

Weekend of November
3 **0**
First Sunday of Advent

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

NOVEMBER

Thursday, Nov. 27 – Thanksgiving Day,
8:00 AM mass at Barona. Bring your bread and wine to be blessed for Thanksgiving dinner.

DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec. 7 – Children’s Mass at all reservations.

Sat. Dec. 13 and Sun. Dec 14 – RFR Collection.
This collection supports the Black and Indian Missions, the Catholic Home Missions, the Catholic Communication Campaign, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and The Catholic University of America. Envelopes will be provided. Thank you for your donation.

Sun. Dec. 14 – Tues. Dec. 16 – 6:30 PM, Barona Clubhouse - Advent retreat with Fr. Mark Campbell.

PASTOR’S CORNER

**Staying Awake for the Lord
Who Is Already Near**

A Reflection on the First Sunday of Advent

We begin a new liturgical year with Advent – four short weeks that are meant to stretch our hearts in hope. While the world is already rushing toward Christmas sales and holiday noise, the Church gently invites us to do something very different: SLOW

In today’s Gospel, Jesus says very clearly: “Be watchful! Be alert!” (Mark 13:33) He tells a little parable about a man who leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. That’s us.

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, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Margie Cruz, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, George Arviso, Rose Ramos, Lilly Gautreaux, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, Paolo Espiritu, Tyre Nichols, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Carol Richardson, Jeff Ashii, Rosario and Paul Estepa, Haley Price, Mark Marquez, Lulu Cabinatan, Michael Martinez, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC, Rudy Duerro, Don Speer, Eileen Hansotte, DJ LaChappa, Michael McKnight, Lulu Cabinatan, Donald Lee, Gabriel Marquez, Sr., Joseph Kardian, Bear Cuero, Frances Banegas, Diane Robetkey, Ed Sloan, Flora Keldani and Gene Cortez, Paul Castello, Robert Kuhl, Joyce Rottenberg, Johnny Valencic, Kelly Bonde, Lucinda Thompson, Eva Walters, Spud Brown, Edna Gomez, Vera Tucker, Jack Ramirez, Rudy Duero, John Holsbo, Pat Wooley, Marvi Artugue, Yanni Aquino, Cynthia Dominguez, Dr. Gerry Directio Dominguez and Baby Selene Vasquez
Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/OCIA

*There will be no classes on Wednesday,
11/26/25,
Friday, 11/28/25 and
Sunday, 11/30/25 for Thanksgiving break.
Classes will resume Dec. 3rd.*

We are the servants. We are the gatekeepers of our families, our parish, and our own hearts. The Lord has entrusted something precious to us: our faith, our loved ones, our community. And He is not far away—He is near, and He will come. Sometimes spiritual “waiting” can feel like doing nothing. But the waiting of Advent is very active. Think of the difference between: Someone killing time in a waiting room, and a family preparing the house because someone beloved is coming home.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah cries out on behalf of the people: “Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down!” (Isaiah 63–64) It’s a desperate prayer: *Lord, we are tired, we are broken, we are sinful – please come and save us.* Many of us know that feeling very well. We look at our world, our families, even our own hearts, and we say: “Lord, we need you. Please come.”

Advent gives us the words to say that prayer honestly, but also with hope. God does not respond with anger or indifference. Isaiah reminds us of who God really is: “You, Lord, are our father”; “We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.” We are not abandoned. We are being formed.

Jesus speaks about staying awake, but not to scare us. He is not trying to make us paranoid or anxious about the future. He is inviting us to live awake, not spiritually sleepy. What does “spiritually sleepy” look like? When we stop praying and just drift through the days, when we let anger, gossip, or resentment become “normal,” When we move through Mass on autopilot, without heart, When we give more attention to our phones than to the people God placed in front of us.

What does “awake” look like? Making a little quiet time for God each day, even five honest minutes, saying “I’m sorry” and “I forgive you” more quickly, taking Sunday Mass seriously as the center of the week, Noticing the lonely, the hurting, the ones who sit alone, Living each day as a gift, not a burden.

In the second reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians that they are “not lacking in any spiritual gift as [they] wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:7). That means God has already given us what we need to stay awake: his grace, his Spirit, his Word, his sacraments, and one another.

Advent isn’t just something that happens in church; it’s something we can live at home and in our community. A few simple ideas: 1) Advent Wreath or Candle—Light a candle once a day or once a week. As you do, say a short prayer: “Jesus, you are the Light of the world. Come into our hearts and our home.” 2) One intentional act of kindness each week—Visit someone who’s lonely, call someone you’ve been meaning to call, forgive a hurt, or share a meal. Advent love is concrete. 3) Turn down the noise a little—Choose one small way to make space for God – maybe a little less TV or social media, and a little more silence or Scripture. 4) Come to Mass like a people who are waiting—Arrive a bit earlier, sit in quiet, and tell the Lord, “I am here, and I want to be ready for you.”

Isaiah admits that sometimes the people turned away from God, and we do too. We get distracted, discouraged, or tired. But the good news of Advent is this: God does not give up on us. St. Paul reassures us: “He will keep you firm to the end... God is faithful.” (1 Corinthians 1:8–9) Our story is not just about how well we watch, but about how faithful He is in coming. The One we are waiting for is already close—hidden in the Eucharist, in His Word, in the faces of the poor, in the quiet stirrings of our hearts.

So, as we begin this new year of grace, let us hear Jesus’ words personally: “Be watchful. Be alert.” Not afraid, but ready. Not frantic, but faithful. Not lost in the noise, but listening for His footsteps.

May this Advent be a time of awakening for us: awake to God’s presence, awake to our neighbor, awake to the deep longing in our own hearts that only Christ can fill.

PRAYER

*Lord Jesus,
as we begin this Advent season,
wake us up from our spiritual sleep.
Soften what is hard in us, heal what is wounded,
and shape us like clay in the hands of the Father.
Give us hearts that watch for You with love,
so that when You come—in the quiet of our days,
in the needs of our brothers and sisters,
and in glory at the end of time—
You may find us ready and rejoicing.
Amen.*

