



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY & RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS CELEBRATION

FRIDAY • MARCH 19, 2021

Join us for a Special Virtual Presentation

FUN FOR ALL!

Join us virtually for the world-renowned tradition celebrating the annual return of the famous swallows at the historic Mission. **We're sorry we are not able to put together an in-person event and gather due to the ongoing pandemic. The Swallows Day Parade has also been cancelled.** We hope that by bringing you St. Joseph's Day and Return of the Swallow celebration digitally, you are able to celebrate the swallows returning to Capistrano from wherever you are. We are looking forward to celebrating this continued tradition in person with you in the near future.



1936 NBC Radio National Broadcast of St. Joseph's Day & Return of the Swallows

EVENT SCHEDULE*

*Schedule subject to change - As of 2/26

VIRTUAL

9:00 a.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano Welcome

A Message from Mechelle Lawrence Adams, Executive Director

9:30 a.m.

Mission Basilica School Presentation

Video Presentation from the 2021 Royal Court

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Mission Basilica School Performances

Livestream of Introduction on www.facebook.com/MissionSJC

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Virtual Lecture about the Swallows of Capistrano

Dr. Charles Brown, University of Tulsa

FREE! Pre-register at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SXBLNKR

12:00 p.m.

Historic Bell Ringing

Ringling of the Historic Bells In Honor of St. Joseph and the Swallows Return

Livestream on www.facebook.com/MissionSJC

2:00 p.m.

About the Swallows: A Virtual Tour by Alexander Warner, Staff Guide

A tour on the history of the Swallows

FREE! Pre-register at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SFMQWZY



IN PERSON (COVID-19 Requirements: Wear a mask properly and practice social distancing)

9:00 a.m.

Mission Grounds Open

Official Welcome

Native Prayer by Adelia Sandoval, Spiritual Leader of the Juañeno Band of Mission Indians/Acjachemen Nation

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Historic Bell Ringing

Ringling of the Historic Bells In Honor of St. Joseph and the Swallows Return

(On the Hour, Every Hour)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's Table

Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph

Virtual viewing locations onsite: Soldiers Barracks and Historic Sala

HIGHLIGHTS

SHOP! Fun for kids, purchase our Follow the Swallow sticker tour on your next visit.

Check out the Mission Store in person or online to shop for all things swallows.

Curbside pickup and fast shipping available.

NEW! Download and enjoy Mission themed coloring pages available on March 19.

Bring the Mission to life on paper at www.missionsjc.com





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EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH AT THE MISSION

St. Joseph's Day Mass

St. Joseph's Day Mass at Mission Basilica www.missionparish.org

Ringing of the Historic Bells

Join us for the ringing of the historic bells in honor of St. Joseph at 10:00, 11:00 and noon.

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 Father Serra celebrated mass.

St. Joseph's Table

Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph.

Mission Treasures Exhibit: Historical Collection Revealed

See a beautiful painting of Jesus and St. Joseph, restored through private donations and on exhibit.

SWALLOWS STORY

The miracle of the "Swallows" of Capistrano takes place each year at Mission San Juan Capistrano, on March 19th, St. Joseph's Day. As the little birds wing their way back to the Mission, the town of San Juan Capistrano welcomes visitors from all parts of the world to witness the return of the swallows.

The Legend of the Cliff Swallows of Capistrano

In his book, Capistrano Nights, Father St. John O'Sullivan, Pastor of Mission San Juan Capistrano (1910-1933), tells the story of how the swallows came to call the Mission home.

One day, while walking through town, Father O'Sullivan saw a shopkeeper, broomstick in hand, knocking down the conically shaped mud swallow nests located under the eaves of his shop. The birds were darting back and forth through the air squealing over the destruction of their homes.

"What in the world are you doing?" Father O'Sullivan asked.

"Why, these dirty birds are a nuisance and I am getting rid of them!" the shopkeeper responded.

"But where can they go?"

"I don't know and I don't care," he replied, slashing away with his pole. "But they've no business here, destroying my property."

Father O'Sullivan then said, "Come on swallows, I'll give you shelter. Come to the Mission. There's room enough there for all."

The very next morning, Father O'Sullivan discovered the swallows busy building their nests outside Father Junípero Serra's Church.



DID YOU KNOW?

Swallows migrate 6,000 miles from Goya, Argentina to San Juan Capistrano in large groups. Some cliff swallow colonies number more than 3,500 nests. Under the eaves of the Mission, look for gourd-shaped nests. Mud pellets used to build the nest consist of sand, silt and clay. The nest chambers are lined with grass and feathers.