

Weekend of December 25, 2022 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Please contact Judy Oyos (judy.otm@gmail.com) or Fr. Herman Manuel (herman_manuel@hotmail.com) for Adult class information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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 Loucks, Sam Halabo, Bobby Curo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Walter Raczak, 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 – 1st year students/ First Communion

4:30 pm – 2nd year students/ First Communion

Sycuan: 2nd year youth class is at **10:30 am.**

ADULT CLASS –

JOY
to the
world
THE
LORD
is
come

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

Peace on Earth

Jesus comes back as a baby to tell us
that God is not far away.

The angels are still singing:
Peace on earth to people he loves.

Let us ask your defenseless
omnipotence to bend down and to snuff
out the arrogance of violence, to remove
hatred from all hearts and to put love
there, to make it so that soon no nation
in the world will remember what war is.

-Chiara Lubich, Christmas Joy

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Joy of the Season A reflection on Christmas Day

Today, the world celebrates once again the birthday of Jesus Christ our Lord. Joy, excitement and surprises dominate the atmosphere of the days—no, of the season. And here in America, the season is considered to start with the appearance of the holiday sale ads in the papers and catalogues, and decorations spring up wherever you go—on the streets, in our homes, in the stores and in the malls. However, the most important thing is, the spirit of Christmas is filled with so much love that each one is filled with the spirit of generosity. This means that certain things are being set aside; estrangement dissolves into reconciliation; the world seems much gentler; and in return, we either give or receive gifts. To most of us, we prefer the latter.

When I was young, I have always been happy during Christmastime because as the youngest in our family, not only did I receive many gifts from my parents, my brothers and sisters and my relatives but it was also a time that my whole family was present. As a devout Catholic family, we followed a Filipino tradition of attending a 4:00 a.m. mass for nine consecutive days prior to Christmas known as the Simbang Gabi. It starts from December 16th and ends in Christmas Eve with a midnight mass known as Misa de Aguinaldo. The midnight mass was followed by eating a meal known as Noche Buena and of course the much awaited giving away of gifts by our parents. As I mentioned earlier, being the youngest was always an advantage because of the many gifts that I received. I felt that I was so much loved by all people around me.

But as I grew older, I soon realized that the meaning of Christmas was changing. The joy of Christmas is more of being present to our family rather than receiving their gifts. It is more of accepting my own humanity and thanking God for it which can be shown in various ways like for example expressing my joy and happiness to others, loving my enemies and most of all, forgiving people who have done something wrong against me. So let us show our love

to one another whether it be your friend or your enemy. This Christmas, “let bygones be bygones.”

But, does Christmas have to be celebrated on December 25 only? Do we only find joy and happiness on Christmas day? To answer this let us go back to St. John’s concept in his gospel for today:

Christmas is joy because John says, the Father in his infinite love for us, gave himself to us through his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, conceived of the Holy Spirit, made man so he can be with us.

Christmas is joy because John says, in accepting Jesus who is eternal, we are promised life, which is also eternal. What could be a better joy than his gift of love that is eternal-endless and boundless?

Christmas is joy because John says; Jesus gives us light from our own darkness. Yes, Jesus the WORD—the source of life, and this life brought life to humankind; and this light is eternal.

Should we loved and be loved in one day of the year then? Should Christmas be a celebration only on December 25th? It is a real joy this Christmas that what we see as the Baby Jesus in the crib is God himself made flesh. He is a King but he made himself human by being born by a virgin—the Blessed Virgin Mary into a very simple and humble way of being with the poor people, the shepherds and their animals.

During the celebration of our Eucharist, let us soak in the Father’s love for us for the love knows no boundaries—from our birth to our redemption, which has no definite time frame.

Amiahaa Whomaay Enya Hekwamp Hechayp!

Merry Christmas!