that day onwards, Chaitanya went about propagating the efficacy of chanting the divine name in each street and in every village. He chanted the name of Lord Krishna at all times and under all circumstances. His message to mankind was simple, yet profound.

*There is no charity greater than feeding the hungry,
There are no greater gods than parents,
There is no greater Japa (chanting) or
Thapa (penance) than adherence to truth,
There is no greater Dharma than Compassion,
There is no greater gain than the company of the good,
There is no enemy greater than anger,
There is no disease like being a debtor,
There is no wealth greater than good reputation,
Bad reputation is death itself,
There is no ornament better than the chanting of God's Name.*

Man should give up enmity and develop amiable relation with his fellow beings. This is the most essential education that he has to acquire. It is a sign of delusion and a demonic trait to develop hatred towards others and lead a life of selfishness. Why does Purusha Suktam declare Sahasra Seersha Purusha...? It means that God is not a separate entity. He is Samashti Swarupa (the Cosmic Form). He is present in all beings. When God is so close to him, why does man suffer from delusion and face hardships in life? God is permanently installed on the altar of human heart. He is all-pervasive. Man can certainly see Him, touch Him and also speak to Him. But, he lacks such determination and yearning for God. Hence, he suffers.

Chaitanya prayed to Lord Narayana thus: "Oh Lord, You are all-pervasive. You are the master of all beings. You control the entire universe. You are the very life principle. I do not aspire to attain Vaikunta or Kailasa, or Swarga (heaven) nor do I crave for liberation. Bless me with love so that I can love You." When Chaitanya prayed in this manner, an ethereal voice said, "Tathastu" (so shall it be). The worldly education one may be well-versed in and the immense power one may be endowed with, are bound to disappear with the passage of time. Love alone is immortal. Hence, one should consider love as one's very life. Chaitanya prayed to Krishna to bless him with such eternal love. Kailasa, Vaikunta and Swarga are like branch offices of God. Chaitanya was not interested in attaining them. He recognized that Hridaya (heart) is the correct address of God. He prayed, "Oh Lord, I know that You are installed on the altar of my heart. Kindly, bless me with such experience."

Lord Krishna, accompanied by Sathyabhama, went to wage a battle with the demon Narakasura. A fierce battle ensued and the demon died at the hands of Sathyabhama. Being the all-powerful one, Krishna could have killed Narakasura without Sathyabhama's help. Then why did He take her help? Narakasura, being a wicked demon, did not deserve to even die at the hands of Krishna. As he had subjected thousands of women to untold suffering, Krishna decided that he should be killed by a woman. Narakasura had imprisoned thousands of princesses who were great devotees of the Lord. They were the very embodiments of love and contemplated on Him incessantly. After slaying Narakasura, Krishna granted them freedom. It is in this context that Saint Thyagaraja extolled the Lord saying, "You have protected the sixteen thousand Gopikas." It is always dangerous to be in the company of the wicked. Hence, it is said,

*Tyaja Durjana Samsargam; Bhaja Sadhu Samagamam;
Kuru Punyam Ahorathram*
(Give up bad company; join the company of the noble;
and perform meritorious deeds day and night).

One should resolve to follow such sacred path and propagate the principle of love to one and all.

**- Excerpt from Divine Discourse delivered on Deepavali Day,
November 4, 2002**



Charity is the Ornament of the Hand



There lived an old lady in Paris. Though she was not very rich, she used to buy blankets with whatever money she had, go in the streets at night and cover with blankets the people sleeping there with their bodies huddled with cold. Even when she did not have enough money, she continued this act of service. Her charity continued day by day without any break with the grace of God. Her spirit of sacrifice also grew more and more. Whenever it was possible for her, she would take a bundle of blankets in a vehicle and cover with blankets all those who were sleeping in the streets in cold weather. In this manner, she continued to do this service without anyone coming to know of it. However, after some time, the people of the locality came to know of her spirit of sacrifice and charity. She always used to walk with her head bent down. Some people were puzzled why she always walked in this manner.

One day, some people asked her, "Oh grandmother! Aren't you doing a very good service with a great spirit of sacrifice? Then, why are you so modest and meek? Why can't you walk with your head raised high?" Then, the old lady replied, "Oh dear ones! I feel ashamed to keep my head high because God gives me with thousands of hands but I am giving with only one hand. Is it not a matter of shame for me?"

One should perform charity, but this should be done without anybody's knowledge. It is said that your left hand should not know what you are giving with your right hand. Money has its worth if you give it in charity

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, October 8 – Padhuka Puja	02:30 pm to 04:00 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081
Sunday, October 23 - Bhajans	06:00 pm to 07:00 pm	West Chicago	630-587-3031

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