

Weekend of December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

DECEMBER

Monday, Dec. 8 – 115th Anniversary
Celebration Mass of Sycuan Church. 5:00 PM
at Sycuan. Celebrant – Bishop Ramon Bejarano

Sat. Dec. 13 and Sun. Dec 14 – RFR
Collection. Donations to the Retirement Fund
for Religious provide housing, medical
assistance and essential support for thousands
of aging religious.

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

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
Masses – 5:00 PM – Sycuan
7:00 PM – Viejas
10:00 PM - Barona

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 –
Christmas Day Mass
8:00 AM Barona

New Year's Eve Mass, Wednesday, December
31 - 5:00 PM Barona

Prepare the Way: Hope with Dust on Its Feet

A reflection on the Second Sunday of Advent

Advent is short, but life feels busy and long. We move from one thing to the next – work, school, family events, sports, tribal meetings, Christmas shopping – and suddenly we realize... Advent is halfway over, and we're not sure if our hearts are any more ready for Jesus than they were two weeks ago.

The readings for this Second Sunday of Advent are like a voice calling to us: "Slow down. Look deeper. Let God do something new in you."

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 Duerro, John Holsbo, Pat
Wooley, Marvi Artugue, Yanni Aquino, Cynthia Dominguez,
Dr. Gerry Directo and
Baby Selene Vasquez

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/OCIA

Alyssa P – Fridays at Barona at 4:00 PM

Judy R – Wednesdays at 6 PM, Barona

*Mark P – Sundays – after mass at Barona
and Viejas*

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah gives us a powerful image: “A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse” Imagine an old tree cut down to almost nothing – just a stump left behind, weathered and cracked. It looks dead. Useless. Forgotten. Then one day, a tiny green shoot pushes out of that same stump. Life, where everyone thought there was only death. Hope, where people were ready to give up. Many of our families know what “stump” times feel like such as when a loved one dies and our hearts feel cut down, when relationships are broken and we’re not sure they can ever be healed, when addiction, anger, or old wounds seem to choke out our joy or when we worry about our children and grandchildren, about culture, faith, language, and the future of our people.

Advent tells us: God is not finished. Even when we see only a stump, God sees the shoot. That little shoot from the stump of Jesse is Jesus – the Messiah, the Savior – but it is also any new grace the Holy Spirit wants to grow in us: renewed faith, deeper peace, healing from old hurts, courage to forgive, strength to begin again.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist appears in the wilderness. He is not fancy, not comfortable, not polite. He doesn’t say, “Everything is fine; just keep doing what you’re doing.” Instead, he cries out: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

Repentance doesn’t mean walking around feeling guilty and miserable. It means turning back to God. It’s like realizing we’ve been walking in the wrong direction for a long time – maybe far from prayer, far from the sacraments, far from our best selves – and finally saying: “Lord, I’m tired of walking away from you. Help me walk *toward* you again.” John’s message is strong because God’s love is strong. He doesn’t just want us to be “nice people.” He wants us to be new people.

Furthermore, John tells the people: “Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.” If I say I’m turning my heart back to God, what should that *look* like? Maybe it looks like: Making time for Mass, even when we are tired; Saying, “I’m sorry,” first – even if the other person hurt us too; Visiting someone who is lonely or grieving this season; Letting go of a grudge we’ve carried for years; Turning off the TV or phone for a while and praying as a family; Teaching our children not just about Santa and presents, but about Jesus and the manger. Real repentance is not just words; it’s choices. Advent is the perfect season to ask: “Lord, what concrete step are you asking from me before Christmas?” Not ten things. Just one or two real, honest steps.

Isaiah paints a beautiful picture: The wolf is the guest of the lamb. The calf and lion eat together. A little child leads them. It sounds impossible. Wolves do not make

friends with lambs. Lions do not eat straw. Natural enemies do not suddenly become best friends. Yet, this is God’s dream: real peace, not just the absence of fighting, but a deep harmony where differences are not erased but transformed by love. In our own lives, we can ask: Where is God asking for more peace in my family? Is there someone I have written off as impossible – like a “wolf” I think can never change? Can I pray this Advent for reconciliation – in my home, my clan, my parish, even in my own heart?

Jesus came not just to give private comfort, but also to build a new kind of community – one that reflects his mercy, his justice, his tenderness especially for the poor, the small, and the forgotten.

Advent hope is not a pretty Hallmark picture. It is hope with dust on its feet – real, gritty, walking into our everyday problems. It does not pretend everything is perfect. • It does not deny grief, loss, or frustration. But it insists that God is already at work, even in our wounded places.

So this week, I invite you to do three simple things: 1) Notice the “stump” in your life – one area where you feel stuck, discouraged, or tired. Name it honestly before God. 2) Look for the “shoot” – some small sign of hope, grace, or goodness that is already growing there, even if it seems tiny. 3) Take one step of repentance – one real, practical change that says to God, “I want to walk closer to You.”

A Short Advent Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
You are the green shoot from the old stump,
the light in our winter,
the voice that calls us back to life.*

*This Advent, open our eyes to the new things
You are growing in us.
Give us courage to repent,
to forgive, to begin again.*

*Prepare our hearts, our families, and our parish
to welcome You with joy this Christmas.
Amen.*

Blessed Advent, everyone. Let’s walk these days together, listening for that voice in the desert and watching for that little green shoot of hope that God is already planting in our lives.

