

# Weekend of March 27, 2022

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel



**April 14 – Holy Thursday, 6:30 PM, Barona – All reservations invited**

**April 15 – Good Friday Service, 3:00 PM, Barona – One service for all reservations.**

**April 16 – Holy Saturday – Barona  
10:00 AM – rehearsal  
8:00 PM – Easter Vigil Mass, Barona**

**April 17 – Easter Sunday – regular mass schedule**

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**Annual Lenten Collection, March 26-27, 2022** - Each year all parishes are asked to participate in the Annual Lenten Collection. The weekend of March 26-27 has been designated for the 2022 Annual Lenten Collection, which supports the works of Catholic Relief Services, the Church in Africa and the Church in Latin America. We graciously ask you to respond generously to this worthwhile collection. Envelopes will be located in the back the church. Thank you.

### **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’ Jesus said to him ‘You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘I do believe, Lord,’ and he worshiped him.” (Jn 9:35-37)

**Make an act of faith in Jesus Christ, the cornerstone, and consider praying the Nicene or Apostles’ Creed.**

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).

#### **Viejias:**

**Sunday:** Sunday, 10:30 AM. @ Church

**Confessions:** By appointment only.

#### **Sycuan:**

**Sunday:** Sunday Mass 12:00 noon @ the Church

**Confessions:** By appointment only



Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, Donna Berardi, Billy, Penny and Daniel Vicaldo, Kash Osuna-Sutton, Anthony Pico, Dolly Albano, Mike Montes, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Agnes Ruiz, Rosario Ravasco, Minerva Mayor, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Abraham Pascual, Richard Padua, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Joyce Martinez, Elvira Hapin, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Louck, David Ramos, Felix Chiu, Edna De La Cruz Yusi, Marlon Amaranto, Sam Halabo, Anita Uqualla, Bobby Curo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Walter Raczak, Billy Brown, Margie Cruz, Gina Curo, Sam Halabo, Alex Lechner, Rick Lechner, Paul Sanchez, Joseph Kardian, Emilita Noriega, David Ramos, Feliz Chiu, Edna de la Cruz Yusi, Marlon Amaranto, Tiffany Erwin, Marcie Cu  
*Please check prayer list and add names as desired.*

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES (K-High School)**

Barona: Class meets on Thursday, 3:00 p.m.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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



## **The Parable of the Prodigal Father** A reflection on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Gospel Year C

**During the days of the Civil War in America, a guard was caught sleeping on duty. For that, he was sentenced to death. When Pres. Abraham, Lincoln heard about it, he himself talked with the guard and ordered the penalty be commuted. His generals complained, but the president's decision remained. Because of the compassionate gesture, the soldier did his best from then on, and proved to be an exceptionally diligent, conscientious soldier.**

That true story might well illustrate the overbending compassion of the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15: 11-32) in this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. Bible scholars say that the Parable of the "Prodigal Son" is a misnomer. It should be called the Parable of the "prodigal" Father because the whole story depicts the incredible love of the father for his errant son. This love begins when the father reluctantly yielded to the wish of his son who insisted to be free by getting his inheritance and breaking away from home. Although the father knew the danger that lay ahead, he let him go. This gives us an insight into God's love: for love to be true it must be freely given; it cannot be forced. After the profligate son had spent all his patrimony in "loose living," he was despondent, broken, abandoned by his good-time friends.

How true it is in life. As long as the money holds out, we're surrounded by "friends." But when the "wells run dry," we're left on our own. (US Election time: Political candidates should take note of this. Losing candidates after the election will know who their loyal friends really are—and are not!).

In order to keep body and soul together, the impoverished lad had to work in a piggery feeding swine. This has an interesting symbolism. For the Jews who are forbidden to eat pork, to have a job of feeding swine and eating the "husks the pigs ate,"

means you have reached the lowest level of your social status. "Then he (the young man) came to his senses," the story continues. For the first time he realized what a big mistake he had made. He says to himself, "I will arise and go to my father." So he returned home.

What did the father do when he saw him coming? Did he reprimand him saying, "After making a fool of yourself, you return? That should teach you a lesson, you worthless louse"! Nothing of that sort took place. Instead, the father ran and threw his arms around him and kissed him (despite the stinking smell!). When the boy began the speech which he had rehearsed, the father must have covered the boy's mouth with his hand so the words would not come out. "Bring quickly the best robe and put on him; and put a ring on his finger," the father ordered to symbolize the son's reinstatement to his former filial position.

The loving father in the story represents God and the wayward son is every sinner – us. Christ is saying that after even the most stupid of mistakes or the most degrading of sins, God is always waiting for us and, with open arms, will take us back.

Condoning sin? Some of you may object to the Father's lavish treatment of the errant son as condoning his wrongdoing. Jesus' parable conveys that, just as a particular child who's sick needs extra special care and love, so a son who goes astray or is morally dead needs special care and attention. Thus the father's justification: "We have reason to celebrate because your brother was dead but has returned to life."

As we enter deeper into the season of Lent, let us avail of the opportunity to return to our "prodigal" Father. All that's needed are acceptance of our sins and confess them in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And the effect of forgiveness is a deep sense of joy, relief and peace of soul.

Fr. Bel San Luis, SVD  
Philippines

What a joyful end of the story. This is the reason why we are celebrating JOY in the middle of Lent and the color of the day is rose-pink. So I greet you

**Happy Laetare Sunday**

