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CONTACT: Joe Haakenson
JUVE Creative, Inc.
(714) 841 9600
joe@juvecreative.com

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION DEC. 3

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (Nov. 16, 2016) -- Mission San Jan Capistrano will host its annual Christmas at the Mission celebration on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 5:30-8 p.m.

Held in conjunction with the City of San Juan Capistrano's Tree Lighting Ceremony and community-wide celebration, the popular Christmas event is perfect for the whole family.

The evening will include a ringing of the historic Mission bells, a real snow sledding and play area, Dickens carolers, children's and school choirs, "Merry-achi" music, a chamber orchestra, visits with Father Christmas, a Nativity scene in the Ruins of the Great Stone Church, cookie decorating for kids, great food and drink like tamales, chili, sweets, spiced cider and hot cocoa, and handcrafted gifts and more at the Mission Store.

Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children ages 4-11. Admission is free to Mission Preservation members with member I.D. cards, Parish members with member I.D. cards, Mission volunteers with I.D. badges, and active military with I.D. card.

Tickets can be purchased online at missionsjc.com, by phone at (949) 234-1317, or at the Mission Gate House 9 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano:

Known as the “Jewel of the Missions,” Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.

The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18th century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres’ quarters of the South Wing.

The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County’s only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County’s only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$6 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit www.missionsjc.com.