



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Father Joe Encourages Blood Donation as he Prepares for Surgery on Feb. 1**

**SAN DIEGO (January 18, 2017)** – The San Diego Blood Bank and Father Joe Carroll are asking the community to make blood donations in support of Father Joe. Father Joe will be having surgery on February 1 due to complications with diabetes. His doctor has indicated that they will need to have a supply of blood on hand.

“When I found out blood needed to be available for my surgery, it struck me that I wanted to make sure there was enough blood to not only meet my needs, but the needs of our entire community,” said Father Joe.

Donors are encouraged to come prior to Father Joes’ surgery on February 1, and when making a donation, donors can let SDBB staff know they are coming to donate in support of Father Joe. SDBB will track the number of donations between now and February 14, Valentine’s Day, to share with Father Joe.

“We don’t always think of regularly scheduled surgeries like my own as needing blood,” said Father Joe. “We have been facing a blood shortage due to the flu, and I want to get the word out to people to come and donate for me and for all of our neighbors.”

Visit [www.sandiegobloodbank.org](http://www.sandiegobloodbank.org) or call 1-800-4MY-SDBB (1-800-469-7322). Individuals can sign up to make a donation at San Diego Blood Bank centers located in Carmel Valley, Mount Hope (near downtown), Escondido, El Cajon, Vista, and Sabre Springs.

Sample mobile drives between now and February 1 include:

- 1/19, Saint John's Catholic Church
- 1/20, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Santee
- 1/21, St. Brigid Catholic Church
- 1/21, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church - Lakeside
- 1/21, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church - El Cajon
- 1/23, North Coast Church
- 1/24, Civic Center Plaza
- 1/25, Shepard of the Hills Lutheran Church
- 1/28, Sacred Heart Church of Ocean Beach
- 1/28, Christ The King Lutheran Church
- 1/28, Saint Pius X Church - Chula Vista
- 1/28, Newbreak Church - Pacific Beach

1/30, San Diego State University  
1/30, Salk Institute - San Diego  
1/31, University of San Diego  
1/31, MiraCosta College - Oceanside

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old (16 year olds may donate with parental consent), weigh at least 114 pounds, and be in general good health.

**About the San Diego Blood Bank**

SDBB is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and extending into research. SDBB is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves hospitals in San Diego, Orange, Imperial and Los Angeles counties with blood transfusion products and reference laboratory services. SDBB currently operates six local donor centers and 10 bloodmobiles. SDBB's Cell Therapy Program provides lifesaving stem cell transplants to patients worldwide. For more information about SDBB, visit [www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org](http://www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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