

SAI DHARMAM

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Cooksville

Mother Easwaramma

Mother Easwaramma is the mother of our dear Lord Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. She is commonly called “The chosen mother” and thus, she is an example of an ideal mother. Swami says “Easwaramma was the chosen one. I chose her to be My mother. That is the intimate relationship between Mother Easwaramma and Myself.” All of us celebrate Easwaramma day to remember her devotion to God, and selfless service to the needy. We commemorate all the things she has done as a mother, for Swami, and us. A few years after Swami declared himself to be an avatar, Mother Easwaramma asked for only 3 wishes. She was very kind hearted, so she sincerely requested Swami for a school to be built in the village because children had to walk to the next village to study.

Since there was no access to health care in the village, her second wish was to build a hospital nearby, which offered free service. Her last wish was a good water source because it was difficult to find clean drinking water during the hot, dry summers in India. Easwaramma was not the name she was given at birth. When she was born, her name was Nammagiramma. She was given the name Easwaramma after marriage because Swami’s grandfather, Kondama Raju, knew she was going to be the mother of Easwar. She adored all children like her own. She loved being around children and playing with them. Easwaramma day is a day for all women, especially mothers, so they can be acknowledged and feel blessed for being an ideal mother, like our Mother Easwaramma.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Learn about Mother Easwaramma and why we commemorate her every year
- Learn how Mother Easwaramma has been an inspiration to others
- Learn why Mother Easwaramma is considered the “mother of all mothers”
- Important Message from the Education Coordinators!



Mother Easwaramma as an Inspiration

Imagine how holy Mother Easwaramma would have been to become the chosen Mother for our divine lord, Sri Sathya Sai Baba. We celebrate May 6th, 1977, as children's day, in recognition of her death anniversary. Mother Easwaramma had lots of wisdom and power. She was also an amazing storyteller. She would portray sympathetic messages about honesty, love and loyalty. As we all know, Mother Easwaramma had three vital wishes for the advancement of Puttaparthi, which were all granted by Sathya Sai Baba. She asked Swami to build a well due to the lack of clean drinking water. She asked for a school because the closest school was far away in the next village. She asked for a hospital, for the wellness of the people of Puttaparthi. Mother Easwaramma was filled with such content when all of her wishes for Puttaparthi were granted by her Divine son. We all see inspirations as ordinary people who took the initiative to be different. My lifelong inspiration is Mother Easwaramma, our Divine Lord's generous mother. She truly taught me to be

compassionate and loving towards everyone, especially young children. Mother Easwaramma was also known as a kind and humble person. For example, she would wait in line for Sai Baba's blessings, and was aware that there were many who deserved His grace. She felt she was just another seeker to qualify. This just makes her more of an inspiration to me because of her thoughtfulness and self-awareness. Nonetheless, Mother Easwaramma was not only the mother of Sathya Sai Baba but the mother of all children. Let us all carry Mother Easwaramma in our hearts as we celebrate Children's day. There was a section in Sathya Sai Speaks Vol 33 (November 8, 2000), which truly spoke to me because of how much we must be aware of what we do, say, and react. "When you lose the love and affection of your mother, your life will lose its direction like a rudderless boat. Mother is the source of all your strength. So, respect your mother and obey her command. If your mother is happy with you, the whole world will be happy with you. If the mother is not pleased with you,

you will become cheap in the eyes of the world. Do not be proud of your youth, beauty and physical power. Realize that very soon you will have to pass through old age. If you neglect your parents now, your children



will neglect you." She is the path of enlightenment, which lights the way in my heart. Om Sri Sai Ram.



Significance of Mother Easwaramma

Reader, quick! Your three deepest wishes - what are they?

Now...more slowly...who are they for?

Disney's Aladdin had three wishes and he changed his whole world. He fell in love, became a prince, and defeated a sorcerer. He saved his love-interest, he saved his home, but most importantly he saved a friend, by freeing him. So his first two wishes were for himself but not his last. More than love, more than honesty, Aladdin shows us the greatest gifts are those which we give to others.

If I had three wishes ...I wouldn't know where to begin. A future with thicker hair, less homework, more money? It's hard to curb desires with all the exotic trips, latest outfits, and great gadgets I see online. However, I should be thinking of others, right? Should I also ask for a future with world peace, more justice, and less poverty? Am I being genuine? What would I actually ask? I did come across a post once, of an Ancient Greek quote illustrating the importance of striving for a better future and not just for yourself: "a society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in".

Mother Easwaramma had three wishes and she thought of children, who were not even her own. She asked for a hospital, for a school, and for a well. When Mother Easwaramma left her physical body, she left behind a legacy of charity and generosity. This is why Easwaramma Day is celebrated as Children's day. Now, not every one of us is ready to save the whole world quite yet, but we can each do our little part in our little place in it. So this May 6th, remember Mother Easwaramma as an ideal: love and respect all, and strive for the future of the children around you.

Those wishes of yours, that you're asking Baba to grant, are you asking with humanity on your mind, humility in your heart, and love throughout? After you're gone, these wishes you wish, will they have been worth wishing for? Because let's say they're granted: make them count.

Mother of All Mothers

If there is one word to describe the word “mother”, that would be Mother Easwamma, the mother to Swami and to each and every child in the world. What makes Easwamma the mother of all mothers? She contains an endless amount of love and selflessness for every child out there, regardless of race, gender, and other physical characteristics. This is the reason why Easwamma Day is also known as Children’s Day. What commenced on May 6th, 1972, declared by Swami himself, to commemorate the anniversary of mother Easwamma, has turned into a global celebration and is celebrated in many countries throughout the world. Similar to Mother’s Day, Easwamma Day is celebrated to propagate the glory of motherhood. Motherhood is a divine concept which cannot be celebrated in merely one or two days, but in each of the 365 days of the year, and the celebration is shown through our actions and appreciation as children.

Mother Easwamma resembles Mothers Kausalya, Devaki,

Mary, and every other mother. This is because like any mother she has gone through many trials, triumphs, joys, sorrows, dilemmas, fear, and the bliss of motherhood. Through all the stages of motherhood, the most significant trait in mother Easwamma was her selflessness, that was a result of her boundless love. Day by day, in every action, she continued to prove her selflessness. She gave up her son to the world knowing he had the power to change and create a more significant impact and knowing there was a much more significant meaning to his life on Earth. Her devotion to Swami was like no other. Her selflessness shone through her noble desires of building a hospital (now known as the Sri Sathya Sai Super Specialty Hospital, providing free healthcare), building water wells (now known as the Sri Sathya Sai Water Supply Project), and a school (now known as the prestigious Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning).

Swami says that there are many noble mothers in this

world, but Easwamma was the chosen one. “I chose her to be my mother. That is the intimate relationship between Mother Easwamma and myself.” That is the reason why, she



is the Mother of all Mothers.

Message from the Education Coordinators

This year at Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) we are focusing on in class presentations and parent/student/guru interviews. This is one of the ways of creating a triple partnership between the parent, student and guru.

On multiple occasions Bhagavan has reminded us that parents are the primary teachers and are responsible for their child’s upbringing. This partnership can only work if parents have a strong, unshakeable faith in Bhagavan as God; active participation in all centre activities which motivates the child; take an active role and build upon what is taught in each SSE class; practice Bhagavan’s teachings and be good role models and attend parenting workshops.

The triple partnership is effective in raising children in today’s world as parents’ carry out their prime responsibilities as gurus introduce the value based teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

This year’s Amazing Grace will be held on May 5th to commemorate Mother Easwamma and Mother Earth. Easwamma Day is celebrated every year on May 6th as the anniversary of the passing away of a saintly lady who was blessed to be the Divine Mother of our Lord Sai. Mother Easwamma was a poor, middle-aged, tender-hearted, pious, illiterate rural housewife. She demonstrated the divine qualities of sacrifice, compassion, patience, devotion, forgiveness and

forbearance. Mother Easwamma gave love and guidance to the children around her and to the many devotees who flocked to visit Sathya Sai Baba.

Mother Easwamma had noble desires and asked Bhagavan to fulfill them for the well being of the community and the country. She requested Swami to build a school, a hospital, and provide drinking water to everyone in the village. Before Easwamma passed away, Swami fulfilled all her three wishes.

Here’s how Swami describes the last few hours before Easwamma passed away. (continued on page 4)

Message from the Education Coordinators

(continued from page 3) “The summer classes were on at Bangalore. In the morning at 7 am, breakfast had to be served to the students. They went round with Nagara Sankeerthan (street singing of spirituals) and returned at 6 am. I gave them darshan at as its close. Then, I went for my bath. Meanwhile, Easwamma had finished her bath; she drank her coffee as usual quite happily and took her seat on the inner verandah. All of a sudden proceeding to the bathroom, she cried out, ‘Swami, Swami, Swami,’ thrice. At this, I responded, ‘Coming, coming.’ Within that period, she breathed her last. What greater sign of goodness is needed? She had no need to be served and nursed.” “From the ground floor, she called, ‘Swami! Swami!’ I replied, ‘Coming, coming’ and she was gone. It was like the elephant’s calling and the Lord proceeding to bless; the two wires achieving connection, the release happening instantaneously.” Swami says that there are many noble mothers in this world, but Easwamma was the chosen one. “I chose her to be my mother. That is the intimate relationship between Mother Easwamma and myself.”

The focus on Amazing Grace this year will be the urgent need to help the environment and Mother Earth. Mother Earth is often compared to women who demonstrate life-giving and nurturing qualities. Treat Mother Earth the same way you would treat your own mother – with love and respect. Here is another opportunity for parent/student/guru to work in a triple partnership to enjoy games and participate in activities.



Bhajan



Eswaramba Priya Nandana
Sai Jaya Jaga Vandana
Ratnakara Kula Bhooshana
Rajeeva Nayana Narayana
Narayana Sai Narayana (2)
Narayana Hari Narayana
Narayana Sathya Narayana

Meaning: The darling Son of mother Eswaramba, Lord Sai, the victorious Lord whom the universe worships! The jewel of the Ratnakara Dynasty, O the lotus-eyed Lord Narayana! O Lord Sathya Sai Narayana!