

*Weekend of March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent*

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



Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, A. J. Samot, Angelo Samot, Donna Berardi, Daniel Vicaldo, Kash Osuna-Sutton, Anthony and Diana Pico, Dolly Albano, Ray Mayor, Mike Montes, Bobbie Turner, Helen Cadiente, 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, Bobby Curo, Abraham Pascual, Eugene "Gino" Vicaldo, Skylar Rosas, Richard Padua, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Joyce Martinez, Elvira Hapin, Lisa Black, Jan Jacobs

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARTICIPATE IN MASS

by livestreaming with Fr. Herman

Please note weekday Mass time change

Weekdays, Tues-Friday at 8:00 AM,

Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM

Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel

LENTEN SERIES

The Meaning of Suffering, Death and Resurrection

When: Thursdays, February 18, 25 and March 4, 11, 18

Time: 5:30 PM



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, April 1 – 5:00 PM, Barona at the shrine

Good Friday, April 2 – 3:00 PM, Barona at the shrine

Holy Saturday, April 3 – 7:00 PM, Barona at the shrine

Easter Day, April 4 – 8:00 AM Barona at the shrine, 10:30 AM Viejas, 12 PM Sycuan

Just a reminder!

Father's salary is due for those who make payments yearly or twice a year. For those who give monthly, please continue. Thank you so much.

LENTEN JOURNEY TO EASTER

We walk this Lenten journey with immigrants and refugees, lost, unsure of their journey's end, still longing for a home.

We walk with those in poverty, unable to live lives of dignity, besieged by hunger and fear, trying to hold on day by day.

We walk with those mourning what is happening to God's creation, calling us all to better care and stewardship of the earth, its creatures, and all growing things.

We walk with women who are trafficked, who are abused, who are harassed, who still live in the silences, and who want to flee the darkness.

We walk with peacemakers, walking a very rocky road toward peace when so much conflict rages and so many fan the flames of violence.

We walk with all those carrying burdens, yet we walk in faith in hope. Despite the suffering of the Cross, we walk toward an Easter dawning.

We move toward the seemingly impossible Resurrection, a time of justice and peace. We walk, called forward through the darkness by the Risen Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.
Jane Deren, PhD, Education for Justice

Celebration of God's Love

A reflection on the 4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday

There was once a lady who asked a hunk at the roulette table what's a good number to bet on. The man said: "Bet on your age." So, she chose to put her bet on number 34. Number 47 won ... and the lady fainted.

In today's gospel (Jn. 3, 14-21) we are asked to make a choice: to prefer darkness, or to choose the light. In other words, we can choose to be good or to be bad, to tell the truth or to tell a lie, to be happy or to be sad. The choice is ours. God loves us that much, that He gave us all the freedom, even the freedom to choose Him or reject Him.

If there is one thing I have held on all these years, it is the thought and the firm conviction that I am loved by God, not so much because of me, but in spite of me, and that His love is unconditional, and that He will continue to love me, no matter what. Presumptuous? I believe that it is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love. So here I am, all these 62 years, still insensitive and still holding on tight to the Lord.

Fr. Gerry Orbos, a confrere of mine has been asked by one of his parishioners why every time that he speaks, he always says "unworthy as I am." His simple reason was, "I know that I am really unworthy." His parishioner took Fr. Gerry's answer, with a smile, not quite comprehending it. Years later when they met again, these were the words of the man: "Now I know. Now I understand." Fr. Gerry's simple response to him was: "Welcome to the human race. Welcome to God's 'lost command'."

Today is "*Laetare*" (Rejoice!) Sunday. There's so much to rejoice at and to be grateful for, really. We have a choice: to celebrate God's love or to worry about God's love.

Instead of living a grateful life, are you living a life that is focused on disappointments and imperfections? Instead of spending your life rejoicing in God's grace and mercy, are you burdened by life's could-have-been's and should-be's?

By the way, we also have another choice: to respond to God's love, or to abuse God's love. It all boils down to humility. Take the road of humility, and it will lead to God's heart. Take the road of pride, and it will lead to misery, now and in the hereafter.

A priest once shared with me about hearing the confessions of a dying man who all his life, because of pride—or maybe because of shame—had postponed and even tried to avoid his homecoming to God's heart. Finally, at his deathbed, he asked for forgiveness and embraced his God. In parting, the priest held his hand and told him: "Ernesto, God loves you." With a wink in his eye he said: "I know Father. He has good taste!" Talk about excessive self-esteem till the very end! Actually, that moment reminded the priest how we all are "spoiled" children of God. Yes, let's celebrate God's love.

Here's a beautiful prayer: "Sometimes Lord, when I cannot pray, I sit very still with nothing to say. Nevertheless, I know You are there, and I whisper Your Name because I know You care. You know the troubles in my mind. You know my weaknesses and the failures in my life, and ever so often my being unkind. I know that Your Spirit is with me, and that You will never leave nor abandon me."

Allow me to share with you an experience of being alone. Well, it happened in Hawaii. My family and I went for a picnic in Chinaman's Hat (so called because the mountain really looks like a hat of a Chinese. Because the scenery was beautiful, I left my family to stroll around the beach by myself. The waters were so inviting hence, I changed into my shorts and there I found myself floating by the waters. In a few minutes, I tried to stand up but the waves were so strong that I can't anymore go back to where I came from. The only way was to cry for "HELP". Yes I was screaming real hard. I was so scared. And out of nowhere there were 3 young Japanese who came swimming so fast to get me.

It was a very scary feeling and I still get goose bumps whenever I think about it. I know that God was with me during that nerve wrecking experience because 3 young Japanese men came to the rescue. (when I share this to others, I tell them that I was rescued by the Holy Trinity. Yes If we have God, we are never and can never be alone. Happy **Laetare Sunday! Rejoice Rejoice**