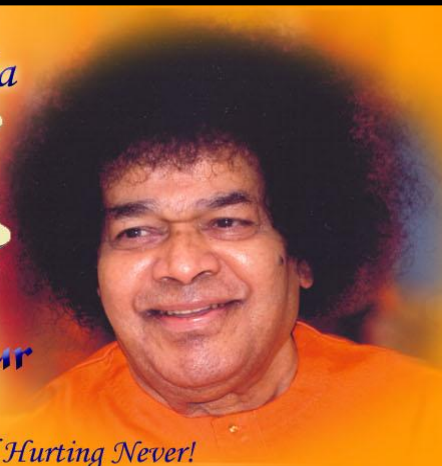


Aum Sri Sai Ram

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!

June 30th Saturday Bread Truck Project: 6 AM to 9 AM

Venue: 22080 North Greenmeadow Dr., Kildeer, IL 60047

July 3rd Wednesday Guru Poornima: 7 PM to 9:30 PM

Devotional program followed by a presentation by: The alumni Of the Sathya Sai Institute Of Higher Learning (SSIHL)

Venue: Itasca Park District, 350 East Irving Park Road, Itasca, IL 60143



Love All , Serve All

Date	Calendar of Events
06/09 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at Northside Housing Men's Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
06/10 – Sunday	09:00 am – 01:00 pm: Sunday Center Program 10:00 am – 11:00 am: Bingo with Nursing Home Residents (on North Ave, Oak Park)
06/16 – Saturday	06:00 pm – 09:30 pm: Dinner Service Project at Northside Housing Men's Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.) 07:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Dinner Service Project at Jesus People USA Men's Shelter (on Kenmore Ave.)
06/17 – Sunday	09:00 am – 01:00 pm: Sunday Center Program celebrating Father's Day
06/23 – Saturday	06:00 am – 08:00 am: Breakfast Service at Northside Housing Men's Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.)
06/24 – Sunday	09:00 am – 01:00 pm: Sunday Center Program
06/30 – Saturday	06:00 am – 09:00 am: Bread Truck Project at 22080 North Greenmeadow Dr., Kildeer, IL 60047 09:00 am – 03:00 pm: Bread Truck Delivery
07/01 – Sunday	09:00 am – 01:00 pm: Sunday Center Program
07/03 – Tuesday	07:00 pm – 09:30 pm: Guru Poornima at Itasca Park District, 350 East Irving Park Rd, Itasca, IL 60143
07/07 – Saturday	06:00 pm – 09:30 pm: Dinner Service Project at Northside Housing Men's Shelter (on Lawrence Ave.) 06:00 pm – 08:00 pm: Dinner Service Project at Sarah's Circle Women's Shelter (on N. Sheridan Rd.)
07/08 – Sunday	09:00 am – 01:00 pm: Sunday Center Program
	Sunday Center Schedule: 09:00 am – 09:30 am: Center Setup 09:30 am – 10:25 am: Study Circle 10:30 am – 11:30 am: Devotional Singing Ongoing service projects on Sundays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grocery collection for the needy families (Delivered at the end of every month) Sandwich preparation & delivery for residents of Northside Housing Men's Shelter (Lawrence Ave.)



Never Forget Your Parents



Continued from May 2012 issue of WATCH

http://r05il002ct.saimedia.org/WATCH/2012/WATCH_May_2012_WV.pdf

*Matha Nasthi, Pitha Nasthi, Nasthi Bandhu Sahodara,
Artham Nasthi, Griham Nasthi, Thasmath Jagrata Jagrata.
(The relationships like mother, father, brothers, sisters and friends
are not real. House and wealth are also illusory. Hence, beware!
beware! (Sanskrit Verse)*

Give Highest Respect to your Parents

The entire world is ephemeral and transitory. How many people have taken birth in this world? Are they all here? Parents should occupy a place of prime importance in your life. Howsoever old they may be and howsoever difficult may be your condition; you should try to make your parents happy as far as it is possible for you. You should feed them even if you have to resort to begging. Bear all hardships to look after them. Fulfill all their desires. This will result in the fulfillment of your own desires. Everything in this world is reaction, reflection and resounds. None can escape from these. If you cause hardship to your parents today, your children will do the same to you tomorrow. You will get back the result of your actions without much delay. You may love anyone you like, but do not forget your parents. Now? Death can occur in any manner; it has no one particular symptom. Death is death. Even if some symptoms of death are visible, we should not worry at all.

Never ever show disrespect to your mother. Never make her shed tears by your conduct. Keep her always happy. Her happiness will bring you all good things in life. But we should not worry at the death of our parents. Recently also I told that both my mother and father appear before Me. I keep seeing them. They smile on seeing me; I also smile on seeing them. We should be happy when our parents smile. Small children smile at everyone. We also start smiling when they smile. Parents are also like small children. Mother always loves her children. Therefore, whatever high position we may attain in our life, we should never disrespect or look down upon our parents.

You should look after your parents and treat them with love and respect. Always consider them as God. Mother is God, father is God. That is why it is said; revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God. Mother gives you your body. Father provides the means of nourishment of the body and opportunities for your progress. Acharya (preceptor) gives you education and God gives you everything. Therefore, you should never forget these four and treasure them in your heart. Mother and father should be there in your heart always. Do not ignore them even if you are facing hardships. One who forgets his/her parents cannot be called a human being. How can you exist without your parents? They are the seed of your life, the very source of your life on earth. Therefore, parents should occupy a place of prime importance in your life. Howsoever old they may be and howsoever difficult may be your condition; you should try to make your parents happy as far as it is possible for you. You should feed them even if you have to resort to begging. Bear all hardships to look after them. Fulfill all their desires. This will result in the fulfillment of your own desires. Everything in this world is reaction, reflection and resounds. None can escape from these. If you cause hardship to your parents today, your children will do the same to you tomorrow. You will get back the result of your actions without much delay. You may love anyone you like, but do not forget your parents. Your parents would never forget you. Hence, you should also not forget them.

It is for this reason that I have come here straight from Brindavan. Earlier, people thought that Easwaramma Day might be

celebrated at Kodaikanal. But I decided that I should be at Puttaparthi on 6th May, a grand function should be held here and poor people should be made happy by giving clothes and serving sumptuous food. Wherever I am, I perform this function in the same grand manner. We should never ignore poor people. We should always remember them and help them. But some people out of their short temper abuse and ridicule them. This is a great mistake. If you ridicule them now, it will come back to you in future. Never ridicule or insult them. Always love them. If you insult them before others, you will also be insulted by others. You cannot escape from reaction, reflection and resound. Difficulties come and go.

Even the mighty Rama suffered the pain of separation from His consort Sita & cried like an ordinary person. Even the valorous Pandavas lived in the forest eating leaves & tubers. (Telugu Song)

Have Relationship only with God

Gambling is not good at all. Similarly, drinking of liquor is also not good. Addiction to drinking leads to loss of control over oneself. Likewise, lust and anger are demonic qualities. Never allow them to come near you. Anger and lust are very bad for man. Love God. Adore Him and worship Him. He is your father, mother and everything. Have relationship only with God.

*Twameva Mathacha Pitha Twameva,
Twameva Bandhuscha Sakha Twameva,
Twameva Vidya Dravinam Twameva,
Twameva Sarvam Mama Devadeva.*

*(Oh Lord! You alone are my father and mother, friend and relation,
wisdom and wealth. You are my everything). (Sanskrit Verse)*

God will never leave you. He is omnipresent. All the worldly people whom you love are like passing clouds. They come and go. But God comes and grows. Therefore, love God and have faith in Him. Only he is a true human being who has love for God. See how beautifully this boy from Iran has chanted the Vedic Mantras! He is a Mohammedan boy. When you ask him his name, he will tell, "My name is Sathya." The boy then recited Rudram and Sri Suktam with perfect intonation and pronunciation to the applause of the entire gathering.

Everything is there in the Vedas. The essence of all the religions, viz., Hinduism, Islam and Christianity is there in the Vedas. The Christians also sing the glory of God in the same manner. The Mohammedans pray to God in the same way. Hence, God is one for all religions. There is difference only in names. The Muslims offer prayers to God five times in a day. The Hindus also pray to God in the morning and evening. We should never think that the Vedas are only for the Hindus. The Vedas are for all. That which is one and universal is the Veda. The Vedas can alleviate all types of sufferings of man. Hence, it is good for everyone to learn the Vedas. Devotees from America come here and learn the Vedas. Many people in Russia and Germany also chant the Vedic Mantras both in the morning and evening. Since Hindus are not chanting the Vedic Mantras daily, they are forgetting them. Therefore, nobody should forget the Vedas. Veda and Vedanta are like your parents. You should always remember them and never forget them. Therefore, students! Whatever you may study, you should never forget God. Only then can you attain peace. People say, "I want peace." There can be no peace without Bhajan. (Here Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, "Hari Bhajan Bina ..." and continued His Discourse.) Many people perform Yajnas for the sake of peace. Wherefrom can you get peace? It is within you only. It does not come from outside. What come from outside are only pieces, pieces, pieces! Peace comes from our heart only. You should do Bhajan to attain peace. Only Bhajan can give you true peace.

- From Bhagavan's Easwaramma Day Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 6th May 2008.



Equal-mindedness is the Hallmark of a Human Being



A true devotee is one who remains equal-minded in both happiness and sorrow, prosperity and adversity, praise and blame. (Telugu Poem)

Students, Embodiments of Love!

Good and bad, wealth and poverty, praise and blame go together in this world. there can be no sorrow without happiness and happiness has no value without sorrow. Na Sukhat Labhate Sukham (one cannot derive happiness out of happiness). happiness does not come out of happiness; it comes only out of sorrow. a wealthy man today may become a pauper tomorrow. Similarly, a pauper may become a rich man some day or the other. today you are being praised but tomorrow you may be criticized. to consider praise and blame, happiness and sorrow, prosperity and adversity with equal-mindedness is the hallmark of a true human being.

Develop Equal-mindedness

The Gita also declares the same thing, Sukhadukhe Samekruthwa Labhalabhau Jayajayau (one should remain equal-minded in happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, victory and defeat). You can really enjoy your life as a human being only when you consider both sorrow and happiness, profit and loss with equanimity. If there is no sorrow, man will have no value for happiness. therefore, one should welcome sorrow, if one wants to experience real happiness.

Pleasure and pain, good and bad coexist; none can separate them. You cannot find pleasure or pain, good or bad to the exclusion of the other. Pleasure results when difficulties fructify. (Telugu Poem)

In our day-to-day life also, we will have no value for day if there is no night and vice-versa. It is very difficult to understand this truth and act accordingly. People who do not understand this truth desire only happiness at all times. they are under the delusion that they can remain happy always. but this is not possible. First of all, you should understand what happiness really means. It is only when one is tired of walking in the sun can one understand the value of taking rest in the shade of a tree. People who question why man should undergo sorrow and suffering lack common sense. the student who spoke earlier said that modern education did not develop common sense. not only common sense, it does not foster general knowledge even. In fact, both common sense and general knowledge have become zero in the present system of education. who will desire food when he is not hungry? Similarly, who will buy an air conditioner when it is not hot? only those who have both common sense and general knowledge can really understand the value of the pairs of opposites like happiness and sorrow, profit and loss, prosperity and adversity.

In all fields of life, whether it is worldly, physical, moral or spiritual, man can attain name and fame only when he undergoes difficulties. King Harishchandra underwent many difficulties and sufferings in order to uphold truth. It was his firm determination, "Come what may, I will never leave truth." He sacrificed his kingdom, sold his wife and son, and he himself became a servant to uphold truth. he earned the exalted name of Sathya Harishchandra only after undergoing enormous difficulties, sorrows and sufferings. otherwise, he would have been remembered as Harishchandra and not Sathya Harishchandra. He sacrificed everything at the altar of truth. This signifies true determination.

Man should develop such firm determination. being unmindful of all sufferings, sorrows and difficulties, one should be prepared to

sacrifice even his life to achieve his goal. This is the sign of a man who relentlessly pursues the path of truth. You know the story of seven years old little boy, Prahlada. he constantly contemplated on the name of Narayana. His own father subjected him to untold suffering and even tried to kill him. But Prahlada faced all difficulties and sufferings with courage and determination and ultimately achieved victory. Did he ever get bogged down by difficulties? Did any sorrow break his determination? No, no. he achieved victory against all odds. Hence, difficulties are the stepping stones to high esteem and reputation as well as true happiness. But people do not welcome sorrows and difficulties at all. This is a great mistake. In order to understand the mystery of human life, man has to experience both happiness and sorrow. otherwise, you can never enjoy true peace and happiness. You should welcome difficulties and sorrows in order to experience everlasting bliss. Pleasure is an interval between two pains. one who understands this truth will neither be elated by happiness nor depressed by sorrow. but people today are prepared to ruin their precious reputation for the sake of trivial, mean and momentary worldly pleasures and petty gains. thereby they subject themselves to disrepute. This may be due to the influence of Kali age. Unfortunately, man today is running after petty gains and not making any effort to attain everlasting happiness. here is a small example. the owner of a 50-seater bus going from one village to another overcrows it with 70 people for a little more money. He may earn 20 rupees extra by overcrowding the bus, but he does not realize that tires worth 2000 rupees are spoiled in the process.

Make Sacred Use of your Senses

How people in general and youth in particular should conduct themselves to earn a good reputation? They should enquire how they should use their eyes, ears and tongue and exercise control over them. It is not proper to look at everyone and everything just because you have eyes. See only what is required to be seen. It is a sin to look at everyone and everything. People try to derive mean pleasure by casting evil glances at women. but they do not understand how much disrepute they earn by craving for such mean pleasures. Such persons cannot move in society with their head held high. You should see only what is necessary for you to see. never look at anything that is unnecessary. You are all young and you should not think otherwise when Swami tells you these things. It is My duty to make you aware of the ways of the world and put you on the right path. Suppose a twenty-five year old young man is travelling with his twenty year old younger sister. though they are brother and sister, people may consider them as husband and wife, looking at their age. According to our ancient traditions and culture of bharaat, young brothers and sisters should avoid going to a cinema, beach or shopping centre together. They should go with their parents strictly adhering to ancient principles.

Exercise Control over Speech, Vision and Laughter

You should also know how you should use your tongue in a proper way. It is necessary for students to know what they should speak before whom, when they should laugh and when they should not. Sometimes, you start laughing when you see something funny. but improper laughter can put you to great harm. this improper laughter was the main cause of Draupadi's difficulties. Dharmaraja got a beautiful palace built by the architect Maya. therefore, it was called Maya Sabha. It had many wonderful architectural features. For instance, doors appeared to be there where they did not exist really, and where doors actually were there, they could not be seen. Similarly, the flooring was such that it would cause the illusion of a tank where there was none, and it would appear like a dry area where there was really a water tank.

- Excerpt From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse July 9th 1996



Adi Sankara's Pithru Bhakti Brings Divine Grace



Sankara knew the real meaning of the Vedic words "Mathru Devo Bhava, Pithru Devo Bhava - let the mother be your god, let the father be your god". Once when his father left the house, he told his son to continue his custom of worshipping God, offering prasadam to GOD, and distributing it to all the people. Sankara promised too so without fail. He poured some milk in a cup, and offered it to the idol of the Goddess. Though he prayed for a long time, the mother did not take the milk, nor did she appear. He was very disappointed.

He prayed to her earnestly from the innermost depths of his heart. He prepared to sacrifice even his life and thought that it was better for him to die because the Goddess was not accepting his offering. The Mother of the Universe is very compassionate and was very moved & touched by Sankara's sincerity. She at once appeared before him and drank the milk that he offered. Sankara was very glad that the Mother of the Universe came and drank the milk but there was nothing in the cup.

He thought that his father might think that he drank all the milk and may be angry with him. Therefore he prayed to the Goddess to at least leave one drop of milk. But the Goddess did not come. He again sincerely continued to pray; the goddess was moved. Because she was not able to give the milk that she drank, she gave her own milk and filled the cup. There is a belief that because Sankara tasted the divine milk, he was able to attain the highest learning, knowledge and wisdom that are ever possible. So the essence of the grace of the goddess became the essence of learning of Sankara. In order to please his father, he tried hard and was able to get the Goddess of the Universe to manifest herself before him. From this story, we must learn to revere and obey the orders of our fathers implicitly and sincerely.

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 16 th – Padhuka Puja	10:30 am to 12:30 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081
Saturday, June 23 rd	06:00 pm to 07:00 pm	Homer Glen	708-301-1868

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
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