

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



**MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO ANNOUNCES CLOSURE
EFFECTIVE MONDAY, MARCH 16 AT 12 NOON**

*Orange County's Historic Landmark and Only Mission
to Close Temporarily Until Further Notice*

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (March 15, 2020) - Mission San Juan Capistrano, the jewel of California's missions, is implementing a temporary, indefinite and immediate closure effective tomorrow, March 16 at 12 noon. Serra Chapel, the most historically significant chapel in the state of California, will remain open during scheduled mass times only - the public should visit Mission Basilica's website for any and all updates regarding church services at <https://www.missionparish.org/>.

A team of leadership and security staff will remain on-site at the Mission working as stewards of the historic property to ensure its care and protection are secure while support staff works remotely at their places of residence.

As a result of the temporary and indefinite closure, the following have been suspended:

- Student Field Trips
- On-site Activities
- Mission Store
- All Private and Corporate Events
- St. Joseph's Day Celebration

The Mission's annual Battle of the Mariachis, originally slated for May 9, has been rescheduled for October 10, 2020.

"Mission San Juan Capistrano is a place of inspiration, education and preservation and will continue to be so despite its temporary closure," said Mechelle Lawrence Adams. "It's with a heavy heart that we suspend all activities at the Mission, however, we have enacted a prayer intentions page for people of all faith traditions to visit on our website and will remain responsive and flexible in response to changing conditions. We are praying for healing and for the safety and care of all who love, serve, and support the landmark"

Lawrence Adams went on to say that the Mission team, including its foundation, pastor and staff, remain committed to doing what is necessary and in the best interest of the community. The Mission will look forward to welcoming the return of its guests and students to its historic compound when its deemed prudent.

For updates on the Mission and its reopening, please visit <https://www.missionsjc.com>.

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ABOUT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Located in San Juan Capistrano's Historic Downtown just four miles from the stunning coastal cliffs of Dana Point in Orange County, Mission San Juan Capistrano is an 18th century world-renown California mission known for its swallows, gardens, and historic Serra Chapel. The Mission's impressive grounds and remarkable architecture are a compelling setting in which visitors can learn about the region's cultural roots, take inspiration from its spiritual significance, engage with local traditions, or explore both permanent and traveling exhibits of original artifacts that bring its history into the present.

Founded on November 1, 1776 by Saint Junípero Serra, who was canonized as a saint in 2015, Mission San Juan Capistrano is known as the "Jewel of the Missions" because of its Great Stone Church ruins. The seventh of nine missions founded by Serra (of a total 21 California missions established by Spain), it is Orange County's only mission and is considered the birthplace of the region.

To learn more about Mission San Juan Capistrano visit <https://www.missionsjc.com>.

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