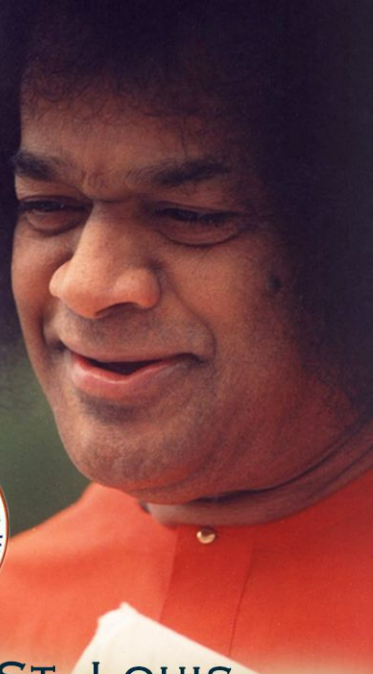




# MAHA Shivarathri Celebrations

2020



THE SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS OF GREATER ST. LOUIS,  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AND ST. LOUIS  
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN SINGING THE GLORY OF  
LORD SHIVA ON

**FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, FRIDAY 7 PM**

To

**FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>, SATURDAY 7 AM**

@

**SAI CENTER OF GREATER ST. LOUIS  
11954 NATURAL BRIDGE RD. BRIDGETON, MO 63044**

The day when man is able to experience the divine state of being-awareness-bliss (*sath-chith-ananda*) is really the holy day of Shivarathri.

Shivarathri" means "*auspicious darkness*". There is darkness in this night also, but this darkness is invested with auspiciousness. The reason is that on this 14<sup>th</sup> day after the Full Moon (*Chathurdasi day*), the moon, who is the presiding deity for the mind, has shed fifteen of his sixteen Kalas (digits). He is left with just one sixteenth of his power. The waned moon may be taken to stand for the mind with all its wild fancies and waywardness reduced after it has been conquered by spiritual discipline. This is an auspicious time for having proximity to God. It is a very auspicious day for all. Unlike other nights, this particular night is the night of consecration, of dedication, of illumination. The nightlong devotional singing is significant of the life long consciousness of the Divine Presence that everyone should cultivate. The rites and vows laid down for Shivarathri being absent on other nights of the year, their observance on this day comes as a reminder that they are useful. On this night, there is just a minute part more to be conquered, and that can be done by keeping vigil and dwelling on the glory of God. The vigil that is prescribed is symbolic of the eternal vigil one has to observe. Spending the night reciting the Lord's name sanctifies one's life."

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba

