

Weekend of December 3, 2023
First 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. 9 – Anticipated Mass
5:00 PM – Barona

Sunday, Dec. 10 – Sycuan Feast Day, 10:30 AM. *One mass for all reservations.*

ADVENT RETREAT – 12/10-12/12/23

Dec. 10 – 5:00 PM with anniversary dinner for Mark Price served, followed by retreat with Mark Price as Saint Joseph.

Dec. 11 – 6:30 PM retreat

Dec. 12 – 6:30 PM retreat and Reconciliation service after retreat

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 - Barona

PASTOR'S CORNER

STAYING AWAKE

A reflection on the First Sunday of Advent

This Sunday, we start with another liturgical year. This time it is Liturgical Year B. As always, it starts with the Advent Season. What is it about Advent that makes this time special? Preparation for Christmas is one thing, but that's not all. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians. Advent shows us the possibilities of **life**.

Life is a continuous journey through time. A journey in cycles, like waves of the ocean, tides high and low and high again, on and on. In life there are times of high intensity, and times of consolidation where experiences sink in before the next high. One could never survive on highs or lows alone. These cycles are seen in all aspects of life. Religious experiences and development, deepening of faith is no different. There are intense times, revelations, conversion, renewal, when our eyes are opened and our senses stirred – and then times of consolidation.

Church liturgy clearly shows such a journey in faith, with a full cycle covering three years and then it is repeated. Each liturgical year takes a look at seasons and scripture from different viewpoints while still following a cycle of high intensity and consolidation of experiences.

Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent year cycle B. It gives us a new start; we look back on the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem as a high point and we look to the future when Christ will come again – the ultimate high! In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life, and hope for the future given to us by Christ. Advent is the connection between memory and hope which is so necessary in our lives.

We remember “Christ-become-human”. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history, showing us what life can and should be – and we hope for the future he promises, the perfect and complete community, humanity enfolded in God's love.

Pope Benedict in his reflection on Advent [Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, “Seek That Which Is Above, 1986 Memory Awakens Hope”] wrote: “Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. **The purpose of the Church's year is continually to**

rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope.... It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us, memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.”

The concept of **continually rehearsing** the great history of memories is a very valuable one. So often one hears “I know the stories” “Heard them all before”, and even “There is plenty of time for that later”. But one only really learns to appreciate things by continually rehearsing them. By rehearsal, one actually delves deeper, gains deeper insight. By rehearsing the great history, one discovers the pearl. I mentioned earlier, “Life is a continuous journey through time – A journey in cycles, like waves of the ocean”.

Journey to a place for the first time and you might be lucky and you might see some attraction. Journey there again and you find things you never saw before. Repeat the journey over and over and you get to know the place, the people, the inner beauty. What a pity some only visit “God who became a child” in high season and never give themselves a chance to find God their creator, father and friend.

It is only as we experience **the full cycle**, beginning with unbridled joy in Advent – joy that slowly fades into the realization of what we have done and to the Christ, that the awful reality of Good Friday can have its full impact. And in **that** realization, we can finally be ready to hear the Good News on Resurrection Sunday! That is the journey that the disciples took. And so, there is value in taking the same journey – beginning with the anticipation and joy of Advent! It is for us a journey of life.

Why not accept the challenge today, not only to wake up to the joy of Advent – but to stay awake and continuously rehearse the experiences, over and over, and allow yourselves to be molded by the potter, and glazed into a wonder of creation.

Happy New Church Year

