



St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

P.O. Box 1376, Solana Beach, CA 92075

November 2014

www.missioncircle.com

858.792.0516

Our mission is to organize, lead, and engage the parishioners of Saint James and Saint Leo Catholic Community to improve the lives of people in need.



Be An Angel And Help The Poor This Holiday Season

Thanksgiving Food Collection is for the local people who are being served by the Community Resource Center. Please bring food (or a donation) to the Thanksgiving Mass at 9 a.m. on Thurs., Nov. 27.

Casal Eudes Christmas Party is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 20, at the girls' home in TJ. Please donate a small gift. You're also invited to help us host the party!

Blanket Collection goes from Dec. 22 to Jan. 8 to help poor families in Coachella. New and gently used blankets are needed. Cash donations are welcome as well.

Epiphany Preparations starts at 9 a.m. on Fri., Jan. 9. Help move shoes from the school basement to the Parish Hall. The next day, Jan. 10, help sort the shoes in the Parish Hall from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Epiphany Celebration is at the Galilee Center in Coachella on Sun., Jan. 10. Travel with us and spend the day distributing shoes to 1,500 needy kids.

CRC Holiday Basket Program needs volunteers on Thurs., Dec. 18th to help distribute food, clothes, and gifts to poor families in this area. Community Resource Center sponsors the event that's held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.



Give Thanks By Giving Food

Share your blessings by bringing non-perishable food to the Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday, November 27 at 9:00 a.m. Leave your donations in the back of the church and they will go to the Community Resource Center to help local people who need a helping hand. Of course, cash donations to St. James Mission Circle are always appreciated as well.

Make Spirits Bright At The Casa Eudes Party

Delight A Little Girl With A Present by taking a gift suggestion card from the display in the vestibule of St. James which will go up after Thanksgiving. Buy the item and leave it (unwrapped) in the back of the church by Tues., Dec. 16th. You'll make some young girl's Christmas special.

Join The Holiday Fun by coming down to Tijuana with us on Sat., Dec. 20th to host the party at the girls' home. We'll serve a big turkey dinner and there'll be Mexican Christmas Carols, a dance recital and (best of all) Santa! To join us, contact Jeff Sturgis at jeffsturgis@me.com. You'll need a current passport to reenter the US. To ride in the church van, you'll need a special passport card which speeds up reentry.

Help Us Staff The CRC Food Pantry On Fridays

On Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Mission Circle volunteers stock the CRC pantry and fill grocery orders for our neighbors at the Community Resource Center in Encinitas. The clients include seniors, folks with disabilities and people that are going through an unexpected change in their lives where a helping hand is needed.

Picture it as a neighborhood grocery store with about 1,000 square feet of shelves of food. There are stacks of canned goods as well as racks of bread, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, and a case of dairy products. The CRC Food Pantry provides almost every kind of food -- and a lot of hope to our neighbors going through a difficult phase in their lives.

It's easy to sign up to participate in this program. The center is located at 650 Second Street in Encinitas. You can work for just one hour or stay for all four -- but most people work in two hour shifts. This is a wonderful way to help our neighbors in need. Sign up on our website or contact Tom Ferris at pres@missioncircle.com

Step Up To Give Needy Kids New Shoes

Help Move And Sort The Epiphany Gifts On Friday, January 9, we need help moving the blankets and boxes of shoes stored in the school basement to the Parish Hall. We'll start about 9 a.m. Then, on Saturday, January 10, we'll have our annual Sorting Party in the Parish Hall from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We'll sort 1,500 pairs of children's shoes and pack them all up -- along with hundreds of warm blankets -- to go to Coachella for the Epiphany Celebration.

Travel With Us To Coachella For The Celebration On Sunday, January 11, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., you can personally help some of the poor field workers and their families who live in the Coachella Valley. These are stoop-laborers who struggle to support their families on less than \$10,000 a year. We are meeting them at the Galilee Center, a Catholic facility that serves these people all through the year supplying food, clothes, and other necessities. We'll escort each family through the center, helping them select new shoes for their children. We'll also distribute warm blankets. In addition, the Center will supply non-perishable food and clothing. Don't miss this truly heart-warming experience -- it's a perfect way for you and your family to start the new year. To reserve a seat on the bus, contact Katie Hodsdon at katie@stjames-stleo.com or 858-2545, ext. 107.

Donate Blankets For The Epiphany Celebration

Blankets are needed for the farm workers living in Coachella. These people have a real need for quilts and covers to help their families keep warm in the chilly weather. Leave new or gently used blankets in the back of St. James Church. We'll be collecting them from Dec. 22 to Jan. 8. Of course, cash donations are welcome as well.

Participate In The CRC Holiday Basket Program

This event is held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds every year. Volunteers escort needy families through the hall, helping them "shop" for free clothes, toys, household goods, blankets, and food. On Thurs., Dec. 18th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. or 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. you can help local people in need fill their baskets with holiday joy. Your kids can help, too. Contact Shannon Kotnik at shannonkotnik@gmail.com by Nov. 21.



Our Parish Packaged 60,000 Meals To Help The Hungry

We held our annual food packaging event in the parish hall on Sunday, Oct 12th to help ease world hunger. Scores of volunteers worked feverishly to package 60,000 non-perishable meals in just four hours! The meals go to help the hungry locally and in places like Haiti and The Dominican Republic. There's an orphanage in Tanzania where these meals are the only source of food for the children. The parish hall rocked as fast music set the pace and an announcer cheered everyone on. For the third year in a row a charity called Friends and Family helped us stage the event and made sure the boxes of food reached their intended destinations. We thank everyone in the parish who helped with this compassionate effort to help the hungry.

New Donation Shed Is Almost Done

We ended up building more than just a new space to store food, clothing, and household donations. The Saturday volunteers enjoyed a strong sense of camaraderie working together every week. Gals, guys, young, and old ... they cheerfully hammered, sawed, and painted. The kids learned how to use tools -- and a few adults did, too. The shed was a building donated by Habitat for Humanity because they no longer had a need for it. Our crew tore it down, moved the pieces, and reassembled it on the lower parking lot near our old shed (which is losing its battle with termites). The new space will be dedicated to Laura Wagner who was our "Donations Lady" for years. This project was so satisfying we're almost sorry to see it end!

Kids Jumped For Joy At Our October Outing

Combine a sunny day with a big, sparkling pool and what do you get? 38 kids having the time of the lives! That was the scene at our annual fall outing for the Casa Eudes girls on Saturday, Oct. 4. We traveled to a pretty little park outside of Rosarito Beach with lots of wonderful things to do. There's a tiny zoo, playground equipment, and even go-carts to ride but the big attraction on this hot day was the pool. Mission Circle volunteers jumped in with the kids, throwing balls, towing inflated rafts, and having almost as much fun as the kids. Needless to say, everyone took a nap on the way home!



Events Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
November		
During November	MC Quarterly Newsletter	US Mail
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7:30 am Sat 8th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
8:30 am Sat 8th	Assembling Donation Shed	Lower Church Parking Lot
7:00 pm Tues 11th	MC Board Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
8:30 am Sat. 15th	Assembling Donation Shed	Lower Church Parking Lot
7:30 am Sat 22nd	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
8:30 am Sat 22th	Assembling Donation Shed	Lower Church Parking Lot
2:00 pm, Mon 24th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Hall & Oceanside
9:00 am Thurs 27th	Thanksgiving Food Collection	St. James Church
December		
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7:30 am Sat 6th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:00 pm Tues 9th	MC Board Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
2:00 pm Fri 12th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Hall & Oceanside
4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thurs 18th	CRC Holiday Basket Program	Del Mar Fairgrounds
7:30 am Sat 20th	Casa Eudes Christmas Party	Casa Eudes, TJ
January		
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
2:00 pm Thur 8th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Hall & Oceanside
9:00 am Fri 9th	Move shoes for Epiphany	School Basement Room
8:30 am.to noon Sat. 10th	Sort shoes for Epiphany	Parish Hall
7:00 pm, Sun 11th	Epiphany Celebration	Coachella, CA
7:30 am Sat 12th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:00 pm Tues 13th	MC Board Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
Sun. Jan 18 to Sat. Jan 31	Interfaith Shelter Network	Parish Hall
7:30 am Sat 26th	MC/ SBYA - Maint./Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ

*St. Brigid's Young Adults

News Briefs:

Parish Hall Will Provide Temporary Shelter from Jan. 18 to Jan 31, offering food and place to stay to some of the homeless in our community. Other local churches do the same, scheduling the two-week visits through the North Coast Interfaith Shelter Network. If you'd like to be part of this effort, you can volunteer to provide a meal, transportation, or help with laundry. You can also stay one night with these homeless people who so desperately need our support. Please contact Joe Santen at gon2mass@att.net.

We Sent Dozens Of Cookies To Prison last month. Over 400 dozen cookies were donated by the St. James parish through our Kairos prison ministry on Oct. 18 and 19. They're all part of a much larger interfaith effort to offer homemade treats to the prisoners one weekend at the R.J. Donovan Correctional Institution Facility in Otay Mesa. The cookies are wildly popular with the inmates and help encourage their participation in the ministry weekend.

Many Thanks



To Bob Giese (shown left with MC President Tom Ferris) and all volunteers at our 3rd annual food packaging event (wearing those ugly hair nets). The 60,000 meals we packed will help hungry people both near and far away.



To all our donors and "elves" that make the Casa Eudes Christmas party such a festive event.



To Katie Hodsdon and her helpers who organize our annual Epiphany Celebration. We also thank all the volunteers that travel to Coachella to give needy kids 1,500 pairs of shoes.



To the scores of Mission Circle supporters who have donated to our programs and participated in them over the past year. We hope your holiday season is joyous and you enjoy every blessing in 2015.

St. James Mission Circle
P.O. Box 1376
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
Encinitas, CA

Return Service Requested

You're Invited To One Of Our Meetings:

This is an open invitation to all our supporters to come to one of our monthly meetings.

They're held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room of St. James Church (formally the church library). You're welcome to come and learn about our charity as we plan events and discuss the many ways we help the poor.

If you are interested, please contact Tom Ferris at pres@missioncircle.com.

Please Send Donations To:

Mission Circle, P.O. Box 1376, Solana Beach, CA 92075

Want to donate on line? It's very easy. Just go to our website and follow the simple directions.

**Visit Our Facebook page
at www.facebook.com/sjmissioncircle**

We post all of our upcoming events on this site. If you are already a member of Facebook, just register as a "fan" and refer the site to others. If you are not a member, visit the website to check on our activities.

**Go To Our Website at
www.missioncircle.com**

You can get more details on our activities and ways you can help at this website.

For volunteer opportunities, contact
Tom Ferris, President - pres@missioncircle.com

Mission Circle Contacts:

Tom Ferris, President - pres@missioncircle.com
Jan Nelte, Communications - info@missioncircle.com
Tien Nguyen, Webmaster - web@missioncircle.com