

# Weekend of December 12, 2021

## Third 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

**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 12:00 noon @ the Church

**Confessions:** By appointment only

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

### Friday, December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve

#### Masses

4:00 PM Sycuan

7:00 PM Viejas

10:00 PM Barona

### Christmas Day, Saturday 25, 2021– Christmas Day

#### Mass

8:00 AM Barona

Sunday, December 26 – All Reservations, mass usual times

### New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31, 2021 –

5:00 pm mass, Barona

January 9, 2022 – Fr. Henry Sands, SVD will be here for Sunday masses at each reservation.

### *Retirement Fund for Religious Offering – Dec. 12 & 19*

*Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous. Envelopes will be in pews and in the back of the church.*



Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, A. J. Samot, Angelo Samot, Donna Berardi, Daniel Vicaldo, Kash Osuna-Sutton, Anthony Pico, Dolly Albano, Mike Montes, Bobbie Turner, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Agnes Ruiz, Deacon Bill Clarke, Rosario Ravasco, Minerva Mayor, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Alicia Castro, Barbara Reeves, Nancy Rourke, Bobby Curo, Abraham Pascual, Richard Padua, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Joyce Martinez, Elvira Hapin, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Loucks, Cameron Welch, Christine Therese Macaraeg, Beverly Means

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

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

Class held on Thursday at 3:00 p.m.

No class – Thursday, 12/23 & 12/30 due  
To Christmas break

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT  
LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK  
HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.



### UPCOMING EVENTS



## **True JOY: JESUS before OTHERS and YOU**

### **A reflection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

We are at the mid-point of the Advent season when we have been anxiously awaiting the coming of our Savior, not only as an anniversary of his birth but also when he comes again. I hope we have all spent the past two weeks in preparation for His coming, because there isn't much time left until we celebrate the great feast of the birth of our Savior. And for some there is a relatively short period of time before they will come face to face with our Savior.

This Sunday we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath. There was a time in the world when the color of something would tell you what was going on. For instance, the color of the other Advent candles is violet, that was the color for royalty, and most people refer to it as 'royal purple'. Red referred to 'victory', so when armies of old were victorious in battle, they would return home triumphantly wearing red.

Pink was a 'joyous' color. Even today we dress little girls in pink because they bring such joy into our lives. We use this joyous color of pink today on our advent wreath to show our joy that this season of waiting for our Lord is half over, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, when we will celebrate the great feast of the birth of our Savior.

Since pink is the color of joy, I am going to share with you a way to bring true joy into your life. All you have to remember is how to spell J O Y, what each letter stands for, and the order of the letters. 'J' stands for 'Jesus', and just as 'J' is the first letter of JOY, so Jesus should always be 'first' in our lives. 'O' stands for 'others', and just as 'O' is the second letter of JOY, we should always think of others 'second' in our lives. The 'Y' stands for 'you', and just as 'Y' is the last letter of JOY, we should always think of ourselves 'last'. Therefore, to bring true JOY into your life, always think of Jesus first, others second and yourself last.

John the Baptist in today's gospel was a good example of this. Last week we heard how John the Baptist was trying to teach others how they should repent for their sins as he was baptizing many at the Jordan River. Although he was being harassed by the Pharisees and Sadducees, he didn't think of himself first, but put the others spiritual well-being before his own comfort. He was also preaching to them to 'Prepare the way of the Lord'. Notice how he wasn't preaching about himself, but how important 'the one who is coming after me' would be: how he wasn't

even worthy to carry His sandals. John always put Jesus first.

In today's gospel, Jesus has the chance to tell us just how important John the Baptist is and how important we are to Him. He mentions that there is 'none greater than John the Baptist'. Yet he also tells us that the 'least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than him'. Jesus is telling us just how great the privilege to be in the kingdom of heaven is. And therefore, how lucky we are that Jesus came to save us so that we get to share in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus mentions that John doesn't wear 'fine clothing' or live in 'royal palaces', yet he is considered by Jesus to be more than a prophet.

You see God doesn't measure the worth of someone to enter the kingdom of heaven by how well he or she is dressed or how fancy the house is where they live. God is only concerned with HOW we live our life as we patiently await the kingdom of heaven. John the Baptist is an excellent example of someone who lived a rather simple life here on earth, always striving to look out for the needs of others before himself. Yet how highly Jesus praises him.

Let us spend the remainder of this Advent season preparing 'our way' before the Lord comes this Christmas. Remembering always to keep Jesus first in our lives, others second, and ourselves last. Therefore, like John the Baptist, we can be a messenger sent by God to prepare others for the coming of the Lord.

