



St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

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

November 2016

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.



Thanksgiving Food Collection is for our neighbors in need who are served by the Community Resource Center. Please bring non-perishable food and leave the items in the back of the church. This is a compassionate way to help local people who are struggling this holiday season.

Santa Wants YOU To Help The Poor This Holiday Season!

Casal Eudes Christmas Party will be on Sat., Dec. 17, at the girls' home in TJ. Please donate a small gift. If you have a current passport, you can help host the fun!

Blanket Collection goes from now until Jan.7 to help poor migrant families in Coachella. New and gently used, clean blankets are needed.

CRC Holiday Basket Program sponsored by Community Resource Center will be on Fri., Dec. 17. Help distribute food, clothes, and gifts to our poor neighbors in need at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Epiphany Preparations start on Saturday, Jan. 7th from 9 a.m. to noon. Help sort socks for the Epiphany Celebration in the Parish Hall. (We won't sort shoes this year -- they're being shipped directly to Galilee Center.)

Epiphany Celebration is at the Galilee Center in Coachella on Sun., Jan. 8. Travel with us to distribute 1,500 pairs of new shoes and socks to needy kids.



Give Thanks By Giving Food

Share your blessings this Thanksgiving by giving non-perishable food for people in the area who need help. Leave your donations in the back of the church on or before Nov. 24 and they will go to the Community Resource Center to help our neighbors who can use a helping hand. Of course, cash donations to St. James Mission Circle are welcome as well. Please write "Thanksgiving Food Fund" on your check.

We'll Help Catholic Charities Give Away Hundreds Of Turkeys

Last year we helped Catholic Charities give Thanksgiving turkeys to 77 households in need, benefiting a total of 356 people! We expect to do the same at the charity's distribution event this year, which will take place on Thursday, November 17th, at St. Francis Catholic Church in Vista. Mission Circle is happy contribute to this effort that benefits so many local families in North County.

Pack Santa's Sleigh With Gifts For The Casa Eudes Kids

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 Wed., Dec. 14. You'll make a young girl very happy.

Help Us Sort The Donated Gifts by working in the basement of the school for a little while. We have to fill gift bags for all the Casa Eudes girls plus the sisters, the staff, and the staff's children. That amounts to about 70 bags to organize so it takes some time to sort the donated items and put them in the right bags. Join us for an hour or two from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11 or from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, Dec. 12, 13, or 14. If you have some knowledge of little girls' sizes it would be a great help. Contact Katie Hodsdon at katekellyhodsdon@gmail.com or Maggy Hillenbrand at carlmaggie@aol.com for more information.

Join The Holiday Fun by coming down to Tijuana with us on Sat., Dec. 17th 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.

Our Epiphany Star: New Shoes For Needy Kids

Come With Us To Coachella To Distribute 1,500 Pairs Of Shoes On Sunday, January 8, 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 area. 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 by supplying food, clothes, and other necessities. We'll escort each family through the center, helping them select new shoes and socks 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 arrange transportation, contact Katie Hodsdon at katie@stjames-stleo.com or 858-2545, ext. 107.

Can't Go To The Celebration? Help Us Sort Socks In The Parish Hall We're asking for volunteers on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon. We'll sort and pack up socks for the Epiphany Celebration the next day in Coachella. We won't be sorting shoes this year because they are being shipped directly to the Galilee Center where the Celebration will be held.

Migrant Families Need Blankets As Temperatures Drop

Desert nights are cold and many of the migrant families living in the Coachella area need blankets. This is your chance to donate quilts and covers to help the field workers and their kids keep warm in the chilly weather. Leave new or gently used blankets in the back of St. James Church. **Please make sure used blankets are clean and in good condition.** We'll be collecting them until Jan. 7. Of course, cash donations to buy blankets sent to Mission Circle are always welcome.

Help Fill Baskets For The Poor With Holiday Joy

Participate in the annual CRC Holiday Basket Event at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on December 17. Volunteers will escort needy families through the hall, helping them "shop" for free clothes, toys, household goods, blankets, and food. Your kids can help, too. Check the Community Resource Center website for details.



Our Parish Packaged 77,600 Meals To Help The Hungry

On Oct. 9, volunteers in the parish hall set a record for packaging meals -- 77,600 were packed in just 3 hours! The 650 participants at our 5th annual food packaged event worked at a fevered pace because the meals were going to Haiti -- a third world country that had just been ravished by a terrible hurricane. And there was a personal urgency to help from students at Cathedral Catholic High School who had recently visited an orphanage in Les Cayes that was reported to be devastated by the storm. The students and their families raised enough money to pay for 21,000 extra meals and came to the event to package them. Many other outreach groups helped with the event including the youth groups from St. James and St. Leo's, and even other churches like Calgary Lutheran and Encinitas Church of Christ. Guests of honors were three refugees from Haiti who thanked the volunteers sincerely for their compassion efforts. Once again, a charity called Friends and Family Connections helped us stage this parish-wide effort and made sure the boxes of food reached their intended destination. We thank everyone who helped with this compassionate event.

Parishioners Join "Shoes To The World" On A Trip To Columbia

In lots of poor places in the world, children go without shoes. This is not just uncomfortable -- it can be dangerous to their health. That's because there are parasites in the soil that bore through the soles of bare feet and cause serious health problems. A local organization called "Shoes To The World" is working to combat this serious situation. This charity, based in St. Patrick's in Encinitas, distributes shoes to children in poor areas of the world and it has grown quickly. Now Mission Circle is making plans to partner with this outreach program to expand our own efforts to provide shoes to needy kids. Several of our members recently went on a fact-finding trip to Columbia to distribute shoes and see how "Shoes To The World" operates. Look for more on this in our future newsletters and on our Mission Circle website.

Give A Gift That Gives To The Poor

At the Alternative Christmas Market on Sunday, November 13th, you can do your Christmas shopping and help the needy at the same time. The market will be on the St. James Patio of the Bells from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and it will sell modestly priced "shares" supporting parish programs like our Mission Circle scholarships, dinners for the homeless, and blankets for migrant families. Cards representing your donation can be given to people on your list as a Christmas present. These are gifts that give to others.



Events Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
November		
During November	MC Quarterly Newsletter	US Mail
11 am to 2 pm all Thurs.	Making sandwiches	St Leo's Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7 pm Tues 8th	MC Board Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 12th	Maintenance & Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
8:30 am to 1:30 pm, Sun 13th	Christmas Market	St. James Outdoor Patio
Thursdav. Nov. 17th	CC Turkey Distribution	St. Francis in Vista
Thurs 24th	Thanksgiving Food Collection	St. James Church
7:30 am Sat 26th	Maintenance	Casa Eudes, TJ
December		
11 am to 2 pm all Thurs.	Making sandwiches	St Leo's Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7:30 am Sat 3rd	Maintenance & Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:00 pm Tues 13th	MC Board Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 17th	Casa Eudes Christmas Party	Casa Eudes, TJ
January		
11 am to 2 pm all Thurs.	Making sandwiches	St Leo's Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
9:00 am to noon, Sat. 7th	Sort Socks for Epiphany	Parish Hall
7:00 pm, Sun 8th	Epiphany Celebration	Coachella, CA
TBD	Maintenance & Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:00 pm Tues 10th	MC Board Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
TBD	Maintenance	Casa Eudes, TJ

News Briefs:

Parish Hall Sheltered The Homeless from Oct. 23 to Nov. 6, offering food and place to stay to some of the homeless in our community. Other local churches are doing the same, scheduling the two-week visits through the North Coast Interfaith Shelter Network. During the time the homeless stayed in our parish hall, volunteers provided meals, transportation, and help with laundry. Parishioners also stayed overnight with these destitute people who so desperately need our support.

Homemade Cookies Gave Prisoners A Break last month. Over 400 dozen delicious, homemade cookies were donated by the St. James parish through our Kairos prison ministry on Oct. 22 and 23. The cookie collection is 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 Otoy Mesa. The cookies are wildly popular with the inmates and help encourage their participation in the ministry weekend.

Many Thanks



To Bob and Shirley Giese who organize the food packaging event every year. Many thanks as well to the scores of supporters who made the food packaging event so successful this year.



To all donors and Santa's helpers who contribute to the Casa Eudes Christmas party, making the girls, the sisters, and the staff so happy.



To Katie Hodsdon and her helpers who organize the Epiphany Celebration. Special thanks to the volunteers that travel to Coachella to distribute 1,500 pairs of shoe to migrant children.



To all our amazing Mission Circle supporters. We hope your holidays are joyous and you enjoy every blessing in 2017.

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

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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 **Jeff Sturgis 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
Jeff Sturgis at pres@missioncircle.com.**

Mission Circle Contacts:

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