



Sabka Maalik Ek

SAI SANDESH

The Official Monthly Newsletter of
OM SAI MANDIR

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Love All, Serve All



A Letter from the President



Om Sai Ram,

Yet another year has passed, leaving us with nostalgic memories and the satisfaction of having lived in God's service. Divine blessings filled every moment of 2005, as if ushering us to serve the Lord with ever greater zeal.

The end of 2005 marks the culmination of two glorious years since the temple was established. Devotional activities, such as *aratis*, *bhajans*, *pujas*, and prayers are being performed with intense enthusiasm. What greater testimony of His presence and grace than the experiences of numerous devotees whose earnest prayers have been answered by the compassionate Lord.

With Swami's blessings, the *mandir's* newsletter, "Sai Sandesh," has gained immense popularity during the past year; the online readership of the temple's website and newsletter now numbers in thousands, essentially promoting the cause of spreading Swami's message.

As always, religious festivals and events in the temple's calendar were celebrated with great earnestness and with a strong attendance. Serving food to devotees and the needy, remains an integral component of our daily activities.

It is said that a holy place becomes even holier when graced by the feet of great saints. Om Sai Mandir was fortunate enough to be blessed by a second visit from His Holiness, Sri Viswayogi Viswamjee, widely recognized as the ninth *avatar* of Dattatreya. The spiritual ambience was further sanctified by his divine visit.

As most of you are aware, sculptors in India have already begun the monumental task of carving life-sized, marble statues of Sri Shirdi Sai Baba and Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The work is steadily progressing, and we eagerly await the completion of this historic undertaking in the near future.

For the second year in a row, I was drawn to the divine presence of Swami. My visits to Puttaparthi and Shirdi were doubly-blessed. The sculptors who are working on the statues of Baba were also with me. In His own unique way, the

Lord blessed these sculptors.

Nature's fury, in the form of recent hurricanes, wreaked unimaginable havoc in the lives of millions. The temple's volunteers, through an organized effort, did their bit to alleviate this suffering by providing free job search assistance to the hurricane victims.

We are as excited about welcoming 2006 as we were about reminiscing 2005. Several new initiatives are being planned as we march forward in the New Year.

The early months of 2006 are expected to be blessed with the installation of statues. Intense efforts are being made to ensure the success of this project; we would like to seek devotees' blessings and support for this divine undertaking.

Nurturing young minds with human values plays a vital role in the *mandir's* mission. While efforts are being made on a one-on-one basis, we fondly hope that Baba will bless our formal *Bal Vikas* initiative, the primary focus of which will be to teach Swami's *Education in Human Values (EHV)* program to these young souls—a lofty undertaking indeed.

Fond memories stir up as I recall the efforts put in by our dedicated team of volunteers, who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the temple's activities. We are thankful to them.

With every milestone achieved, we become aware of the many not crossed. A lot remains to be done in the service of Sai. The invaluable participation of devotees is largely responsible for our continued success; I would like to humbly request devotees' continued participation, support, and blessings as we continue progressing in Sai *seva*.

Wish you all a Very Happy New Year. May Baba's blessings fill your lives—and the lives of your loved ones—with everlasting bliss. Jai Sai Ram.

- Gangadhar Rao Chalasani, M.D.
President

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SANKRANTHI

BY THE SAI SANDESH TEAM

On many an occasion, self-proclaimed rationalists have questioned the need to celebrate festivals. Well, the purpose of festivals is not wining and dining; there is a much higher purpose; the purpose of fostering the spiritual progress, peace, and welfare of all mankind. Festivals, inherently imbued with a deep spiritual significance, provide a social occasion for all to come together, forgetting individual differences, to remember and thank God. Viewed in the above light, these holy days afford a far greater reason to celebrate, a reason much grander than mere merry-making.

As with any festival, the purpose of *Sankranti* (January 14) is to promote the well-being of society. It has been celebrated since ancient times as a day of fulfillment and joy, glorifying the Sun God. In His discourse on January 14, 1998, Swami said, "*Sankranti*, meaning 'sacred change,' occurs every month as the sun moves from one house of the zodiac to another. Special sacredness, however, is attached to the movement of the sun to Capricorn and the occasion is known as *Makara Sankranti*. On this day, farmers rejoice over the fullness with the newly harvested crop of granaries."

Uttaraayana. The sun begins its northward journey when it enters the sign of Capricorn. Essentially, the sun illumines the six *chakras* (energy centers) of human body. Of the chakras, the *bridaya chakra* (with eight petals) and the *sahasraara chakra* (with thousand petals) are of utmost significance. God is the Lord of the eight-petalled *bridaya chakra*. Ancient sages reverently adored this chakra and reached the *sahasraara chakra* to enjoy unalloyed bliss. As the northward movement of the sun illumines and energizes the *chakras* of the human body, *Sankranti* is a very auspicious time for spiritual progress.

The festival of *Sankranti* is extolled so highly in our scriptures that ancients, who had the power to leave their bodies at will, attempted to cross the boundaries of mortality on this very day. *Bhisma*, the great warrior of Mahabharata fame, had been blessed with a boon of *icbha mrityu* (death at will). Though wounded, he did not leave his body in anticipation of the *Sankranti* day, affording him the opportunity to move spiritually northward (upward) along with the movement of the sun.

Sankranti is celebrated in different ways in different states of India. The primary spiritual purpose is further sweetened through exchanges of sweets, pleasantries, gifts, etc. Sai Sandesh on behalf of Om Sai Mandir takes this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy *Sankranti*.

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From the editor's desk ...

Sai Ram,

Welcome to the New Year edition of Sai Sandesh. As you will notice, we have made several changes to Sai Sandesh, both in terms of presentation and content. Your invaluable participation has made Sai Sandesh a great success; with Swami's grace, our online readership numbers in thousands. We are extremely grateful for all the love our readers have showered on us during the past two years. Do keep the letters and e-mails coming!

With great excitement we introduce a new column called "Beacon Lights." As the name suggests, this section will focus on the lives of great saints and personalities who stand tall, guiding the rest of humanity God-ward. As I seek readers' continued blessings and support, I would urge all of you to share articles, experiences, and suggestions for the forthcoming issues of Sai Sandesh. You can write to us at saisandesh@omsaimandir.org

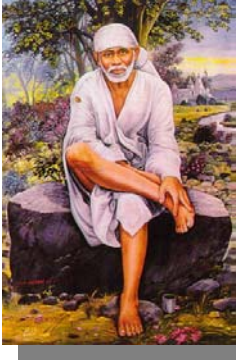
Wish you all a Very Happy New Year.

- The Editor, Sai Sandesh

BEACON LIGHTS

THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF SHIRDI SAI BABA

BY THE SAI SANDESH TEAM



Sai Baba of *Shirdi* (1838–1918), by far the most revered *avatar* (incarnation) in the Indian peninsula, is now considered a towering global phenomenon, lighting the spiritual history of mankind. At a very early age, this mysterious *fakir*, clad in torn rags, embarked on a pre-ordained mission that was to shape the spiritual destiny of mankind. The charismatic *avatar* transformed what was once an unrecognized, remote hamlet in Maharashtra to the fastest growing spiritual destination, visited by millions.

The early years. The *Upanishads* speak of a period in the *Kaliyuga* (the Iron Age) spanning 250 years that would witness the regeneration of a widespread spiritual awakening, the likes of which has never been witnessed in the history of mankind. The birth of Shirdi Sai Baba marked the beginning of this golden era. During this time the Lord in the form of Shiva and Shakti is to incarnate thrice; Shiva as Shirdi Sai Baba (1838–1918); Shiva-Shakti as Sathya Sai Baba (1926–2022); and Shakti as Prema Sai Baba (2030–2126). Devotees often identify Shirdi Baba as an *avatar* of Dattatreya, and rightly so. For, Datta symbolizes the omnipresent Lord who oversees the creation, preservation, and dissolution of this universe. Baba, while living allowed this identification—and gave *darshan*, not only as Dattatreya, but as every incarnation or divine symbolism attributed to the supreme overlord. In essence, confirming His identity as God.

While in flesh, Baba never revealed His antecedents to anyone. What little is known about His birth is through the work of researchers and revelations given during Sathya Sai Baba's discourses. Baba was born in village called Pathri in Maharashtra State to a poor Hindu couple, Ganga Bhavadya and Devagiramma. The mother, a pious lady, was

blessed with a divine vision of Shiva and His consort Parvathi; she was graced with the much coveted boon of mothering Shirdi Sai Baba. Just before the divine birth, however, the father developed an intense dispassion for the material world, and in his quest for enlightenment, abandoned his family. The mother, in adherence to her vow of a dutiful wife, followed him to the forest. On the way she gave birth to the divine child. Unable to keep pace with her God-intoxicated husband, she wrapped the new-born child in a blanket of leaves and abandoned Him to the care of destiny. A childless Muslim couple and his wife happened to pass that way and took home the abandoned child, rather excitedly. In due time the husband passed away, leaving Baba in the care of his widowed wife. She raised the child with much affection. While still four, the young *avatar* created a stir in the community by praising Allah in the local Hindu temples and by singing *bhajans* in mosques. Even at that young age, He was challenging the hatred that had created a huge rift between the two communities.

He surprised His mother—and other villagers—on many an occasion. Once He opened His mouth wide open and revealed the entire creation (to a village lady) in His seemingly small mouth. Overwhelmed by this behavior, yet being aware of His spiritual stature, she decided to leave Baba in the care of Gopal Rao Deshmukh (Venkusa), Baba's chosen Guru. The night before this arrival, Shiva appeared in Venkusa's dream and revealed that He himself would visit him the next day.

Sainath stayed with Venkusa until the age of 16 (a period spanning 12 years). Venkusa was extremely fond of the boy and would openly express his love for the young disciple. Unable to bear this special treatment, the other students in Venkusa's *ashram*, with the intention of hurting the young Baba hurled a brick at Baba. Venkusa immediately appeared on the scene and, using his yogic powers, suspended the brick mid-air. He later took the injury upon Himself.



The perpetrator died immediately but was revived by Baba's *sankalpa* (will). The guru, as his parting gift, offered this brick to the young Baba and requested Him to move westward [apparently Shirdi]. This brick was treasured by *Sainath* as His lifelong companion.

At the age of 16, Baba visited Shirdi and mediated under a local Neem tree. Baba suddenly disappeared from Shirdi and was later discovered by Chandbhai Patil, who was then searching for his lost mare. Baba using His miraculous powers traced the mare for the Patil and also miraculously produced fire and water, much to the amazement of the Patil. The grateful Patil spontaneously developed a deep reverence for Baba and requested His company in the marriage party (of his nephew) that was soon to leave for Shirdi. Baba arrived in Shirdi when He was about 20 years of age, and remained there for the rest of His life, a period spanning roughly 60 years. Baba's stay during this period in Shirdi remains well-documented through the popular *Satcharita*.

Miracles. Miracles, though a source of wonder for human beings, constitute the very nature of God. What appears to be a miracle to the human eye is purely a manifestation of divine will. Sai Baba of Shirdi had all the powers at His command, and He often utilized these powers for the benefit of His devotees, never for self-gratification though. Millions were healed by a mere glance from Baba. His protecting grace prevented many an accident, averted several untimely deaths, and miraculously benefited the devotees, both spiritually and materially. It was often the experience of devotees that Baba read their minds and without their asking, fulfilled long-cherished desires.

Shirdi Baba, as was the way of *sanyasis* of the time, would beg for food. He was very fond of lighting lamps and would often request the village shopkeepers for the oil required to light lamps. (It has always been the experience of devotees that Baba often returned tenfold of what He asked. His asking, it appears, was merely an excuse to bless.) On one occasion the villagers conspired against Baba and refused to give oil. Unperturbed, Baba returned to his dwelling place, added water to the few drops of oil that remained in His tumbler, and spat it out as if in act of sanctification. The village grocers were watching all this intently. Much to their astonishment, Baba lighted lamps (that lasted all night).

What is impossible for the Lord! On another occasion, Das Ganu, one of Baba's chosen apostles, wished to bathe in Prayag (confluence of holy rivers). That very minute, streams of water manifested from Baba's feet, fulfilling the devotee's wish. Another devotee once found Himself in serious danger in the middle of an ocean. As the ships around him sank, he helplessly sought Baba's protection. He appeared on the scene and pulled the ship to safety. At that very moment, devotees in Shirdi found Baba soaked in an unexplained pool of water.

Innumerable miracles were performed by Baba—and are being performed even today. There are several recorded instances where Baba quelled storms, miraculously produced or extinguished fire, and demonstrated total control over nature. Sai's benevolence is often experienced by devotees in times of distress or need, even in mundane matters. Ask any Sai devotee and she/he would have a book of his own to narrate.

Teachings. Communal harmony, love and respect for fellow-beings, adherence to one's prescribed duty, and devotion to God and one's guru, formed the pillar-stones of Baba's teachings. Baba rarely lectured; most of His teachings were imparted silently, by example or on a one-on-one basis. *Shraddha* (faith) and *Saburi* (patience) formed the cornerstone of what Baba wanted His devotees to follow. Faith backed by patience forms a strong foundation for spiritual progress, and even success in routine life.

Baba lived His life in utter simplicity [an understatement indeed]. He wore torn rags, slept on the floor (except for a rug), and avoided material comforts of any form. Even though millions of rupees were offered to Baba, He distributed all—often more than what He received—of the money amongst the devotees and poor alike. At the end of His mortal life, a meagre 16 rupees were found in His possession.

Throughout His life, Baba did only good to others, took their diseases upon himself, and did all He could to alleviate suffering. Even during His last days, He took upon himself an ailing devotee's impending death. The devotee was cured and Baba passed in his place. "My bones shall speak with you," said Baba before passing away. The words have been proven true time and again. He is still speaking with His devotees, lovingly responding to every knock on His door.

OKA CHINNA KATHA

THE BEST FRIEND IN LIFE

FROM THE BOOK "CHINNA KATHA"

Friendship can be illustrated by the following story.

A person had three friends. He had taken to several bad ways and consequently had to face a court case.

He went to a friend and sought his help. The friend blankly told him that he would not like to associate himself with the crime committed by him. He refused to give evidence to rescue him.

The second friend, when approached, told him that he would only go up to the court but would not be a witness in a witness box.

Thereafter he approached the third friend for help. He immediately responded and said, "Yes, your troubles are mine, my troubles are yours, and I shall help you in whatever manner you wish me to help."

It is quite clear that amongst these three the third is the best kind of friend. For life also we have three such friends. At the time of death, one has to leave behind all that one owns.

Wealth and status are like the first friend; they do not accompany you.

Your friends and relations are like the second friend; they may come to the burial ground to bury or cremate the body, and thereafter all will return home.

The good and bad acts that you have performed in your life will, like the third friend, accompany you all the way.

Your next birth will be carved out according to your deeds in this life.

In order to remain good, you must cultivate respect for truth, which is permanent; whereas everything else, including your body is subject to change, decay, and death.

OM SAI MANDIR'S DAILY ACTIVITIES

DAILY ARATIS:

Kakad Arati	8.00 A.M.
Madhyana Arati	12.00 P.M.
Dhoop Arati	6.00 P.M.
Sheja Arati	8.00 P.M.

SPECIAL BHAJANS:

Every Thursday	7.00 P.M.–8.30 P.M.
Every Sunday	2.00 P.M.–3.00 P.M.

STOTRAS (CHANTING SAHASRANAM, BABA'S 108 NAMES, ETC.): Daily.

ANNADAN [FOOD SERVICE]: Daily at the Temple

ANNADAN [FOOD SERVICE] FOR HOMELESS BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Every Saturday at 1 p.m 29th and 1st Ave. For more info, call (718) 461-0454.

PUJA SPONSORSHIP

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Abishekam.....	\$51
Satyanarayana Vrata.....	\$81
Vahana Puja.....	\$15
Annadan.....	\$251

To sponsor pujas, call: (718) 461-0454.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

New Year Celebrations: Sunday, January 01, 2006

Lodhi: Friday, January 13, 2006

Makara Sankranthi/Pongal: Saturday, January 14, 2006

India's Republic Day: Thursday, January 26, 2006

February

Valentine's Day: Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mahashivaratri: Sunday, February 26, 2006

DEVOTEES' EXPERIENCES

Mrs. Anjali Devi, about 80 years of age, has been an ardent devotee of Bhagavan for several decades. She narrates a few of her experiences of the Divinity of Bhagavan in her own words.

“We were facing financial cringe in 1963 owing to the failure of a film we had produced, when Mr. Chittoor Nagaiah took us to meet Bhagavan who was then camping at the house of Mr. Venkatamuni in Chennai. Bhagavan asked us to wait in a room, went out to give *darshan* to devotees, and joined us soon. As soon as He entered the room, He talked to us calling each one of us by name as if He had known us for a long time. Even before we opened our mouths, He Himself narrated our problems. 'Don't worry,' He assured us, 'every thing will be alright.' Then He materialized a ring each for my husband and me. That was our first *darshan*.

As assured by Swami, our financial problems disappeared and we recovered within a few weeks.

I went to Anantapur on the day of inauguration of Swami's women's college. I went and stood on the ground. Many people spotted me, and soon a crowd gathered around me. Just then a *sevadai* came to us. 'Swami sent me to take you in,' he told us as he led us into the building. We were taken to the room where Swami and His mother Eshwaramma were put up. 'Look! Who has come?' Swami told Mother Eshwaramma, 'Sita! Sita in the Ramayana.' Then He asked me to stay in that room along with Mother Eshwaramma.

I visit Swami quite frequently. 'Why are you not producing new films?' Swami asked me once.

'I lost heavily by producing films, Swami' I replied, 'so I dare not venture into production.'

'No!' Swami said emphatically, '**you must make failure a stepping stone for success.** Produce films. No worry.' We produced, as instructed by Bhagavan, films such as Sati Sakkubai, Sati Sumati, Sati Anasuya, Bhakta Tukaram and Kshetryya. All fared very well at the box office.

In those days, my husband Mr. Adinarayana wrote 'Suprabhatam' on Swami. He had it sung by Mrs. P. Suseela and produced a tape. We took it to Bhagavan and dedicated it to Swami. Swami was delighted and blessed us. That has been sold in thousands. It reverberates in thousands and thousands of homes now.

My husband also wrote the content and produced a record named 'Sai Katha.'

I acted as Sita in Lava Kusa. I now wanted to act as the mother of the Lord. So I wanted to produce a film on Swami, myself playing the role of Mother Eshwaramma. Whenever I broached this subject with Swami, He used to brush it aside with 'wait, wait.' Finally, I stopped asking Swami about it.

Once my fans arranged a function to felicitate me at Rajahmundry on Vijaya Dasami day. Actually I wanted to spend that day in the Divine Presence at Prasanthi Nilayam. So I came one day before Dasara to Prasanthi Nilayam. During *darshan*, I told Swami 'I want to go to Rajahmundry.'

'Go, go,' said Swami, 'they will cut your stomach.'

I thought He was joking. As I was returning to Chennai from Rajahmundry, I had severe stomachache in the train and was operated upon for appendicitis. Only then I realized the full import of Swami's quip: 'they will cut your stomach'.

We have two sons. The elder joined Engineering course. The second joined B.Sc.

During *darshan*, Swami enquired about my second son's studies. 'I want to study medicine, Swami!' he blurted out. 'Do you want to study medicine or are you saying so because of your mother's pressure?' Swami asked. 'I want to do medicine,' my son replied. 'Well!' Swami told him, 'don't give up. Apply today itself to Kasturba Medical College'. He applied and got a seat in that college in Medicine owing to Bhagavan's grace. He could go to USA for higher studies and settled down as a leading practitioner.

I was in Mumbai in connection with the dubbing of our Telugu film 'Bhakta Tukaram,' when I suddenly remembered that the next day was Sivarathri. My first meeting with Bhagavan had been on a Shivaratri day. I felt unhappy that I got stuck in Mumbai. Then feeling sad at my predicament of not being able to have darshan of Swami on Sivarathri, I spent that night in a mood of low spirit. Next day when I opened the newspaper, I saw to my amazement and happiness that Bhagavan was coming to Dharmakshetra, Mumbai for Sivarathri. I rushed to Dharmakshetra. During darshan Swami came to me. 'Alas! Anjali,' Swami said, 'you were sad all night that you could not have darshan chance on Sivarathri.' I was overwhelmed with gratitude for Swami's concern and compassion.

Once, my husband was in a critical stage owing to closure of throat. He could not drink even a drop of water. Surgery was indicated. I felt anxious and ran to Swami at Whitefield. 'Don't worry,' Swami told me, 'everything will be all right.' He materialized an apple and gave it to me. 'Give the juice of this to your husband.' I rushed back to Chennai. When I gave the juice of that apple to my husband, he drank it all. How could he do so when a few minutes ago he could not sip even a drop of water? Doctors were stunned at this development. He recovered well without any further treatment.

In 1996, Swami came to Chennai. 'You said that you wrote a script some time back,' Swami told me, 'take it out now.' Then it struck me that He was giving me green signal to produce a film on Him for which I had prayed to Him 20 years ago. We started preparations to produce a telefilm. One week before we actually started the production, Mother Eshwaramma appeared in my dream and blessed me. I mentioned it to Swami. With the blessings of Swami, the film 'Shirdi Sai - Parthi Sai Divya Katha' was completed within nine months. It has been received well and dubbed into five more languages.

One lady known to us delivered a female child, who was born with the blood vessel connecting the liver blocked. So, half of her body had no movement. They consulted many top medical people in vain. She came to Prasanthi Nilayam and sat by my side during darshan. That was Sivarathri day. The hall was jam-packed with

thousands. Swami came straight to the place where the mother was sitting with the child, materialised vibhuti and sprinkled it on that part of the body, which had no movement. The child showed some movement, and from that moment she began to improve. She has become all right without any further treatment and is now going to school. Doctors who had examined her earlier were stunned at her recovery without any treatment."

Source:

<http://www.vedamu.org/forum/ExperienceoftheDivinityofBhagavan/MrsAnjaliDevi.asp>

**Sai Sandesh
on behalf of
Om Sai
Mandir
wishes all
its readers a
Very Happy
and
Prosperous
Year Ahead**

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Sai Ram

Story on Lord Rama continued...

Lord Rama called Hanuman and gave him a ring, saying, "if anyone were to ever find Sita, it's going to be you, so please keep this to prove your identity as my messenger when you meet Sita." Hanuman respectfully tied the ring to his waist and joined the army in search of Sita. When King Ravana had kidnapped Sita and flew away, Sita on her way had dropped some of her ornaments on the ground. The monkey army traced those ornaments and concluded that King Ravana had taken Sita towards South. They finally reached the south shore but did not know how to cross the ocean to reach Lanka.

Hanuman decided to try to cross the ocean by flying. Hanuman is the son of Wind God and was blessed by his father to be able to fly. Soon Hanuman was able to cross the ocean and reach Lanka.



Once in Lanka, Hanuman searched the whole palace but did not find Sita. Finally, he saw Sita in the garden surrounded by guards; she was crying and praying to God for help.

Ravana came to the garden and asked Sita to marry him. He told Sita that Lord Rama cannot cross the ocean so it's better for her to forget Lord Rama and marry him. After sometime when Hanuman found that the guards were not around Sita, he quickly went to Sita and gave her the ring that Lord Rama had given. Sita was very happy to see the ring. Hanuman asked her to come with him but Sita did not agree.

She wanted Lord Rama to come and rescue her by defeating King Ravana.

Sita gave Hanuman her necklace and asked him to give it to Lord Rama. Before leaving, Hanuman began destroying the plants in the garden. Ravana's guards tried to catch him but failed. King Ravana was very angry when he heard about it. Finally, Ravana's son was able to capture Hanuman after a fierce battle. Hanuman then introduced himself to King Ravana and asked him to return Lord Rama or else the whole kingdom would be destroyed. Ravana ordered to kill Hanuman but he was reminded that he should not kill the messenger. So Ravana ordered to set Hanuman's tail on fire. When the tail was set on fire, Hanuman did not feel the fire. With his burning tail, he jumped from one roof to the other rooftop setting the whole city of Lanka on fire and then finally jumped in to the ocean and put off the fire. And then flew home to inform Lord Rama about Sita.

Courtesy:

<http://www.indolink.com/Kidz/Stories/ramayana1.html>

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The happiness derived from sensory objects arises and vanishes with time. For instance, when hunger is appeased, there is happiness for that moment; but this happiness ebbs away after a while. This is true of all objects in the world; the joy derived from them is evanescent. Man, however, is after lasting Ananda (bliss). He is in fact the very embodiment of bliss. Bliss constitutes the very nature and being. Why, then, does he not experience it? This is because, unaware of his true nature, he is obsessed with the external world and fails to experience the bliss within him. He mistakenly imagines that the source of joy lies in the phenomenal world. - Baba

OM SAI MANDIR'S 2006 CALENDAR

January

Sunday, Jan. 01: New Year's Day Celebrations
 Friday, Jan. 13: Lodhi
 Saturday, Jan. 14: Makara Sankranti/Pongal
 Thursday, Jan. 26: India's Republic Day

February

Tuesday, Feb. 14: Valentine's Day
 Sunday, Feb. 26: Mahashivaratri

March

Tuesday, Mar. 14: Holi
 Thurs, Mar. 30: Ugadi/Gudi Padwa

April

Thursday, Apr. 06: Sri Ram Navami
 Thursday, Apr. 13: Baisakhi
 Friday, Apr. 14:
 1. Tamil New Year
 2. Vishu (Malayali New Year)

May

Saturday, May. 06: Eshwaramma Day
 Sunday, May. 14: Mother's day
 Monday, May 22: Hanuman Jayanthi

June

Sunday, Jun. 18: Father's Day

July

Tuesday, Jul. 04: America's Independence Day
 Monday, Jul. 10: Guru Poornima/Vyasa Poornima

August

Tuesday, Aug. 15: India's Independence Day
 Wednesday, Aug. 16: Sri Krishna Janmashtami
 Sunday, Aug. 27: Ganesh Chaturthi/Siddhivinayak Chowthi

September

Tuesday, Sept. 05: Onam
 Saturday, Sept. 23: Devi Navarathri Begins
 Saturday, Sept. 30: Durgashtami

October

Monday, Oct. 02: Vijayadashami/Dussehra
 Thursday, Oct. 19: Dhanteras
 Saturday, Oct. 21: Deepavali
 Sunday, Oct. 22: Gujarat New Year
 Monday, Oct. 23: Bhai Duj

November

Sunday, Nov. 05:
 1. Guru Nanakji's Jayanti
 2. Kartika Poornima
 Saturday, Nov. 11, 6pm to Sunday, Nov.12, 6pm:
 Akhanda Bhajans for World Peace
 Sunday, Nov. 19: Ladies' Day
 Thursday, Nov. 23: Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday

December

Saturday, Dec. 02: Hanuman Jayanthi
 Monday, Dec. 04: Datta Jayanthi
 Sunday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
 Monday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Celebrations
 Sunday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Celebrations

Despite our best attempts, events may sometimes not proceed as planned. It is advisable to reconfirm with the temple before scheduling your plans.

AN APPEAL

Devotees are requested to generously contribute toward the development of the temple. Devotees can make their checks payable to: **Om Sai Mandir**

ADDRESS/EMAIL/DONATION FORM

Donation Amount:	\$	Date:
First Name:		Last Name:
Email:		Tel:
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