



For Immediate Release  
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## **Commemorating Our Past**

*~ Mission San Luis holds its annual Mass in remembrance of the Spanish missions of La Florida~*

TALLAHASSEE — The Friends of Mission San Luis invite the public to a commemorative Mass to be held on Sunday, December 14 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Led by Bishop John Ricard, the annual commemorative Mass at Mission San Luis honors the over 100 Spanish missions that existed in La Florida during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Throughout the day, visitors can explore Florida's past through living history, self-guided site tours and exhibits.

“The commemorative Mass at Mission San Luis is the perfect time to reflect on the important history of the Spaniards and Apalachee Indians,” said Bonnie McEwan, executive director at Mission San Luis. “Even though they were vastly different, they respected their differences and created a community based on tolerance and acceptance. What better message is there to send during the holiday season?”

Mission San Luis was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. Today the Mission brings the 17<sup>th</sup> century to life through costumed interpreters, reconstructed buildings, exhibits and archaeological demonstrations. The site is a National Historic Landmark and recipient of a Preserve America Presidential Award. Mission San Luis is located at 2021 Mission Road in Tallahassee, Florida. The site is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is free. It is managed by the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research. For more information on Mission San Luis, call 850.487.3711 or visit [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org).

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