

# Weekend of December 18, 2022

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

#### **Saturday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Masses**

5:00 PM – Sycuan

7:00 PM – Barona

10:00 PM – Viejas

#### **Sunday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass, 8:00**

AM at Barona – one mass only.

#### **New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31 – 5:00 PM at**

Barona

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. @ 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....**

Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, Donna Berardi, Vicaldo Family, 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> year students/ First Communion**

**4:30 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> year students/ First Communion**

**Sycuan: 2<sup>nd</sup> year youth class is at 10:30 am.**

##### **ADULT CLASS –**

Please contact Judy Oyos ([judy.otm@gmail.com](mailto:judy.otm@gmail.com)) or Fr. Herman Manuel ([herman\\_manuel@hotmail.com](mailto:herman_manuel@hotmail.com)) for Adult class information.



#### **Blessing of a Christmas Tree**

Lord God,

Let your blessing come upon us

As we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives

be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree  
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

–Book of Blessings



#### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who has helped with our Masses, altar servers, our lectors, monthly church cleaners, those who have donated flowers and donuts and everyone who gives faithfully to our parish. God bless you!

#### **PASTOR'S CORNER**

# The Uprightness of St. Joseph

## A reflection on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Last Sunday, on the Third Sunday of Advent together with our celebration of the Feast Day of Sycuan on the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception, we focused on the Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist as the “greatest” in God’s eyes. We learned that being the “greatest” in worldly standards is fooling ourselves into believing that we “have it all.” But if we don’t have a deep faith in and relationship with our God, if we haven’t placed our Lord at the center of everything we do and are, if we refuse to start embracing and living in the kingdom—a kingdom marked by love, generosity, mercy, and kindness—we actually have very little. The people who buy into what Jesus is selling—with their whole hearts and minds—have the best choice, the only choice worth making.

Joy continues on this Fourth Sunday of Advent as we focus on St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus. St. Joseph is often depicted in statues as an old bearded man with brown colored garments carrying either a cane or carrying the infant Jesus. He is the patron saint of fathers, families and the Church.

Joseph was indeed a man of few words. The gospel tells us further that he was a “*vir justus*,” an upright man (Mt 1:19). This is shown when he was confronted with the mystery of the pregnancy of Mary. Before they lived together, the Scripture says, Mary was found to have a child. Reminds me of a Japanese soldier who complained to his doctor, “Me no come, she no come. But baby come. How come?”

Being an upright man, Joseph decided to divorce her quietly. But when the Lord revealed to him in a dream that the child Mary had been carrying was from the Holy Spirit and not from man, he decided to take her to his home. The conduct of Joseph shows what true uprightiness is. The just man is not a man who seeks *only* what justice demands or demands his own personal rights, but one who knows how to temper justice with mercy.

Joseph could have had Mary charged. He could have had her condemned to die by stoning, a punishment for unfaithful women during his time. But he chose a

course of action that would spare her life and dignity in the given situation.

There was once a couple who waited for many years to have a child and were finally rewarded with a child out of their own prayers and long novenas. Unfortunately, when the child was five years old, he was hit by a speeding vehicle and died. The experience was heartbreaking and the mother had all the reason to get angry. But after an agonizing thought, she forgave the driver. She said later, “Nobody wanted this to happen. It was all an accident.”

Who of us can have such a spirit of nobility similar to that of St. Joseph?

In the gospel of this 4th Sunday of Advent, there’s another message worth pondering on. Matthew writes about Isaiah’s prophecy as fulfilled in the birth of Mary’s son Jesus whose name is “Emmanuel” – God with us. Jesus enters human history as a human person just like you and me.

Do we really believe that “God is with us?” God is with us in moments of sorrow as well as joy; in situations of poverty as well as in prosperity; in times of struggle as well as in peace.

Christmas should remind us and reaffirm our faith that God is still with us and will be with us to the end of time. Before his ascension to heaven, Jesus said: “Behold I am with you always till the end of time” (Mt 28:20).

