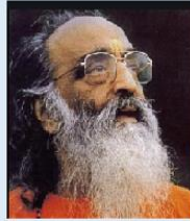




# CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

**BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies**

Monthly Newsletter – May 2022

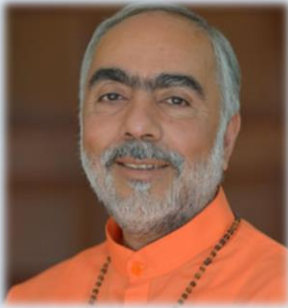


# Chinmaya

## Wisdom Quote

*Proficiency is gathered knowledge, while efficiency is the ability to translate the knowledge into action. - Swami Chinmayananda.*

## Swamiji's Message



### What does it mean to be the Best?

Born into different circumstances, we share a constant throughout existence – the goal to live a worthy life. There are some who constantly seek inspiration to achieve this goal, and some who possess everything they need to be excellent. However, despite all this, some feel a sense of insecurity about their path to excellence. They are overwhelmed by all the uncertainties that surround them, on a daily basis. Since we are all not alike, sudden adversities and bleak situations beget different responses amongst us. It is natural to feel a sense of anxiety, and lack of clarity when faced with making

life-altering decisions. Is it possible to overcome these tough battles of the mind?

We get many chances in life to refresh our knowledge, and strive to become better versions of ourselves. When we find an opportunity to ponder over this ability, we can reflect upon our past achievements or failures with dispassion. The hidden lessons to be learnt from prior experiences guide us towards this goal of excellence.

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### Upcoming Events -

- Hanuman Jayanthi
  - 5/1 @ 11:00 am
  - Cultural programs by BV children
- **Gurudev Jayanthi & Mother's Day :**
  - 5/8 9:30 am
  - Guru Paduka Puja & Maatru Puja
  - Cultural Programs by BV Children
  - Outdoor Picnic
- **Monthly Bhajan [Zoom]:** 5/14 @ 6 – 7:30 pm
  - Hosted by Rane Limaye's Family
- **Monthly Vedic Chanting** – 5/29, Sunday
  - 9:00 – 9:55 am
  - Monthly Group Chanting @ Badri Shrine

[Subscribe] - [CM Chicago YouTube Channel](#)

## Gurudev Jayanthi & Mother's Day Celebration on 8<sup>th</sup> May Guru Paduka Puja/ Matri Puja/ Cultural Programs/ Outdoor Picnic

### Highlights from Previous Month

The month of April, which officially indicates the starting of warmer days, had some major events that brought back everyone to Badri and was very engaging. The biggest among them was the re-opening of our Bala vihar and Study Group sessions. We also had our bi-annual Geeta Chanting Competition and our Bhajan Sandhya program. Our regular monthly events continued with an enthusiastic participation from children and adults equally as the tasks are for HIM.

#### 1. Bhajan Sandhya

The monthly Bhajan Sandhya, was this time held on 9<sup>th</sup> April at Gayathri and Muthuswamy Bharadwaj's home at 6 pm. The host family had a family emergency and were unsure of going ahead with hosting the bhajan. Later that afternoon, on Swamiji's advice, they proceeded to host the Bhajan and eventually received a good news from the hospital even before the start of the Bhajan. The happiness and relief was evident when the entire family joined the bhajan. The vibrant evening ended with the chanting of Nirvana Shatakam followed by a few minutes of silence and Aarthi.



#### 2. Badri Re-opening & Rama Navami Puja & Celebrations

The much awaited in-person Bala Vihar and Study Group sessions started on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 on Rama Navami day which also coincided with the Badri Re-opening. The sessions were planned to start at 10 am with only the morning session scheduled.

Below is the general schedule on Sundays at Badri until the start of the new session in September.

- 10:00 – 10:30 : Swamiji's Discourse on Bhagavad Gita summary
- 10:30 – 11:30 : Study Group Discussions
- 10:00 – 11:30 : Bala Vihar Classes
- 11:30 – 12:00 : Concluding session including Bala Vihar children and all adults

Rest of the sessions like Swaranjali, Geeta Chanting and Vedic Chanting continue to be conducted on Zoom with the exception of both Sunday Advanced Group of Vedic Chanting which is at 9:15 am on Sundays at the shrine and Swaranjaji at 12:30 pm.



[The full congregation at the Shrine on 10<sup>th</sup> April the Re-opening day of Rama Navami]

### 3. Geeta Chanting Competition

The bi-annual Geeta Chanting competition was conducted on April 23<sup>rd</sup> afternoon on Zoom. A total of 45 participants had registered for chapter 2, verses 54 to 72. With the assistance of volunteers as coordinators, proctors and judges, the competition was completed in 2 hours. Adults and children of all ages from Pre-KG to high school participated. The results were announced the next day during the concluding sessions at the Shrine.

Geeta Chanting Results:

**Results of the Geeta Chanting Competition - Chap 2, verses 54-72 held on Sat, Apr 23, 2022**

Grade	Prize	Name	Center
Group A (PreKG/KG)	First Prize	Aadhya Bhagavatula	Gangotri
	Second Prize	Vishwak Kesavarapu	Badri
	Third Prize	Krishan VR	Yamunotri
Group B (Gr. 1 & 2)	First Prize	Ishaan Subramanian	Yamunotri
	Second Prize	Adithri Parthiban	Badri
	Third Prize	Venkata Muralidhar Anantha	Badri
Group C (Gr. 3 & 4)	First Prize	Anishka Anand	Badri
	Second Prize	Srilasya Gupta	Yamunotri
	Third Prize	Anish Pothanachetty	Badri
Group D (Gr. 5 & 6)	First Prize	Akhil Narayanan	Badri
	Second Prize	Venkata Dheeraj Anantha	Badri
	Third Prize	Shivathmika Balachandran	Yamunotri
Group E (Gr. 7 & 8)	First Prize	Shambavi Balachandran	Yamunotri
	Second Prize	ShriPranavi Savya	Yamunotri
	Third Prize	Keshav Vishwanath	Badri
Group F (Gr. 9 - 12)	First Prize	Madhav Hota	Badri
Group G (Adults)	First Prize	Vijayalakshmi Char Sini Narayanan	Yamunotri Badri
	Second Prize	Madhavi Kondamadugula	Yamunotri
	Third Prize	Kashmira Sampat	Badri

## Gurudev Jayanthi & Mother's Day Celebration


**CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO**


Badri • Yamunotri • Gangotri

# Mother's Day Celebrations & Gurudev Jayanti

**Sunday, May 8, 2022**

Venue: Badri, 11S080 Kingery Hwy, Willowbrook, IL 60527

**Program**

**Presided by Swami Sharanananda**

<b>10:00 am - 11:30 am</b>	Guru Paduka Puja Mātru Puja Children's Cultural Program
<b>12:00 pm - 2:00 pm</b>	Outdoor Picnic Variety of Food & Refreshments

*Lunch prepared and served by fathers*

*Register for Bala Vihar on  
Mother's Day*

<https://mychinmaya.org/bv>

*Free for Summer*

*All are welcome*

*Limited parking space available at Badri*

*For alternate parking, please visit [mychinmaya.org](https://mychinmaya.org)*

Mother's Day Picnic: Subash Agarwal 630-740-3299 • Mahesh Chandramouli 630-301-0795 • Vijay Suri 708-224-8166  
 Badri: Suresh Kumar 630-362-0104 • Shanker Pillai 630-886-6442  
 Yamunotri: Rajul Bhalala 847-302-2383 • Shubi Mansukhani 847-707-8500  
 Gangotri: Nitish Kanabar 347-829-9099 • Shiven Shah 646-732-5900

## Obituaries

- **Shri Piyush Sanghani** – A highly disciplined spiritual person, with close connections and involvement with Chinmaya Mission, Shri Piyush Sanghani was an extremely loving and caring individual, who regularly practiced meditation. He left his physical embodiment to the eternal abode on April 6 at 12.25 pm.
- **Shri Gananath Ravishankar Dholakia** – An ardent disciple and follower of Gurudev, Shri Gananath ji was the beloved father of our Ashok Dholakia ji. He lived a profound, caring and value-based life for more than 108 years and left for the eternal above on April 17.
- **Shri Jethanand Madhav** – Along with his entire family, Shri Jethanand Madhav ji was closely associated with Chinmaya Mission from the very beginning. He reached the heavenly abode on April 22 at 11 am.

## Badri Programs

<https://mychinmaya.org/virtual-satsanga-and-e-study-groups/>

- **Swaranjali** (For Balavihar Children)
- **Stuti Vandana** (For Balavihar Children)
- **Geeta Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Vedic Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Sri Rudram Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Sanskrit language** classes (For Everyone)
- **Adult Study Groups** (Registration required)
- **Vishnu Sahasranamam** (For Everyone)
- **ACT/ SAT Classes** (Registration required)

## In HIS Loving Memory –

Once a cardiologist devotee was getting Gurudev checked at a hospital in Philadelphia where he was working. At the same time, a lady gynecologist was making her rounds. The cardiologist introduced her to Gurudev by saying, “Swamiji, she delivers babies to the world.”

The gynecologist asked Gurudev what he did. Swamiji replied: “You deliver to this world and I deliver out of this world.”

As a teacher of Vedanta, his mission was to liberate people from the thralldom of matter.

## Updates from around the world -

- **Swadhyaya Series of Self Learning** – Online learning with access to materials for a lifetime
- **Home Study Vedanta Courses** - @ Chinmaya International Foundation
  - Foundation Vedanta Course
  - Advanced Vedanta Course
  - Bhagavad Geeta
  - Upanishads
  - Master Geeta Master Life
  - Make it Happen
  - Sanskrit Learning – Beginner & Advanced
  - Vedic Mathematics

**Chinmaya Academy, UK - Certificate Courses** - Courses start on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022

- Registration open
- **Online Foundation Vedanta Course**
- **Bhagavad Gita Course**
- **Introduction to the Essence of Truth**

### Swami Sharananandaji's Weekly Program Schedule

Program Name	Details
Saddarshanam (on Zoom)	Sunday/ 8:00 – 8:45 am
Bhagavad Gita Discourse (In-person at Shrine)	Sunday / 10 – 10:30 am
Viveka Choodamani (on Zoom)	Tuesday/ 7 – 8 pm
Mandukya Upanishad (on Zoom)	Wed/ 7 – 8:15 pm
Drik Drishya Viveka (on Zoom)	Saturday/ 8 – 9 am

#### Puja Swami Swaroopandana's Message contd...

##### **Is being the best about being excellent?**

An analysis about the collective lives of human beings, brings the realization that each and every one wants to be good. By this, I mean that we all want to appear 'good' in society. Even Kamsa and Ravana who represent evil in our scriptures, wanted to be seen and perceived as good people with virtues. Not just wanting to be good, most of us want to be seen as the best. However, is being the best akin to being excellent? The answer to this is that being the best is inevitably in comparison with something else. It is imperative to understand that to be the best is not always possible. However, to do our best is definitely possible. Being excellent, on the other hand, is giving our best to a given task, to the best of our knowledge and ability, to bask in the glow of fulfillment afterwards.

##### **What is excellence and can it be exceeded?**

Excellence is a quality of being outstanding, of being exemplary. This aspiration, when combined with equal efforts, leads to greatness. Since humans are mired in society's expectation of perfection, sometimes the desire for excellence may be suppressed or even given up due to feelings of inadequacy, jealousy and a weakened emotional state. Let me share the story of Arjuna. His practice, determination and undying love for his skill made him the best archer. Arjuna achieved excellence multiple times. But what happened to him right in the middle of the battlefield, when he needed to put that excellence to test, and exceed it? He experienced mental conflict, despondency and the unwillingness to attack and kill his elders and teachers. Even though one part of his life was resolved and had attained fulfillment, his emotions around relationships remain unresolved. To overcome this strife, he needed to exceed his own excellence.

##### **Combating fear and failures**

Arjuna's pathos on the battlefield of Kurukshetra has remained a significant moment for centuries thereafter. It was here that Lord Krishna imparted the knowledge of Bhagavad Gita, also known as 'The Song of the Divine'. Krishna's lessons from the Upanishads and the Bhagavad

Gita helped Arjuna to drive away his feeling of despair and transcend his state of depression; the negativities which had prevented him following his Dharma. Krishna reminds Arjuna – when you get what you want, there is a sense of happiness, yet when you are able to express your potential to the best of your capacity, there is an inner sense of peace and satisfaction that supersedes the happiness of attaining the object of your desire. This state of infinitude is devoid of distress, comparisons and dissatisfaction. It is here that we can find contentment and peace.

### **The ultimate lesson of excellence**

In this karmic world, our ultimate focus is to live life to the fullest, to achieve the greatness we aspire for. We live from goal to goal, feeling happy when we get what we want. However, our joy is dependent on that which leads to temporary contentment. This requires a delicate balancing of many aspects of life and can hence be daunting for many. Very often, one failure drowns us in misery, ruining our chances for success. Self-introspection provides us the clarity to recognize our potential, so it can be channelized into actions where we can actualize our potential every time. The continuous pursuit for excellence ensures that we continue to grow mentally and spiritually. The decision to invest our best efforts in meaningful actions is the path to transformation. Exceed your excellence, be your own competition, and be the best for yourself.

- Hari Om –