

Weekend of September 11, 2022 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This new Mass schedule will stay in effect until the Covid-19 crisis is over. Thanks for your patience.

Barona:

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

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

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....

Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, Donna Berardi, Billy, Penny and Daniel Vicaldo, Anthony Pico, Dolly Albano, Mike Montes, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Rosario Ravasco, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Abraham Pascual, Richard Padua, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Ruben and Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Elvira Hapin, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Louck, David Ramos, Felix Chiu, Edna De La Cruz Yusi, Marlon Amaranto, Sam Halabo, Bobby Curo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Walter Raczak, Billy Brown, Robert and Margie Cruz, Gina Curo, Rick Lechner, Mark Wise, Neil Quizon, Jim Hughes, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, Xien Cabanero, Dennis Colton, Manny Ilagan, George Arviso, Ernie and Emy Lampa and Ludy Sierra, Cita Welch, Rose Ramos
Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

(K-High School) – Classes will begin Thursday, September 8th. Please contact church office if you would like to register. All classes are a two year program.

Barona, K-8th: New classes will resume on **Thursday, September 8th**. **Barona, High School:** Thursday, 3:00 p.m. (classroom under the club house) – classes will resume on **Thursday, September 8th**.

Please contact Judy Oyos (judy.otm@gmail.com) for Adult classes or for more information

regarding classes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Thursday, September 22 – Barona clubhouse, 5:00 PM – Dinner, 6:00 PM - SD Martyr meeting with Cardinal McElroy.

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We are called to proclaim God's abundant love for all people. Become an instrument of that love. Our world needs you!

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Prayer of Blessing for Students and Teachers

Lord our God,
In your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.
In times long past you sent us your prophets to teach your laws and to bear witness to your undying love.
You sent us your son to teach us by word and example that true wisdom comes from you alone.
Send your Spirit upon these students and their teachers
And fill them with your wisdom and blessings.
Grant that during this academic year They may devote themselves to their studies
And share what they have learned from others.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *Book of Blessings*

PASTOR'S DESK

God of Love, Mercy & Forgiveness

A reflection on the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Have you ever been in a group listening to a joke being told? You know: at work, with your family, here at the parish? And, when the person gives the punch line, everyone laughs or grins; but you didn't get it. You smile awkwardly as you try to figure out why everyone is laughing out loud. Somewhere/somewhat you didn't grasp some detail that was central to the twist that made the story funny. You quickly go over it again and again in your mind to try to see what little thing you must have missed.

It's almost like an ice cream company years ago whose slogan was "it's the subtle little difference that makes all the difference." They claimed that there was some secret in their ice cream formula that, no matter how apparently similar it was to other ice creams, there was the slightest difference that made ALL the difference in the flavor of their ice cream.

And that is precisely what Jesus' parables are. They are about details, and they are intended to inspire an 'aha' moment in a hearer. Each has a punch line, a very subtle twist, which requires attention to details, or you won't 'get' Jesus' teaching or challenge.

So, it is in this 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We have heard these parables of forgiveness so many times that we may have missed Jesus' real point. In fact, is it even proper to call them parables of 'forgiveness'? Let's take a look at the opening verses: "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So, to them he addressed this parable."

The "them" to whom Jesus addresses the parables are the complainers, the leaders and people who don't want sinners to have a place in Jesus' life and ministry. The parable is NOT a word to sinners about God's mercy; it is a parable of challenge and judgment to anyone who lacks mercy. The images of a shepherd seeking his one lost sheep, the woman searching for her one lost coin, the father welcoming back the promiscuous son are all meant to challenge these religious leaders out of their righteousness, their

unwillingness to accept a God whose mercy and hospitality extends to all peoples in all times.

From the earliest experience of Israel in the desert in our first reading, through the amazing mercy that Paul acknowledges in the second reading, God has always been first and foremost a God of mercy, a God of patience, a God who seeks out the lost. How then, Jesus demands of the leaders of his time, do you dare to create a God of your rules, your narrowness, your elitism, and ignore the true God of all Jewish and Christian history?

For us, then, today becomes a Sunday of self-reflection. If you or I have been or am now in sin, God's mercy is seeking me, searching for my deepest soul, with a love that is wild beyond imagining, ready to receive and welcome no less than Jesus welcomed sinners in his time. If, however, you or I are leading lights of the Church, of the parish, of the diocese, the examination must be about our hospitality or lack thereof to those 'outside' our system. No matter how wise and true and accurate our teaching, our moral laws, our Church norms, we must be people of mercy and welcome as we offer them.

A final corollary that I take on myself personally as your priest. When the older son came in from the field, complaining that his father was lavishing so much on his younger brother and he, the faithful one, had never received anything, the father replied, "Son, you are with me all the time and everything I have is yours." But, somehow, he had never said it. Why should it take so long for a father to say thanks, to affirm with gratitude the many wonderful things that a son or daughter has done?

Perhaps, it has taken me too long, too. To all of you, let me say 'thanks.' Thanks for your fidelity to the Church, to your parish, to your parishioners, to me. Thanks for the vitality that your prayer and your goodness and your generosity offer to me and to us all. Now, how does that feel? Does it make you want to go home and thank your children for the great blessings they are to you? Do it today; don't make them wait.

Happy Feast Day to our brothers and sisters in Viejas!

