St. Joseph’s Day and the Return of the Swallows Celebration, a tradition begun by Father O’Sullivan in the 1920s, is carried on today in honor of St. Joseph and the famed return of the swallows to Capistrano.

100th Anniversary of the original 1919 Gate House (Front Courtyard)
Join us at 1:30 p.m. for a toast in honor of the original 1919 Gate House and discussion led by Mechelle Lawrence Adams, Executive Director and Sam U’Ren, Preservation Manager.

Lecture and Q&A with Dr. Charles Brown
Lecture and Q&A with Dr. Charles Brown at 2:00 p.m. in the Soliders Barracks

Legacy of Saint Serra Exhibit (Historic Sala)
The exhibit explores Serra’s early life as a scholar, his journey to the Americas, his missionary training, his legacy and his significant role at Mission San Juan Capistrano.

NEW! Mission San Juan Capistrano “En Plein Air” Exhibit (West Wing)
Featuring Plein Air art from the early 1900s to 2016 from the Mission’s collection.
Join us at the top of every hour for a brief lecture with Jennifer Ring, Museum Registrar.

Swallows Walk and Talk: Special Tour on History of the Swallows
Guided Tours: 11:15 a.m., 1:00 & 2:15 p.m. $3 for Adults, $2 for Children.
Reserve your spot at the Gate House.

Visitor Information Booth: Discover Historic San Juan Capistrano (Front Courtyard)
Pick up a Downtown Map and Guide to discover destinations in historic San Juan Capistrano. Featuring Members of the Heritage Tourism Association.

Interpretive Station Tours
The Mission's Docents stand ready to tell stories of the Mission history at the Serra Chapel, Ruins of the Great Stone Church and other stations throughout the Mission.

Complimentary Garden Tours (Front Courtyard)
Learn about the Mission’s beautiful gardens. Walking tour at 10:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Mission Garden guide available.

Native American Basket Weavers (Front Courtyard)
Demonstrating traditions of Native American culture. 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Activities for Kids (West Gate) 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Adobe Brick Making, Panning for Gold and Arrowhead necklace; $5 each or all for $10.
For Members: $3 each or all for $5

Mission Clubhouse (Central Courtyard)
An inspired learning experience featuring four hands-on activity stations.

Mission Store (Front Courtyard)
Shop the Mission Store to browse our custom Swallows souvenirs featuring books, home décor and more. NEW! Follow the Swallow Bird’s Eye “Sticker Tour,” fun for all ages. participants who complete the sticker tour will receive a free prize. Nominal fee

FOOD VENDORS
Las Golondrinas (Mexican Food)
3:16 Bakery Shop (Coffee, Pastries, Churros and Cookies)
Swallow’s Nest Cotton Candy (Proceeds support the historic Mission)
2019 Schedule of Events*

BELL WALL

9:00
Daily Ringing of the Historic Bells upon Opening of the Mission
In honor of Saint Junípero Serra

9:00 - 9:30
Mariachi Music – Mariachi Tapatio

10:15 - 10:45
Mariachi Music – Mariachi Tapatio (following song with Renée)

10:15, 12:00*
Ringing of the Historic Bells
In Honor of St. Joseph and the Swallows Return

CENTRAL COURTYARD

9:55 - 10:00
Welcome & Introduction
Executive Director, Mechelle Lawrence Adams

10:05 - 10:10
Ringing of the School Bell & Mission Basilica School Procession

10:10 - 10:15
“When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano”
The chart-topping song written by Leon René circa 1930s, performed by Vocalist, Renée Bondi with accompaniment from Mariachi Tapatio

10:15
Ringing of the Historic Bells
In Honor of St. Joseph and the Swallows Return

10:15 - 11:15
Mission Basilica School – Traditional songs and dances by students

11:30 - 11:50
San Juan Elementary School Kindergarteners

12:15 - 12:45
Mariachi Tapatio

12:45 - 1:05
Duende Flamenco

1:05 - 1:50
Journeys to the Past: California Native American Stories
Presented by Educator and Acjachemen Descendent, Jacque Tahuka Nunez

SOLDIERS BARRACKS

2:00
Lecture on the Swallows - Dr. Charles R. Brown,
University of Tulsa. Lecture (45 min.) on the Swallows Nest Reenactment Exhibit plus opportunity for Q&A with the expert.

*Schedule of events subject to change
Experience the Significance of St. Joseph at Mission San Juan Capistrano

St. Joseph’s Day Mass
Celebrate St. Joseph’s Day Mass at Mission Basilica at 8:30 a.m.

Ringing of the Historic Bells
Join us for the Ringing of the Bells in honor of St. Joseph at 10:15 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.
Special Bell Ringing Ceremony at 11:40 a.m. prior to noon bell ringing.

Serra Chapel
Learn the story of St. Joseph at the historic Serra Chapel. Serra Chapel is the most historically significant chapel in California and the only remaining church where Saint Serra celebrated mass.

St. Joseph’s Table (Central Courtyard)
In honor of St. Joseph, an ecumenical effort to feed those in need in our community.

Mission Treasures Exhibit: Historical Collection Revealed
Featuring historic artifacts from the Mission’s past that have not been seen in decades, the collection includes precious and rare paintings, religious artifacts, and documents related to the Mission’s history, dating back as early as the 1700s.

Thank you to our Sponsors for their Generous Support of St. Joseph's Day

Come back and join us for our next event:
Earth Day Celebration at the Mission
Saturday, April 20th • 10 a.m. – 2:00 pm
Featuring a bee keeper display, orange and lemon gleaning, family garden tours, Native American Basket Weaving demonstrations, Mission Matters craft stations and more.
Free Member Event! Join or upgrade your admission today!

www.missionsjc.com