



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RSVP FOR ST. JOSEPH'S DAY AND RETURN OF SWALLOWS CELEBRATION

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA. – March 14, 2011 – It's almost here. Mission San Juan Capistrano's signature event of the year -- St. Joseph's Day and the Return of the Swallows celebration -- takes place this Saturday, March 19. Reply to this email with a "Yes! I will attend!" and we'll add your name to the list of credentialed media at the gate.

The celebration begins with the ringing of the historic bells followed by performances from Renee Bondi, Mission Parish School, Ballet Folklorico and Mariachi Capistrano. Visitors can go to the historic bell wall or campanario to hear authentic Acjachemen Prayer songs from Tushmal Singers just before the day's official noon bell ringing. The bells will be rung at 10 a.m., noon and 3 p.m.

In the Central Courtyard, award-winning and Native American teacher Jacque Nunez will carry out her highly engaging Native American story telling performance. Later, the Mission's docents host "Are You Smarter Than a California 4th Grader?" followed by dance performances by a Native American dance duo and La Sole Flamenco.

The day also features a special afternoon lecture by Dr. Charles R. Brown, a professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Tulsa who has studied swallows since age 11. Dr. Brown is considered the preeminent expert on swallows and their migration patterns. This year marks his second annual lecture.

Full schedule:

St. Joseph's Day & Return of the Swallows Celebration

Saturdays, March 19 and 26, 2011

Saturday, March 19 – St. Joseph's Day:

9:30-9:55 a.m.: Front Courtyard: Mariachi Capistrano (roaming)

9:55-10 a.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: Welcome & Introduction: Executive Director, Mechelle Lawrence-Adams

10-10:05 a.m.: Bell Wall: Ringing of the Historic Bells in Honor of St. Joseph and the Swallows Return

10:05-10:15 a.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: Renée Bondi and Mariachi Capistrano

10:15-11 a.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: Mission Parish School Student Performances

11-11:30 a.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: Ballet Folklorico

11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: Mariachi Capistrano

11:30-11:45 a.m.: Bell Wall: Tushmal Singers: Ajachemen Prayer Songs

11:45 a.m.-12 p.m.: Bell Wall: Return of the Swallows Press Conference

12-12:05 p.m.: Bell Wall: Ringing of the Historic Bells in Honor of St. Joseph and the Swallows Return

12:05-12:15 p.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: Renée Bondi and Mariachi Capistrano

12:15-1 p.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: Journeys to the Past Native American Stories with Jacque Nunez

12:30-1 p.m.: Soldiers Barracks Gallery: Docent Society: Are You Smarter than a California 4th Grader?

1-1:15 p.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: Native American Dance Performance

1-1:45 p.m.: Soldiers Barracks Gallery: Living History Volunteers: Historic Fashion Show

1:15-2 p.m.: Central Courtyard Stage: La Sole Flamenco

2-3 p.m. Soldiers Barracks Gallery: Swallows Lecture by Dr. Charles R. Brown, Univ. of Tulsa

3-3:05 p.m.: Bell Wall: Ringing of the Historic Bells in Honor of St. Joseph and the Swallows Return

Food & Dessert Vendors:

Las Golondrinas Mexican Food; Z Pizza

Hawaiian Delight; A & M Catering; Apple Revolution

Saturday, March 26 – Swallows Parade Day

11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Downtown SJC: Mission San Juan Capistrano Parade Float, featuring Mariachi Capistrano

2-4 p.m.: Front Courtyard: Mariachis Perform Inside Mission Courtyard

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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