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CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. – NOV. 1, 2010 – Mission San Juan Capistrano will kick off the holiday season by hosting its annual "Christmas at the Mission" on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 5:30-8 p.m. A magical night under the stars will allow revelers to visit the nativity scene, meet St. Nicholas, and enjoy the beauty of the Mission's gardens, all lit up for Christmas.

Events include dance, choir and mariachi performances, photos with Santa Claus, and Santa's Workshop craft activities. Refreshments will be offered for sale, including Champurrado (Mexican hot chocolate), cocoa and coffee.

Groups to perform are the Beach Cities Harmonizers, Capo Valley High School Chamber Group, Mariachi Capistrano, The Mission Viejo Chorus, Ocean Hills Community Church Choir, Orange County Wind Ensemble and Saddleback Valley Christian School Honor Choirs.

Performances will be held in the Great Stone Church, Central Courtyard, Front Courtyard and Sacred Garden areas. Santa's Workshop will take place in the Soldiers Barracks Gallery from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The city's official ceremony and lighting of the San Juan Capistrano Christmas tree begins in Historic Towne Center Park at 4:30 p.m. At 5:30, visitors are invited to walk over to the Christmas at the Mission festival. Bring your camera and a canned food donation for Serra's Pantry.

Tickets are on sale now: \$2 per person (4 and older) are available at the Front Gate Box Office, or for \$2.50 online at missionsjc.com. Admission is free for children 3 and under, Mission and Parish members, and Mission volunteers with ID cards.

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); \$5 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.

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