

Weekend of November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

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

Saturday: 5:00 PM mass

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

Confessions: By appointment only

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

Viejias:

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, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Ruben and Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Elvira Hapin, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Louck, 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, Dennis Colton, Manny Ilagan, George Arviso, Ernie and Emy Lampa, Rose Ramos, Zita Haygood, Nicanor and Evacueto Elman, Lilly Gautreaux, Mark Noriega, Juan Miguel, Bert Zita, AJ & Angela Samot

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Barona, K-8th:

Classes have changed to **Wednesdays:**

3:30 pm – 1st year students/ First Communion

4:30 pm – 2nd year students/ First Communion

Sycuan: 2nd year youth class is at 10:30 am.

New students please contact Judy Oyos to arrange a time for class.

ADULT CLASS INFORMATION

Please see schedule below

Advent Season

Nov 24 – No Class, enjoy Thanksgiving!

Dec 1 – class

Dec 4 – Advent Retreat

Dec 5 – Advent Retreat

Dec 6 – Advent Retreat

Dec 8 – No class

Dec 11 – (Sunday) Rite of Welcoming in Sycuan for all Students

Dec 15 – Class

Dec 22 – No class – Christmas Week

Dec 25 – Christmas

Dec 29 – Class

Jan 5 - Class

Please contact Judy Oyos (judy.otm@gmail.com) or Fr. Herman Manuel (herman_manuel@hotmail.com) for Adult class information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM, Barona.

Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel

Wednesday, Nov 30 – 11:00 AM, Planning Meeting – Christmas church decorating with the Barona class and anyone who would like to help is invited. Meet at Barona church.

Sunday, Dec. 4 – Tuesday, Dec. 6 – 6:30 PM, Advent Retreat, “The Power of Incarnation” by Fr. Soney Sebastian, SVD

Tuesday, Dec. 6 – Reconciliation service

Saturday, Dec. 10 – Anticipated mass, 5 p.m. at Barona

Sunday, Dec. 11 – Sycuan Feast Day, All reservations invited, followed by reception. Mass at 12 p.m. – Sycuan

Advent Prayer

Lord God,

you promised your Son, Emmanuel, to humankind,
so that you could be with us.

Help us to await his coming with constancy,
and may your Church announce to the world

that you are God-with-us,
forever and ever. Amen.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Getting Ready for Christ

A reflection on the First Sunday of Advent

In our lives we encounter different types of preparation because we are waiting for someone to come or something to happen into our lives. We spend a lot of money and energy for these preparations. For example, preparing a party, a preparation for our own career or for our own wedding and for the birth of a baby. Another one is preparation for moving into another house or for building a new home or for retirement and many more. We are so very excited about these to come or to happen. But how many of us are preparing for our own death so that we can enter in the Kingdom of God. Actually, this is not the core of our reflection today. This is just to make sure that we are on the right tract.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent as you know, means “coming.” In our gospel today, it speaks about watchfulness and preparation on our part.

There was a story of a certain person by the name of Nilo. He dreamed always that God is talking to him. One night, in his dream, God spoke to him, saying: “Nilo, I want to meet you in personal.”

Nilo was so excited, and he asked God: “When will be that time, my Lord?” God answered: “Tomorrow at six o’clock in the evening.” So Nilo was preparing everything – food, his house, he bought a new dress and others. At six o’clock in the evening, everything was prepared, and he was waiting for God, but God did not show up at that time. At seven o’clock God did not show up again. At eight o’clock in the evening, a beggar was knocking at his door asking for something to eat but he did not give anything. He told the beggar that he was waiting for a very important person (VIP) and told that he could not entertain him. “Get out of my way!” Nilo shouted at the beggar. So the beggar went away sad and hungry.

At nine o’clock in the evening, a man knocking at his door again asking for help because his son got sick. But Nilo said: “I don’t have money, I spent it already because I’m waiting for a very important person, my God.” So the man went home bringing nothing.

At ten o’clock in the evening there was no God coming until he got sleep. God talked to him in his dream. Nilo was angry and he said to God: “My Lord, why did you not show up, I’m waiting for you. I have prepared everything for you. I did not see even you shadow.”

God answered: I did. I fulfilled my promise. Do you remember the beggar knocking at your door? It was me. Did you remember the man asking you for help? It was me again, but you sent me away. You do not recognize me. You don’t like me.”

So, what are we waiting for? What are we preparing for? What are we looking for? Are we looking for a miracle? If

we are waiting for Christ to be born, Christ was already born two thousand years ago. He is our Savior and our brother too. If we are waiting for the Holy Spirit to dwell among us, He is already in us but we do not recognize His presence and role in our lives. If we are waiting for the Church to be born, the Church is already in our midst. If we are waiting for the faith, God gives everything to us. What are we waiting for? Every Sunday, we attend Mass, we pray and have our novena. We receive the body of Christ and Christ becomes a part of us. But after the Mass, we return to our old habits. What God is looking from us is a changed way of life, a new direction and a renewed life. A life by which we can see the face of Christ in other people especially the lowly. As Christ said: “What you do to the least of brothers you do unto me.” This changed way of life should not only be now, but it should be NOW AND FOREVER.

I want to end this reflection with a story. It is about a Master asking a question to his disciples. He said: “How can we determine that another day will come?” His disciples answered: “Because tonight is evening, so tomorrow is the sign that another day will come.

“No, when the sun begins to rise, that is the sign that another day will come,” answered the other disciples. The Master answered: You did not get the right answer my dear disciples. As long as you remain in darkness, there will be not another day in your life.”

This is true. As long as we do not see the face of Christ in other people, we will remain in darkness. As long as you do not show to other people the face of Christ through you, there will be no tomorrow and there will be no other day to come in our lives.

I ask you reflect on this. Let us also pray to God that He may give us His grace of waiting so that we may become more vigilant and still awake when He will come again.

Fr. Joseph Benitez