

← Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare Rama Hare



# Sri Sri Nimai Nitai Mandir Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS, INC.  
FOUNDER & ACHARYA: HIS DIVINE GRACE A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA

December 2008

[www.iskconny.com](http://www.iskconny.com)

(516) 223-4909

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare

Merry Christmas & Hare Krishna



Vegetarian Feast and Festival - Every Sunday 5:30 pm  
ISKCON NY At Long Island Temple -  
197 S. Ocean Ave, Freeport, NY 11520

\*\*\*\*\*Latest Temple News\*\*\*\*\*

## Diwali Celebration

On Sunday October 26th, Diwali was celebrated at the temple. To mark the occasion,



Krishna-Balarama Swami read a description of the five days of Diwali and their significance. This was followed by a reading from the Sri-mad Bhagavatam describing Lord Ramacandra's

triumphant return to Ayodhya after having defeated Ravana and rescuing his wife, Sita. Diwali also marks the anniversary of when Lord Krishna, as a child, was bound

by Mother Yashoda for having broken pots of yogurt. Devotees celebrated this glorious pastime by each offering a candle to Lord Damodar. Jubilant kirtana and sumptuous prasadam closed out the festivities.



## Govardhan Puja

On Wednesday October 29<sup>th</sup>, Govardhan Puja was celebrated in grand fashion at the temple. A mock version of Govardhan Hill was created out of halva, yogurt, and laddus and then decorated with toy animals. Devotees took turns reading the story of Lord Krishna's lifting of Govardhan Hill from the book, [Krsna, The Supreme Personality of God-head](#). Numerous varieties of foodstuff were offered and kirtana was performed as devotees joyously circumambulated the hill. A great time was had by all.



## Thanksgiving Celebration

On Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving was celebrated at the temple. Many devotees

brought in various dishes and other preparations were cooked at the temple. A "Sunday love feast" style program was performed, with devotees gathering around and each expressing what they were thankful for.

Thanks to everyone who has attended and helped with any and all festivals this year. Hare Krishna.



# Jesus Christ Was a Guru

To celebrate the upcoming Christmas holiday, we would like to share a discussion on Lord Jesus Christ given by Srila Prabhupada taken from the book, *The Science of Self-Realization*.



The Srimad-Bhāgavatam states that any bona fide preacher of God consciousness must have the qualities of *tīkṣhā* (tolerance) and *karuṇā* (compassion). In the character of Lord Jesus Christ we find both these qualities. He was so tolerant that even while he was being crucified, he didn't condemn anyone. And he was so compassionate that he prayed to God to forgive the very persons who were trying to kill him. (Of course, they could not actually kill him. But they were thinking that he could be killed, so they were committing a great offense.) As Christ was being crucified he prayed, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they are doing."

A preacher of God consciousness is a friend to all living beings. Lord Jesus Christ exemplified this by teaching, "Thou shalt not kill." But the Christians like to misinterpret this instruction. They think the animals have no soul, and therefore they think they can freely kill billions of innocent animals in the slaughterhouses. So although there are many persons who profess to be Christians, it would be very difficult to find one who strictly follows the instructions of Lord Jesus Christ.

A Vaishnava is unhappy to see the suffering of others. Therefore, Lord Jesus Christ agreed to be crucified—to free others from their suffering. But his followers are so unfaithful that they have decided, "Let Christ suffer for us, and we'll go on committing sin." They love Christ so much that they think, "My dear Christ, we are very weak. We cannot give up our sinful activities. So you please suffer for us."

Jesus Christ taught, "Thou shalt not kill." But his followers have now decided, "Let us kill anyway," and they open big, modern, scientific slaughterhouses. "If there is any sin, Christ will suffer for us." This is a most abominable conclusion.

Christ can take the sufferings for the previous sins of his devotees.

But first they have to be sane:

"Why should I put Jesus Christ into suffering for my sins? Let me stop my sinful activities."

Suppose a man—the favorite son of his father—commits a murder. And suppose he thinks, "If there is any punishment coming, my father can suffer for me." Will the law allow it? When the murderer is arrested and says, "No, no. You can release me and arrest my father; I am his pet son," will the police officials comply with that fool's request? He committed the murder, but he thinks his father should suffer the punishment! Is that a sane proposal? "No. You have committed the murder; you must be hanged." Similarly, when you commit sinful activities, you must suffer—not Jesus Christ. This is God's law.

Jesus Christ was such a great personality—the son of God, the representative of God. He had no fault. Still, he was crucified. He wanted to deliver God consciousness, but in return they crucified him—they were so thankless. They could not appreciate his preaching. But we appreciate him and give him all honor as the representative of God.

Of course, the message that Christ preached was just according to his particular time, place, and country, and just suited for a particular group of people. But certainly he is the representative of God. Therefore we adore Lord Jesus Christ and offer our obeisances to him.

Once, in Melbourne, a group of Christian ministers came to visit me. They asked, "What is your idea of Jesus Christ?" I told them, "He is our guru. He is preaching God

consciousness, so he is our spiritual master." The ministers very much appreciated that.

Actually, anyone who is preaching God's glories must be accepted as a guru. Jesus Christ is one such great personality. We should not think of him as an ordinary human being. The scriptures say that anyone who considers the spiritual master to be an ordinary man has a hellish mentality. If Jesus Christ were an ordinary man, then he could not have delivered God consciousness.

## Vaishnava Calendar

Monday December 8

Moksada Ekadasi

Monday December 15

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati - Disappearance

Monday December 22

Sapphala Ekadasi

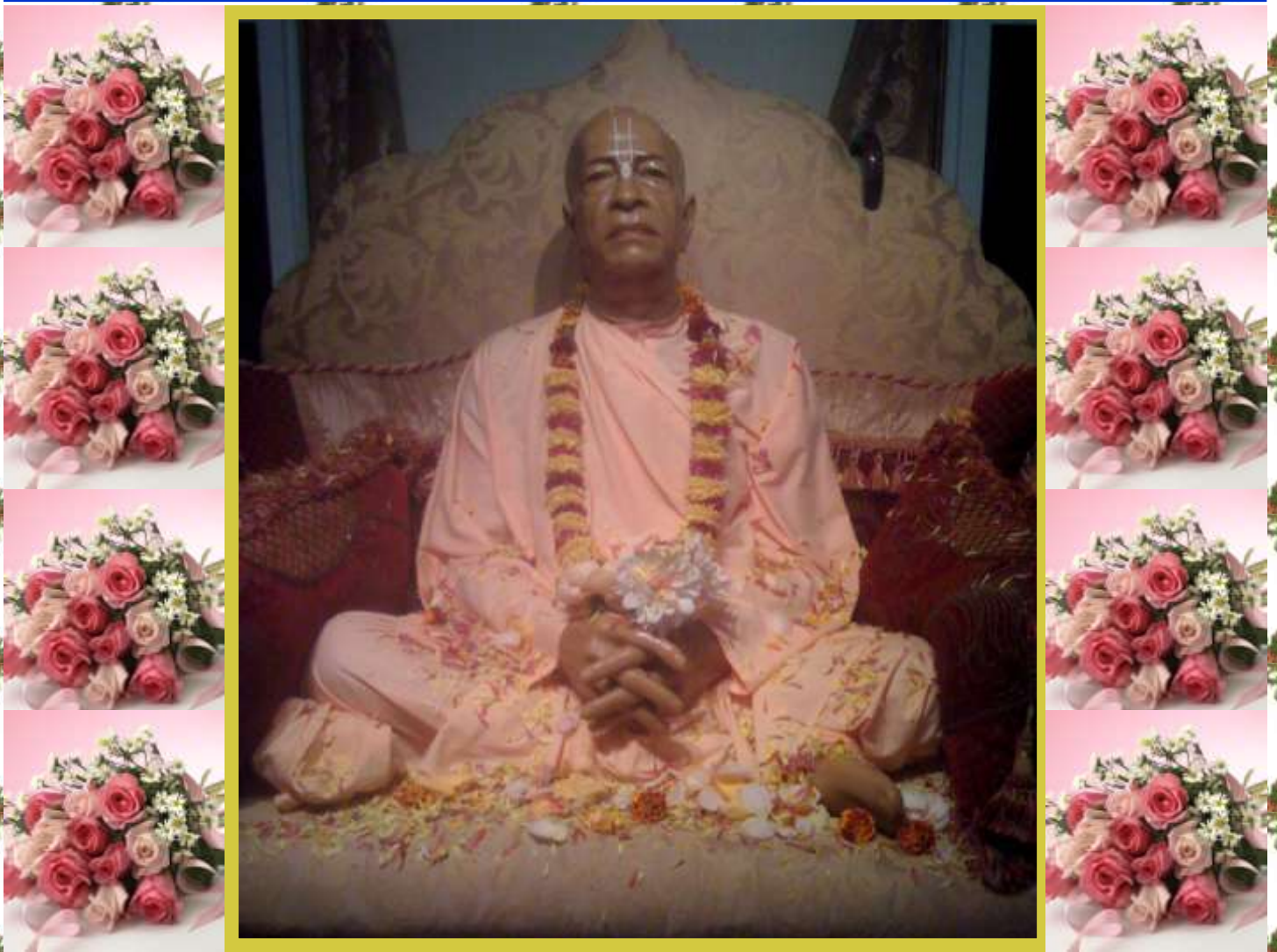
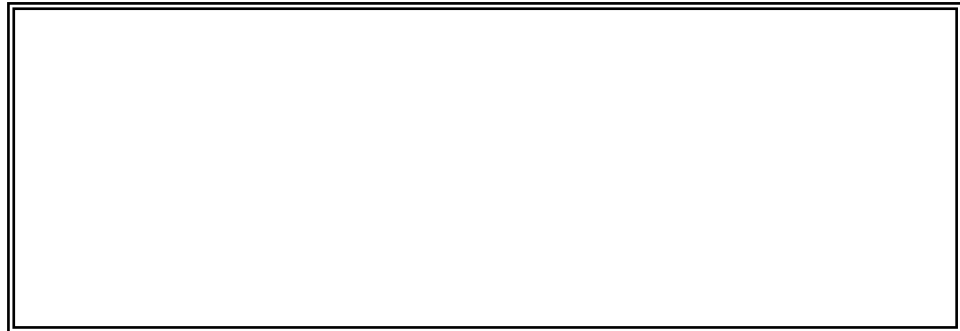
Thursday December 25

Christmas Day

Thursday January 1

New Year's Day

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*Prabhupada Darshan, Pushpanjali Ceremony,  
Sunday November 2nd, 2008*