

For Immediate Release

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### **Blessing of the Animals brings together pets of all sizes and shapes to benefit The Palm Beach Zoo**

Boynton Beach, FL – What may seem to be an impossible task of bringing dogs, cats, gerbils, birds, snakes, and even a tortoise together to share a pew at Saint Joseph’s Episcopal Church for the annual Blessing of the Animals community event actually takes place without a clash between God’s creatures. “The animals are surprisingly well mannered while in church and we manage to bless each one individually at this very special service,” explains Father Marty Zlatic, Rector at Saint Joseph’s Episcopal Church in Boynton Beach. This year, the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Blessing of the Animals service will be held **Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm with registration beginning at 3 pm**. Donations this year will benefit The Palm Beach Zoo and a local veterinarian selected by the Palm Beach Veterinary Society will be presented the Saint Francis Award for outstanding community service.

Other fun, pet-friendly, family activities will take place before and after the service including demonstrations by the Boynton Beach K-9 unit and Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Mounted Unit. The outdoor festival will highlight an educational exhibit by the Palm Beach Zoo, pet rescue organizations and local pet vendors. Snacks will be available for sale and raffle tickets for some fabulous prizes including a 37” Vizio HDTV, \$500 from Roadway Tires and weekend stay at Mount Washington Resort in NH.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Culinary Solutions, Martino Pet Funeral & Cremation, Rooney’s Restaurants, Carpet One Floor & Home, Boynton Memorial Chapel, Prime Catch Restaurant and Pet Meals on Wheels.

Saint Joseph’s Episcopal Church is located at 3300 South Seacrest Blvd. in Boynton Beach. Visit [www.stjoesweb.org](http://www.stjoesweb.org) for more information or call 561.732.3060.

#### *About the Palm Beach Zoo*

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non-profit zoological organization located in Dreher Park in West Palm Beach, housing more than 1,400 animals within 23 acres of lush, tropical habitat. Its mission is *protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to inspire others to value and conserve the natural world*. The zoo currently sponsors many conservation projects in numerous regions of the world focusing on animals that are represented in the zoo’s population.

Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, just east of I-95 between Southern and Forest Hill Boulevards. Regular zoo admission: Adults \$14.95, Seniors 60+ \$10.95, Children 3-12 \$9.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. For more information regarding the Palm Beach Zoo, please visit [www.palmbeachzoo.org](http://www.palmbeachzoo.org).

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