

*Weekend of Dec. 21 & 22, 2019*  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Mass Schedule

**Barona:**

**Mass:** Tuesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM.

**Weekends:** Saturday, 5:00 PM, Sunday 8:00 AM.

**Confessions:** Saturday, 3:30 – 4:30 PM

**Adoration:** 1st Thurs. of the month (6:00 PM) and 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

**Viejas:**

**Weekends:** Sunday, 10:00 AM.

**Confessions:** By appointment.

**Sycuan:**

**Weekends:** Sunday, Noon.

**Confessions:** By appointment



Gilbert Rodriguez, Carol Lane, Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, A. J. Samot, Angelo Samot, Donna Berardi, Secora Nelson, Daniel Vicaldo, Kash Osuna-Sutton, Anthony and Diana Pico, Dolly Albano, Ray Mayor, Mike Montes, Bobbie Turner, Helen Cadiente, Berniece Marrujo, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Agnes Ruiz, Deacon Bill Clarke, Rosario Ravasco, Minerva Mayor, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Alicia Castro, Debbie Gonzalez, Barbara Reeves, Nancy Rourke, Anthony Harut Haurutuynian, Gina Lloyd, Bobby Curo, Abraham Pascual

*Please check prayer list and add names as desired.*

**Mass Intentions – December 22, 2019**

Weekend masses:

Sunday, 8:00 Barona – Darrell and Roni Romero  
Doreen Romero-Ford

Sunday, 10:00 Viejas – Community of Viejas

Sunday, 12:00 Sycuan – Community of Sycuan

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

**There will be no classes during Christmas break!!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Masses**

**4:00 PM** – Sycuan

**6:00 PM** – Viejas

**10:00 PM** – Barona

**Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day Mass, Barona,**

**8:00 AM mass**

**Tuesday, December 31, - New Year's Eve mass, Barona, 5:00**

**PM mass**

**2020**

**Wednesday, January 1 – New year's Day Mass, Barona,**

**9:00 AM mass**

**Sunday, January 12 – Children's Mass, All reservations**

*Christmas Tree Blessing*



Blessed are you, Lord our God,

Before whom all the trees of the forest sing for joy, for you have come to rule the earth and all its peoples in your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the prince of Peace. By his death on the cross and his rising in glory, the tree of our defeat has become our tree of victory, and the pure light of Christ forever gladdens our waiting world.

We ask you to send your blessing upon this tree which we have decorated in honor of your Son's birth. Let it help us to celebrate this holy season as living branches of him, and bear the fruit of good works for your glory, this day and every day, both now and forever. Amen.

## *What if. . . . .*

### **A reflection on the 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas**

What a hectic schedule for all of us this past week. Wow, I can't believe that it has gone by so fast. Through God's help, were able to accomplish three major things in our parish. For three days, December 1-3, we had a special guest, St. Jeanne Harris, OP who has inspired us of her beautiful insight of only in deepening our relationship with God that we obtain peace within our hearts, a peace with true faith and trust in God that suggests God is the One who calls the shots. It is not our will but God's Will.

Then, we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Viejas Mission Church, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 7. Congratulations to all our brothers and sisters for the success of its success. May the Church continue to grow and be strong for the next 100 years.

Lastly, we also celebrated the feast day of our brothers and sisters in Sycuan the following day, December 8, the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Congratulations to all of you. May the Blessed Mother continue to give you her powerful love and maternal protection that the Church will remain strong.

In a week's time, we will be celebrating the birthday of Jesus. While I was pondering to all the wonderful things that happened this past week, it has brought to my attention, that Christmas is so close and that I only had a few days to work on my Christmas cards. Suddenly, it came to me, what if. . . . . there was no Christmas.

What if, something did not go right on the first Christmas? The Gospel this weekend (Matthew 1:18-24) mentions the two key players in the unfolding of God's plan in the Incarnation. But if Mary and Joseph did not cooperate with God's plan? What if for example, Mary refused to become the Mother of God? She could have turned down God's offer.

And what if Joseph, being a righteous man refused to be a part of the shameful situation? After all, it was a cause of teenage pregnancy and the father was unknown! Of course what if in the process, the two decided to abort the Baby so as to avoid all the hassles and inconveniences of raising a child, and just went on with their normal lives as if nothing happened?

Anything could have happened. In fact, Joseph thought of divorcing Mary quietly on God's eternal plan rested on the eyes of two fragile mortals. The whole company of heaven must have stopped and prayed as the two pondered on their decision. It was a cause of sudden death. It could have gone either way that of becoming the "weakest link" or "Are you in this game?" For Mary and Joseph, they were both in it.

With their yes, the heavens rejoiced. With their yes, a newborn Child's cry was eventually heard in Bethlehem on that first Christmas night. This yes persisted in spite of doubts and questions as the child grew up, as he went public proclaiming the good news, as he performed miracles, as he was condemned, and as He let a painful cry of a dying man on the cross at Calvary.

This Christmas, let us remember and be grateful to Joseph and Mary. Without them, there could have been no Christmas. Without them, we would not have a Savior.

The obedience and cooperation of Joseph and Mary should be a reminder for all of us that we, no matter how small and unworthy, have a role to play in God's plan of Redemption. God has chosen insignificant mortals like us to be His partners. Christmas is a timely reminder for all of us to do our part, no matter how small, no matter how hidden, in "helping" God. At Christmas, the

Lord reminds you and me again, "Without Me you can do nothing, but with you, I also can do something.

Did you have a "Christmas moment" already? The days before Christmas are very busy for all of us, and it could happen that the "rush" could deprive us of the real meaning of Christmas. But God has a way of reminding us of His presence, if only we have time to reflect and listen.

The first Christmas was simple, quiet and austere, but it was full of joy, hope, and love and was focused on Christ. It was Mary's Christmas. Here's wishing you all

*Merry Christmas!*

*Mary Christmas!*