



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

THURSDAY • MARCH 19, 2026 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM

EVENT SCHEDULE*

*Schedule subject to change - As of 3/10

BELL WALL

9:00 a.m.

Daily Ringing of the Historic Bells upon Opening

In Honor of St. Junípero Serra

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Mariachi Music – Mariachi Tapatio

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Mariachi Music – Mariachi Tapatio

OFFICIAL BELL RINGING CEREMONY

BELL WALL

12:00 p.m.

Welcome

Executive Director, Mechelle Lawrence Adams

Reverend Monsignor J. Michael McKiernan,

Pastor/Rector, Mission Preservation Foundation Board Member

Tribute to Our Nation

The Star-Spangled Banner performed by The Swing Dolls

Special Guests & Special Recognition

Presentation of the Official Mission Bell Ringers

Nathan Banda and Michael Gastelum,

Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation

Ringing of the Historic Bells

Commemorative Flyover in Celebration of the 250th Anniversary

By WWII AT-6 Airplanes (*weather permitting*)



WWII AT-6 Airplanes

CENTRAL COURTYARD

9:55 - 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Executive Director, Mechelle Lawrence Adams

10:05 - 10:10 a.m.

Ringling of the School Bell and Mission Basilica School Procession

10:10 - 10:15 a.m.

“When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano”

The chart-topping song written by Leon René circa 1930’s performed by

Vocalist, Renée Bondi with accompaniment from Mariachi Tapatio

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Mission Basilica School – Traditional songs and dances by students

11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

San Juan Elementary School – Kindergarten and TK performances

12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

Journeys to the Past: California Native American Stories & Dances

1:00 - 1:20 p.m.

Bird Singers and Tushmal Singers – Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation

1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Duende Flamenco – Flamenco dance performance

2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

The Swing Dolls – America’s Premiere Tribute to the Andrews Sisters



SOLDIERS BARRACKS

2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Swallows Lecture and Q&A

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Native American Basket Weaving Demonstrations (*Front Courtyard 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*)

Demonstrating traditions of local Native American culture, from the Acjachemen people

Swallow Lecture and Q&A (*Soldiers Barracks*)

Presented by Cliff Swallows Expert and Professor at the University of Tulsa, Dr. Charles R. Brown

Learn why the Mission uses the vintage swallow image!

Interpretive Station Tours (*Throughout the Mission*)

Mission Docents stand ready to tell stories of Mission history at the

Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church and other stations throughout the Mission.

New! The Fascinating Etchings of Early California Missions Henry Chapman Ford Exhibit (*West Wing*)

Enjoy etchings by American artist, Henry Chapman Ford (1828-1894), who traveled through California in

the 1880s visiting each of the missions. Made possible by the James Irvine Swinden Family Collection.



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ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Mission Clubhouse

An inspired learning experience featuring hands-on activity stations. Commemorative penny press machine featuring collectible designs.
9:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Central Courtyard (Free)



Coloring Station
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Central Courtyard (Free)



Hands-on Crafts by AR Workshop
Make your own bracelet
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Central Courtyard (Nominal fee)

Mission Store

Browse our custom swallow souvenirs featuring books, home décor and “Follow the Swallow” sticker tour, fun for all ages.

Discounts for Members!

FOOD VENDORS (Central Courtyard)



3:16 Bakery Shop
Sandwiches, Coffee and Baked Goods



Swallows Nest Cotton Candy
Proceeds support the Historic Mission
\$5 each

EXPERIENCE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ST. JOSEPH AT THE MISSION

St. Joseph's Day Mass at Mission Basilica

Celebrate St. Joseph's Day Mass at Mission Basilica: 8:30 a.m. located at 31520 Camino Capistrano

Ringling of the Historic Bells in Honor of St. Joseph at 12:00 p.m.

Special Bell Ringing Ceremony prior to bell ringing.

Serra Chapel

Serra Chapel is the most historically significant chapel in California and the only remaining church where Saint Junípero Serra celebrated mass. Learn more at Stop 13 on the History Audio Tour

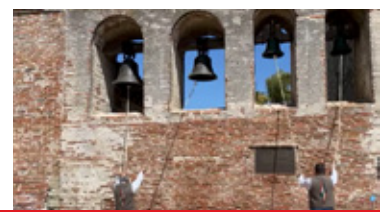
St. Joseph's Day Altar

Hosted by Vicky Carabini, Mission Preservation Foundation Board Member (*Resurgam*)

In honor of St. Joseph, an ecumenical effort to feed those in need in our community.

Thank you to our Sponsors for their Generous Support

Vicky and Michael Carabini



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