

Weekend of December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

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 Raczak, 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, Bert Zita, 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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel

December

Saturday, Dec. 23: Anticipated Masses for 4th

Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM – Sycuan

7:00 PM – Viejas

Sunday, Dec. 24: Sunday Mass

8:00 AM – Barona

Sunday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 PM - Sycuan

7:00 PM – Viejas

10:00 PM – Barona

Monday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Mass

8:00 AM Mass

Sunday, Dec 31: Holy Family Mass

8:00 AM - Barona

10:30 AM – Viejas

12:30 – Sycuan

Sunday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Mass

5:00 PM – Barona

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 – New Year's Day Mass

8:00 AM – Barona



What are the four things of ADVENT?

Here's the significance of the four themes of Advent:

- **Hope:** The first week of Advent often focuses on hope. It represents the anticipation and expectation of the arrival of the Messiah, embodying the hope for salvation and the fulfillment of God's promises.
- **Peace:** The second week of Advent commonly centers around peace. People reflect on the peace brought by the coming

of Jesus Christ, both in terms of inner spiritual peace and the hope for a peaceful world.

- **Joy and Love:** The third and fourth weeks of Advent often emphasize joy and love. Joy represents the rejoicing in the arrival of Jesus, and love symbolizes the divine love demonstrated through the incarnation of God in human form.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Rejoice! Be Joyful!

A reflection on the Third Sunday of Advent

In a class on homiletics, the professor emphasized the importance of making the facial expression harmonize with the homily. "When you speak of Heaven," he said, "let your face light up with a heavenly gleam; let your eyes shine with glory. But when you speak of Hell — your ordinary face will do."

Gaudete, which means "rejoice," "be joyful," is the message of this 3rd Sunday of Advent. That's why rose pink is the liturgical color of today. At Mass, the pink colored is lighted and so is my chasuble or my priestly vestments.

With the birth of Christ the Messiah, the Sunday tells us to be "joyful in hope" because the Messiah has already redeemed us and now we should do our part in saving ourselves.

During the time of John the Baptist, people did not know "who" or "where" the Messiah was. People kept looking for Him to come in the guise of some kind of Elijah or their imagining.

The people asked John: "Are you the Messiah?" "No, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight His path" (John 1:23). The people then kept missing who the Messiah was when in fact He was right in their midst, prompting the Baptist to exclaim, "There is one among you whom you do not know" (Jn 1:26).

One of my SVD confreres shared with me that in one of his pilgrimages to the Holy Land, his group visited the tomb of King David highly revered by the Jews. In the course of the tour, he

asked the lady tour guide, "What about Jesus Christ? How do you regard Him?" The lady looked sharply at him, her face stiffening, and blurted, "Jesus Christ was an impostor, an ordinary person; he doesn't mean anything to us." He was taken aback and much embarrassed before the group. So, he hurriedly left the shrine — afraid another one would be buried in the tomb!

How about our modern times? Would we miss the Lord and, worse, reject Him like His countrymen did? Some say, "If we lived in Christ's time, we would have loved and followed Him." Is that really true?

Then why is it in our celebration of Christmas, for instance, we are so much engrossed with Christmas shopping, gift-giving, eating, and drinking that we forget the reason why we're doing all this?

There is a story about an elderly lady passing in front of a big mall. Seeing the beautiful crib of a Nativity Set amidst the lights and Christmas trees outside, she said: "Good Lord, they are putting back Christ to Christmas!"

Or, why don't we recognize Him in our fellowmen especially among the poor, for whom Jesus said: "Whatever you did to the least of My brethren, you did to Me"? If we are keenly aware of God's presence in them, would we abuse, torture, or murder them?

Advent and Christmas are opportunities for us to renew our faith in Jesus. Despite our problems and seemingly hopeless condition in this pandemic crisis, Jesus is our hope and our joy. Don't take your problems TOO seriously. Jesus came to save us.

Fr. Bel San Luis, SVD

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!

Happy Gaudete Sunday!