



Merry Christmas



SAI DHARMAM

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Cooksville

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

When people hear the word Christmas, they think of the presents they will see under the tree, the beautiful decorations, or Christmas parties. These are all the traditional celebrations of Christmas; however it is the day Jesus Christ was born. Mary and Joseph gave birth to Christ on December 25 where the shepherds knew there was something special in the newborn, “The child is God Himself”. Swami gave a discourse every year on Christmas to all that joined to share the message and life of Jesus.

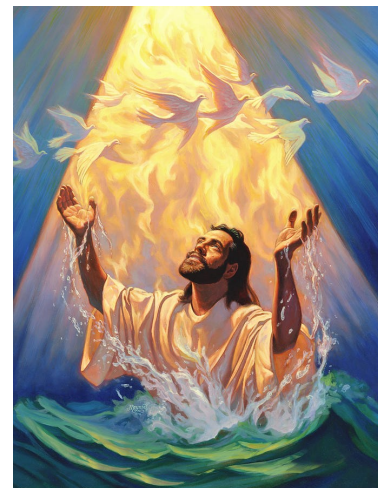
He said Jesus taught simple, practical lessons, supported through his own examples of compassion and love, and how to see the divine qualities in everyone. Jesus’ divine love that he expressed to others when sacrificing his own life is the reason he is known all over the world. Moreover, in Swami’s discourse he explains when Jesus declared “he was the Messenger of God, then that He was the Son of God, and finally—that He and the Father were

One,” Swami is reminding us that in order to attain God within, we need to develop divine qualities of God. In conclusion, Bhagawan said during his Christmas day discourse that “our destiny is to journey from humanity to divinity. On this journey, there are many obstacles and trials. God takes birth in human form from time to time, to teach man how to overcome the obstacles and reach the goal of divinity.”

DEVOTEE SPEAKS

Christmas continues to be one of the most popular holidays in Canada where people spend the most time with their family. It is the annual festival that commemorates the birth of Jesus and when people are supposed to recognize God's redemption, mercy and grace. Furthermore, as Jesus is God's son, Christians believe he is the savior that came down to Earth to forgive his people for their sins. It is also interesting to note that Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mother Mary through the Holy Spirit without the agency of a human father. Jesus was born between 6 and 4 BC in Bethlehem, Jerusalem. According to a divine discourse by Sri Sathya Sai Baba, our duty as humans is to glorify the message of Lord Jesus. Notably, one important message being; "establishing peace on earth and goodwill among men-without peace mankind cannot achieve

progress in any sphere; material, spiritual, or moral. Christmas should be the time when you reduce your bad habits, whether it be anger, ego or greed. With this in mind, if one person develops good habits, they can thus diffuse these habits into society and we can all become better members of society. It is important to realize that recently people have strayed away from the true meaning of Christmas due to increased capitalism and consequently higher materialistic desires. This includes the idea of shopping, drinking and throwing numerous parties with significant others. Albeit people believe in the idea that Christmas is the holiday where one should spend time with their family, they have developed the belief that by buying numerous gifts for their family and significant others, one is celebrating the ideal Christmas. However, this is wrong and people



are blinded from the true meaning of Christmas, as the commercial industry continues to perpetuate the idea of a "commercialized Christmas" through the massive sales and discounts they offer to customers during this time. Therefore, it is important to understand that by becoming more spiritually inclined and developing moral principles, we can all adapt to the true meaning of Christmas.

HINDUISM AND CHRISTIANITY: MORE ALIKE THAN YOU THINK

Hinduism and Christianity are major world religions that have many unique characteristics to their holdings, but they also share many common characteristics that we may overlook. Jesus and Baba both preached many of the same values including love, nonviolence, generosity and forgiveness. In Christianity, Jesus often preached a very important and highlighted teaching: "love thy neighbor," this teaching essentially illustrated that one should be kind to all those they encounter. A very similar teaching translates to "love all, serve all" in Hinduism, which also indicates

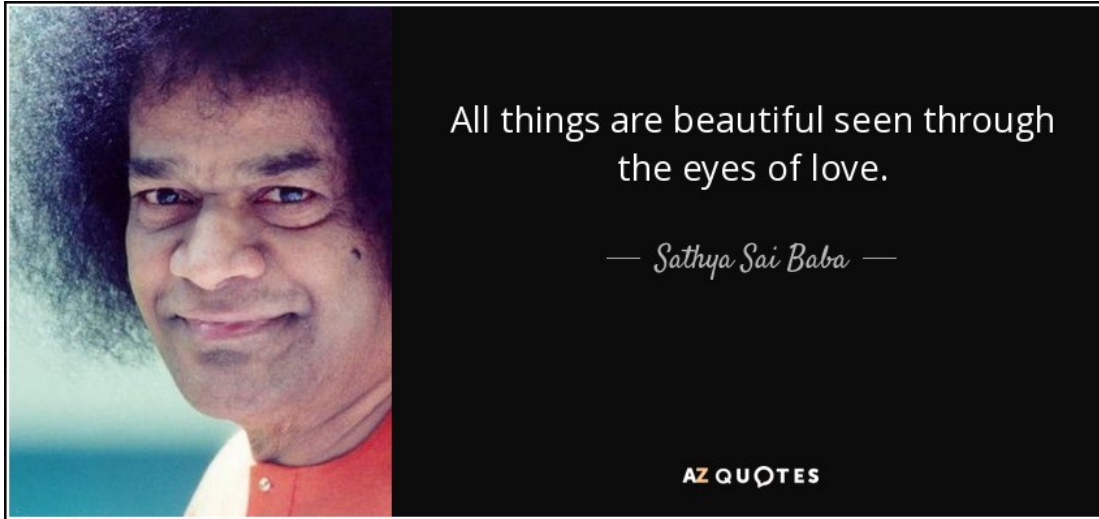
treating everyone with love and respect. In addition to this, Jesus also emphasised that the kingdom of god is within, similarly Baba also highlights the fact that god is within us. Many of these teachings exists in both religions, and often denote the same values or characteristics. Furthermore, the festivals of Christmas and Diwali also have quite a few similarities. Holiday season is upon us and Christmas is quickly approaching, while Diwali just passed, Both holidays have a heavy presence of lights and decorations. Christians will put up their Christmas trees, ornaments, as well as



many lights. Similarly, Diwali is known as the festival of lights where Hindus put out many decorations, (Continued on page 3)

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(Continued from page 2) such as Diyas and lights. In addition, both festivals have a strong sense of giving and donating, where gifts are exchange within loved ones. So to conclude, Jesus and Baba both emphasized and preached many of the same values and teachings, that are still heavily practiced within the religions. Whether we realize it or not, Christianity, Hinduism and all other major world religions have many universal and commonalities.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aum Sri Sairam,

Please accept our sincere gratitude's and deepest thanks for all your kind support, assistance, participation and blessings. We all had a great time in the month of November in 2018, a spiritual month to have blissful time remembering Swami, presenting Akhanda Bhajans for our dear Sweet Swami on Nov. 10th at Cooksville Sai Centre, 11th at York Sai Centre, celebrating our dear bhagwan's 93rd birthday on Friday Nov. 23, 2018 at Cooksville Sai Center and during SSE Play Presentation by SSE children's of Cooksville Sai Centre to Swami on Sunday Nov. 25th, 2018 at Port Credit Secondary School. Let Swami's blessings shower on and on, on all of us going together and achieving our individual spiritual journey goals. The due credits go to all the members of Cooksville Sai Centre, Office bearers, Youths and Children's.

Thank you all once again and looking forward to having more and more spiritual sadhanas which are the ways to realize divinity within us as per Swami and be blessed in our individual journeys.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you and family members and friends.

Sairam,

Brother Pancha

Happy Holidays

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CELEBRATION
 CHRISTMAS
 ELVES
 FAMILY
 FRIENDS
 JESUSCHRIST
 JOY
 KWANZAA
 MISTLETOE
 SANTACLAUS
 SNOWANGEL
 STOCKINGS
 TINSEL
 WINTER

BHAJAN

MEANING

Swami take my hand, Jesus take my hand, dear
 Lord take my hand

Take my hand and lead the way

I'll never forget You, You'll always be with me,
 dear Lord take my hand

Take my hand and lead the way

Your Guide and Protector, Mother and Father,
 dear Lord take my hand

Take my hand and lead the way

Teach me loving service, peace and contentment,
 dear Lord take my hand

Take my and lead the way

Sung to the tune of " Swami Sharanam Ayyan Sharanam

