

Weekend of April 7, 2024
Divine Mercy

Barona:

Mass: Tuesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

Saturday: 5:00 PM mass

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ church

Confessions: By appointment only

Adoration: 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

Viejas:

Sunday: Sunday, 10:30 AM. @ Church

Confessions: By appointment only.

Sycuan:

Sunday: Sunday Mass 12:30 noon @ the Church

Confessions: By appointment only

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Vicaldo Family, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Wendy Reyes, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Ruben and Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Loucks, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Walter Rapczak, Robert and Margie Cruz, Mike Wise, Neil Quizon, Jim Hughes, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, George Arviso, Rose Ramos, Zita Haygood, Lilly Gautreaux, Mark Noriega, Juan Miguel, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, Romero Family, Annie McTavish, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Blanca Lechner, Paolo Espiritu, John Clark, Kevin Bethsayag, Tyre Nichols, Steve TeSam, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Mark Noriega, Carol Richardson, Nancy Rourke, Colleen Crowden, Jeff Ashii, Pamela Nolan CSC, Rosario and Paul Estepa, Haley Price, Mark Marquez, Lulu Cabinatan, Michael Martinez, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC, Alex Banegas, Fr. Dominic Asare, SVD
Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Barona: Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.
with Alyssa Parada*

Sacramental Preparation with Mark Price are ongoing each Wednesday.

Viejas: 3:00 PM

Barona: 4:30 PM

*Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM, Barona.
Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel*

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

Wednesday, April 24 – 11:30 AM, Native American Crest Meeting at Barona, lunch will be provided.

Sunday, April 28 – Children’s mass at all reservations.

ATTENTION

If you would like to advertise your business on the back of the bulletin with Mission Publications, please contact Nettie at 951-202-8835 for more information.

PASTOR’S CORNER

**Are you the Modern Day
Doubting Thomases?**

A reflection on the 2nd Sunday of Easter

An elderly pastor looks over his large congregation on Easter morning and startles them with this announcement: “My friends, realizing that I will not see many of you until next Easter, may I take this opportunity to wish all of you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!” The difference in the size of the congregation on Easter Sunday and on the other Sundays of the year is very noticeable. Many of our Christians, as far as church attendance is concerned, have indeed become Holy Week Christians: you see them in church only during the Holy Week. Like a certain man who was criticizing his pastor. “I have attended this church for three years,” he says, “and each time the homily is always on the same topic. Doesn’t he have something else to talk about?” Yes, this man has been attending the church for three years alright; but he only attends on Easter Sunday and he always hears a homily on the resurrection of Christ.

Why are many well-meaning Christians so uncommitted to attending regular, Sunday Mass? The answer can be given in one word: doubt or crisis of faith. Just like when all the disciples gathered for a Sunday worship, as believers of Christ, what do we notice, Thomas is not there. Where is Thomas? One priest from Africa said that Thomas is like one of these modern-day Christians who do not go to Church regularly on Sundays. Such people are not there in Church when Jesus comes to meet His people and to strengthen them in their faith. People today, like people of all times, do have a hunger for God. They are in search for the meaning of life. But they doubt whether the answer to these existential questions can be found within the four walls of the church. For this reason, they are more disposed to spend time in social action, in work, and in intellectual pursuit rather than in church's Sunday Mass. As a result, they remain with their doubts. Initially all the disciples had their doubts. But because of their encounter with the Risen Lord in their Sunday worship gathering, their doubt was turned into faith. Thomas missed that experienced.

One factor that contributed to doubt is fear. At present most of the lives of people are dominated by the constant feeling of fear. There is fear of wars, fear of disasters and calamities, fear of terrorism, fear of outbreak of diseases, fear of economic breakdown, fear of all sorts of social problems, fear of death, fear of political chaos, fear of the unknown and the list goes on. When Pope John Paul II was elected, he began his pontificate with these words: "Do not be afraid!" The pope had lived through World War II, the Nazis and then the communists. He knew the terrible fears which dominate people's lives, sometimes paralyze them. So, he said again, "Do not be afraid!" But above all Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid!" These are words of assurance and comfort for those who have doubts in their faith. He walks with us now and is alive.

One time, somebody asked me if what was written in the book, *The Da Vinci Code*, true or not. I happened also to read this novel and this was also made into a movie with Tom Hanks who acts as the Harvard symbologist, Robert Langdon, the main character of the novel. The novel is a great fun. I enjoyed reading it immensely. However, the problem is that some, including the author Dan Brown, have taken seriously its account of Christian origins. As I was reading the book, I found myself asking, how can people fall for this book and read it? For sure the novel is exciting and it does confirm my current prejudices. I just hope readers will not stop with Dan Brown. So much more awaits the person who wants to know the rest of the story. And my answer to the

question from somebody who asked me was in as form of question also: "Did you read the Bible?" She answered, "I did not, Father." "So, read the Bible first and then come back to me and I will tell the answer to your question." Maybe some of us had read this novel but do we read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, just like how we read the novel?

The two examples I mentioned are examples of skeptical attitude. Today's gospel gives us an example of a man who felt exactly like skeptical. His name is Thomas a.k.a. Doubting Thomas. And every Second Sunday of Easter we honor this great Catholic saint. Some called him the patron saint of skeptical inquiry. When met with an astonishing claim, he asked for evidence. He even devised a reasonable test, "Unless I see." It was not enough that the claim sounded good. Thomas was a plain, honest man. He wanted the truth. I like him because he was not afraid to ask what others might consider dumb questions. He knew the truth was out there. He did not say to his colleagues, "Well, that is your opinion. I have mine." No, he really wanted to know the truth, to touch it, to embrace it. That should be our attitude when we hear something from 'the Church' which confounds upsets or even shocks.

Thomas did not close his mind. Eight days later he was confronted with the evidence. It is reassuring that there was such a man as Thomas in the number of the apostles, neither gullible nor rigid. Some of us come with doubts and questions about our Catholic faith in Christ. You are not alone. St. Thomas had his hesitations. Jesus does not ask you to leave behind your reason and your reasoning mind. But before you can even examine the evidence, you need to free yourself of those hurts, maybe even anger, resentment which maybe clouding your mind. You need to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. Then come to Jesus and find a place in his open wounds.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Benitez

Oh, my dear Jesus, I trust in you!

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday