

Weekend of March 30 & 31, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Schedule

Barona:

Mass: Wednesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM.

Weekends: Saturday, 5:00 PM, Sunday 8:00 AM.

Confessions: Saturday, 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Adoration: 2nd Thurs. of January (6:00 PM) and 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM). **Please note change for January.**

1st Thurs. of the month (6:00 PM) and 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

Viejas:

Weekends: Sunday, 10:00 AM.

Confessions: By appointment.

Sycuan:

Weekends: Sunday, Noon.

Confessions: By appointment



Gilbert Rodriguez, Carol Lane, Anita Curo, Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, A. J. Samot, Angelo Samot, Donna Berardi, Secora Nelson, Daniel Vicaldo, Kash Osuna-Sutton, Gabe Dowell, Diana Pico, Dolly Albano, Ray Mayor, Mike Montes, Bobbie Turner, Mary Whitespear, Steve and Vera Tucker, Helen Cadiente, Berniece Marrujo, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Stephen Nolan, Agnes Ruiz, Deacon Bill Clarke, Rosario Ravasco, Minerva Mayor, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Alicia Castro, Debbie Gonzalez, Frank LaChappa

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

Mass Intentions – March 31, 2019

Weekend Masses:

Sunday, 8:00 AM Community of Barona

Sunday, 10:00 AM Community of Viejas

Sunday, Noon Community of Sycuan

Sycuan: Grades K-8, Class meet at 10:30 a.m. before Sunday Mass, High School meets Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the new tribal hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7, 2019 – Children’s Mass – All reservations

April 21, 2019 – Easter

April 27, 2019 – Barona, First Communion, 5:00 PM mass

April 28, 2019 - Viejas, First Communion, 10:00 AM mass



ANNUAL LENTEN COLLECTION

March 30-31, 2019

This special collection will provide services to the Catholic Relief Services, Church in Africa and Church in Latin America.

Envelopes are located in back of the church.



Schedule of Worship for Holy Week

HOLY THURSDAY, April 18

Barona 6:30 PM

For all reservations

GOOD FRIDAY, April 19

Barona 3:00 PM

Viejas 6:00 PM

Sycuan 6:00 PM

EASTER Vigil, Saturday, April 20

Barona 7:30 PM

For all reservations

EASTER Sunday, April 21

Barona 8:00 AM

Viejas 10:00 AM

Sycuan 12:00 PM

The Power of Resurrection

Bible Study

Jesus’ resurrection came after great personal trial, sacrifice and pain. Let’s take a biblical look at Jesus’ resurrection and how resurrection happens in our own lives. There are many stories of personal death and resurrection as well as after life experiences. The study will begin Thursday, March 7 through April 4th, at 4:00 PM, Brother Ed’s office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Barona : Grades K-8: Class meets on Thursday, 2:45 p.m. and 4:00 pm

God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God.

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES and
SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
800-553-3321

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A Twist in the Understanding of the Characters of the
Prodigal Son

HAPPY LAETARE SUNDAY!

During the recent years, I have heard many homilies and opinions about how the older son in the story of the Prodigal Son was more sinful than the younger son. After all, the younger son came home and asked his father for forgiveness while the older son was very resentful about the whole situation.

Well, the older son reminds me, in a good way, of many people whom we know-perhaps even ourselves. He is obedient, dependable and faithful to his family. He is there when you need him. He works hard, usually in the background, helping everyone. He is loyal and you do not have to tell him more than once about what to do. Basically, he is the kind of a son that parents dream about.

Many biblical scholars have said that the father in the story represents God because of his complete forgiveness towards the younger son. I am not so sure that I completely agree with that because, to me, the father has taken the older son for granted-and God does not do that. For example, when was the last time, if ever, that the father praised him in front of other people and told him that he was grateful for all his good work? Even more, when was the last time that the father told him that he loved him and thanked God every day for him? Who knows? Maybe never. Maybe the father doted only on the younger son.

So, maybe we can resonate with the older son too. He is like the mother who keeps the family together emotionally, spiritually and physically, but who is utterly taken for granted, like an unpaid servant. He is like the father who works two jobs, sacrificing his own wants and pleasures so his kids can go to catholic schools, but is taken for granted. He is the loyal worker who puts in extra hours without complaining, taking no phony sick leave, but is taken for granted. He is the mailman, the garbage collector, the one who mows your lawn, the nurse who

works the midnight shift, but is taken for granted. In other words, he is us.

And then, let someone else who is uncaring and egotistical do something decent for the first time in their lives or have good luck and the whole world throws a party for them. The older sons and daughters look at this and just shake their heads. It is just not fair.

Now do you see why I do not think that the father in the story only represents God? To me, there is sin enough to go around for everyone-the sin of the younger son who insulted his father and then fled to another city to have a "good time"-the sin of the father who graciously forgave the younger son but forgot to hug his older son and tell him how important he was to the family. So, what was the sin of the decent older son? His sin is something that plagues many good and decent people. His sin was that of an ungenerous heart-the sin of a hardened heart.

This reminds me of a woman I know. We will call her Violet. One day she told me that she was very upset with herself. Her younger sister was moving back to L.A., Violet wanted to be happy, just as happy as her mother was. But, she was not happy and it did not make any sense to her. Since her father died, Violet had been taking care of her mother all by herself. She would call her mother twice a day. She would take her mother to the movies and had her over for dinner 2 or 3 times a week. Violet bought the groceries, took care of her finances, cleaned her apartment and brought her communion when her mother was too sick to go to Mass. And, now that her sister was coming home, she would not have to do everything by herself. She should be happy to have the help, but she wasn't. So, what was wrong with Violet?

Well, for one thing, Violet will no longer have her mother exclusively for herself. Violet, not her sister, has been there all the time, like the older son in the story, caring for her mother-day in, day out. And now, this younger sister is coming home and displacing her. Violet is afraid that people will forget all she did for her mother. And, worst of all, her mother will probably throw a huge party for her sister.

Violet has an ungenerous heart towards her sister. Her identity is threatened and she does not like it. She feels that she will not be appreciated for everything that she has done-that she will be diminished.

As we travel the spiritual path, we have to resist this ungenerous heart because, if we do not resist it, we, too, will become like the older brother. We, too, will not be

able to rejoice at God's gift of his grace to other sinners who have repented.

We can go a long way toward our own peace and joy and a truly generous spirit if, especially during Lent, we remember that God is in charge, not us. We must remember that God sees everything that we do and that God is pleased with us-and that God will never ever take us for granted.

Let us remember the father's words to the older son, "My son, you are here with me always. Everything I have-everything is yours". Now, isn't that a great thing to remember when our hearts begin to become hardened and ungenerous? We are heirs of God-his children. Think about that!