

## ***Weekend of December 22*** **Fourth 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....**

Michele Nikas Beaman, John Nikas, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Robert and Margie Cruz, Mike Wise, Neil Quizon, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, George Arviso, Rose Ramos, Zita Haygood, Lilly Gautreaux, Mark Noriega, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Paolo Espiritu, John Clark, Kevin Bethsayag, Tyre Nichols, Steve TeSam, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Carol Richardson, Nancy Rourke, Jeff Ashii, Rosario and Paul Estepa, Haley Price, Mark Marquez, Lulu Cabinatan, Michael Martinez, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC, Connie Devera, Don Speer, Meta Roubedeaux, Eileen Hansotte, DJ LaChappa, Marcella Villanova  
*Please check prayer list and add names as desired.*

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*There will be no classes Wednesday, December 25 and January 1 for the Christmas holidays. Classes will resume Wednesday, January 8, 2025.*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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



### **December 24 – Christmas Eve Masses**

**5:00 PM - Sycuan**

**7:00 PM - Barona**

**10:00 PM - Viejas**

### **December 25 – Christmas Day Mass**

**8:00 AM mass - Barona**



## **JANUARY 2025**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025** – Happy New Year! **Mass will be at 8:00 AM – Barona.**

**Sunday, January 5** – Children's Mass at all reservations.

## **PASTOR'S CORNER**

**The Presence of Jesus Among  
Us This Christmas**  
**A reflection on the 4th Sunday of  
Advent**

Today, we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. All the candles of the wreath are lit. That means Christmas is just right down the corner---this Wednesday.

Two weeks ago we began our time for waiting and preparing with the account of the Archangel Gabriel appearing to the young Jewish virgin named Mary. The archangel told Mary that she had found great favor with God and that she had been chosen by God to be the mother of the Messiah, Jesus. Mary is told that even though she is not married and has not known a man, the Holy Spirit of God would make this all possible. We have heard this story year after year and can tell it by heart. It is so familiar to us that we may not realize the importance of this event to our Catholic faith.

We know that Mary was a very young girl probably in her early teens. She lived a very simple life attending school and doing her chores around the house. Mary's life most likely centered about her family and the temple. How did Mary feel about all of this? I'm sure that she was scared and had many doubts about what she had been told. Would her parents accept it? Would the Rabbis at the temple accept it? What about Joseph who she was to marry? Would he marry her or would he reject her because she was pregnant? Would she be a good mother and if Joseph did marry her, would he be a good father? Mary must have thought about all of these things after she received the message from Gabriel.

Mary could accept God's will because God made Himself present to her. He was physically present in the person of Jesus whom she carried in her womb and He was spiritually present in the person of the Holy Spirit who enabled her and strengthened her to carry out God's will. God's presence to Mary made it possible for her to accept His will.

Gabriel told Mary that her elderly cousin Elizabeth who was thought to be beyond child bearing age was six months pregnant. Mary could have sat around her house worrying about what she had just been told but what does she do? She immediately packs a few things and sets off walking to the hill country of Judah to be with Elizabeth. What did Mary intend to do? She could help Elizabeth with her housework and preparing meals, but what Mary really did was to be PRESENT to her. Her presence also made Jesus present to Elizabeth and her unborn child John the Baptist. The unborn baby John leaped for joy when Mary and Jesus made themselves present to him.

The gift of presence is truly a gift from Jesus our Lord and God. He makes Himself present to us all the time. He is uniquely present to us in the Eucharist which is available to us every day. The question is have we accepted His presence in our lives? Does He completely fill us in every way or are we like barren like Mary and Elizabeth were barren? Only after Mary and Elizabeth gave their consent and subjected themselves to His will, were they filled with the presence of Jesus.

It is the same with us. If we accept Him in our lives and subject ourselves to His will, He will grace us with his presence. Once we have Jesus present in us, then we are able to go forth and do unto others as He has done to us. We can spread the love of Jesus by being present to others. What do we do when we learn that someone is ill or has lost a loved one or is in need? There are many things that we can do but usually what is needed is simply our presence with them. We probably believe like Mary and Elizabeth or Bethlehem did that we are not worthy or that we are not important enough to do this but recall that all things are possible with God. Nothing or no one is too small or too insignificant in His eyes. With His presence in us, we can do His will for others and be present to them.

Our time of Advent is completed. We have waited and prepared ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The next song that we will sing will become o come Emmanuel – God is with us. So it is just proper to greet you in Kumeayaay,

**Amiahaa Whomaay Enya Hekwamp  
Hechalp!  
Merry Christmas**

THE WISE  
STILL  
SEEK HIM.

