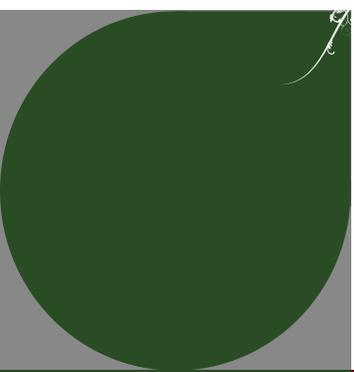
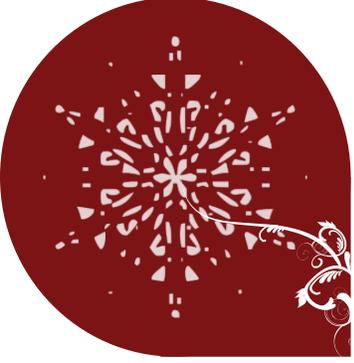


Sai Dharmam



Bhajan Corner

Christmas, The Season of Love

English Bhajan:

Almighty Father with
thousands of names
Almighty Father with
thousands of forms
Why differ over names
Why differ over forms
We are all one and the
same
You are embodiments Love
divine
We are birds, God is wing
We can fly when we are
one
We are all one and the
same

Every year, on December 25th, people around the globe celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. There are countless reasons, stories and values behind Christmas day. A concise excerpt from the Holy Bible explains why God sent Jesus to earth: “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Jesus was sent to earth as a human so we could get to know him, trust him and love him back. The Incarnation of Jesus on earth allowed society to understand and enjoy the presence of God. Till today, it helps nourish the creation of a personal relationship with God. In short, Christmas is a celebration of one’s love of God.

Christmas is celebrated with the unison of families for festive meals, and the giving of gifts. The Christmas season, commonly known as the season of giving is used as an opportunity for those celebrating to give back and support those less fortunate in their community through the means of food, clothing, and shelter.

Jesus once said: “blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God.” The Christmas season is a time for everyone to celebrate and love- not only those who follow Christianity, but all members of the

community. It is a time to spread love, kindness and accept each other. Throughout the Holy Bible, there is a prominent reoccurring theme of Love. As is the overarching theme of the Sai organization, there are countless parallels between the teachings of Swami and Jesus Christ.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. – Jesus Christ

Love does not seek anything in return. Love knows only to give, not to receive. – Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Christmas is a wonderful time of year, and probably my favourite holiday. It brings families and communities alike together. This season is a time for people to escape from their frenzied and demanding work or school schedules, to enjoy and celebrate with their loved ones. The season offers the chance for families to come together and exudes values like kindness and love.

Every year, my family holds a festive dinner with our relatives. It is a time to reflect and be grateful for what God has given us. It is a time of love and support, and it reinstates the importance of giving. In a society where so much importance is given to the accumulation of wealth or power, the family time this season allows for is a beautiful change.

Every Christmas, my relatives and I pick a particular way to give back to the community that has raised us. For a few years now, we have cooked a fresh meal and packaged snacks to serve at a local soup kitchen to those who may not be able to afford warm meals. It is traditions like these

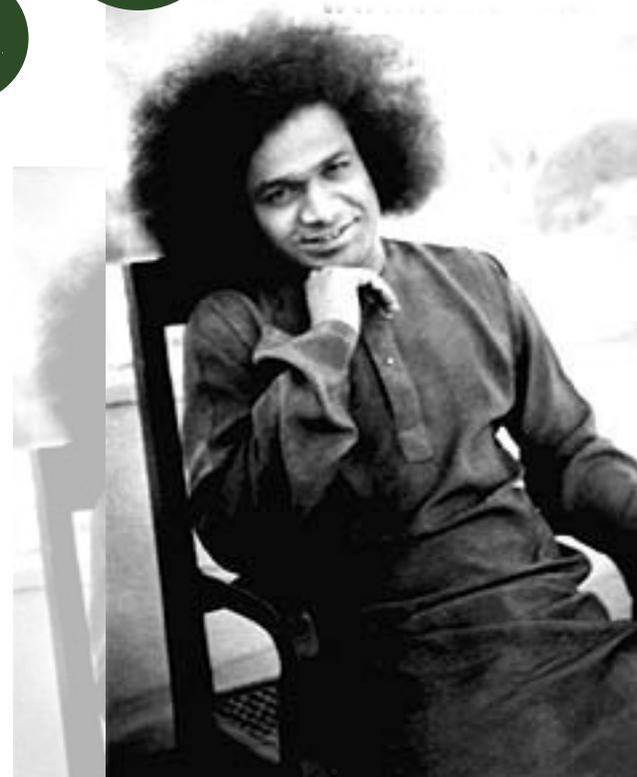
that instil the importance of service in our family.

Regardless of religion or belief, the Christmas season is a joyous season of giving and serving. As our dear Swami says, love all, serve all.



The Spirit of Christmas Story and Morales

When we think about Christmas, we immediately think about Santa Claus. A jolly, old man who loves to give gifts and presents to young ones that have been good year-round. Up until this moment, you may have been under the impression that Santa Claus is not real. What if I told you that Santa Claus is a reality? Of course, he may not fly from house to house travelling down the chimney to give gifts (maybe he does) but he was a reality nonetheless! Swami says “Santa Claus” real name was Tokovan. He was born in turkey and began his career as a priest and gradually began to attain spiritual heights. He became a spiritual giant by the spirit of sacrifice. He would give chocolates and dolls and gifts to any child he met. He continuously gave to those who he met. When Christmas was approaching, the children would run behind him in hopes of securing a gift. He used to carry all his gifts in a bag and distribute them to the children. When he did distribute them he used to say “Here is a token of God’s Love.” Soon, his original name was forgotten and the modern image of Santa became more prevalently known. Swami says the spirit of Christmas is in giving. Jesus Christ gave his life for the sake of service to man. To celebrate Christmas properly, we must try to implement this ideology of selfless service or giving. That is why we truly give gifts. The giving of gifts is a symbolic representation of the true spirit of Christmas. It is to give selflessly all year-round.



President's Message

Thank you Swami for showering your Grace by giving us this opportunity to celebrate your 91st birthday! This is the least we can do for You!

“Swami we adore You
Lay our lives before You
How we love You”

We saw this love pouring in ecstasy right through the birthday play practice and birthday celebration. Our children at SSE did an amazing job by offering the play, 'Light the Lamp Within' at His divine lotus feet. Thanks to all those hands, which worked in unison from conceiving the idea for the play, writing the script, recording the conversations, and to finally enacting the play. Our gurus, scene leads have worked tirelessly with the children to offer nothing but the best to our Lord. We were transported from one world to another during the play through our props team who worked hours and hours with passion. Everywhere, we had our seva brothers, like Hanuman helping all with their humility and commitment to Swami. They exemplified the verse below:

Lord, You are in me, my life is Your altar,

When I help others, my Lord, You are in me. The youth with their musical elevated us to a different plane. We could see Swami's hands working with these boys and girls.

Through all these celebration, our ladies, as true mothers fed us all with love!

Our dear parents! You are the foundation for our SSE program to be successful. Your cooperation through the birthday celebration has been outstanding, dropping and picking up children after ad hoc bhajan practices without the twitching of an eyebrow. Your generous donations helped us to celebrate the birthday in such a grand manner. Thank you all!!



Game Corner

Connect the dots!

