

# Jain Center to host Mahavir Jayanti Celebration

**Bartlett, IL:** Jain Center of Metropolitan Chicago (JSMC) is preparing to host Mahavir Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Vardhaman Mahavir. He was born sometime in 7<sup>th</sup> Century BC and is the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankar (Enlighten one), who established the core tenets of Jainism.

His birth anniversary is celebrated with much fervor in Jain Communities across the world and so is the case at JSMC. The entire facility of JSMC is gearing up with a new look which is nicely designed and decorated by volunteers of the Decoration Committee.

There will be a ritual ceremony hosted on April 12<sup>th</sup> that will start with a Holy bath of the Tirthankar's idol. In the afternoon the entire community will join in a puja of Siddha Chakra. Siddha means liberated soul and Chakra means freedom from Karmic Bondage. The rationale behind this puja is usually physical wellbeing alongside the karmic benefit of performing any Jain puja. The Puja will be performed by the invited dignitary from India, Mr. Champakbhai Shah, who is a very revered scholar and teacher of Jainism.

The puja will be followed by a Cultural Program in the evening where members from 3 years to 60 years of age will be putting together a traditional cultural show. The Consul General of India, Dr. Ausuf Sayeed, will be the guest of honor for the evening program who will be accompanied by the Mayor of Bartlett, Mr. Kevin Wallace.

The celebrations will continue on Sunday, April 13, 2014 with a Digambar puja of Mahavir Swami and that will be followed by discourse by Mr. Champak Bhai. On the afternoon of April 13<sup>th</sup> JSMC will host its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Declamation contest and around 75+ participants of various age will be participating in it.

During the entire weekend period, participants will get the benefit of enjoying the traditional Jain Food and it is expected that JSMC will be serving around 3000 Meals during the course of the weekend.

The JSMC Board of Trustee and Executive Committee would like to invite everyone who is interested to learn more about Jainism and its principal to visit us at our center located at 435 N Route 59, Bartlett IL 60103. JSMC is a 501(c) non profit organization.