

*Weekend of September 2*

*@ 3, 2017*

*22nd Sunday in Ordinary*

*Time*

**Weekend Masses:**

Sunday, 8:00 AM	John and Dora Curo Doreen Romero-Ford
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Community of Viejas
Sunday, Noon	Community of Sycuan

**Lectors Needed:** Please sign up to be a lector. It is an important ministry within the Mass.

**Religious Education Classes Resume:** Classes for Grades K – 8 at Barona will begin on Thursday, September 21. There are classes at 2:30 and 3:30.



**Barona:** We are in desperate need of teachers for our religious education program, Grades K – 8. It is the responsibility of the parish, with your help, to educate our children in our Catholic faith. Please volunteer to help in this very important ministry. Contact Father Herman for more information.

**Mass Schedule**

**Barona:**

**Daily Rosary and 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:** 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, Tom Hyde, Elijah Diaz (Bear), Carol Lane, Anita Curo, Sue Kierig, Colleen Crowden, Ro Harrison, Martha Boone, A. J. Samot, Angelo Samot, Lourdes Adora, Donna Berardi, Jake Calhoun & Family, Gutierrez Family, Santos Family, Betty Peleo, Floreste Artlluga Family, Balegut Family, Secora Nelson, Daniel Vicaldo, Toddy Yeats, Caroline Mendoza, Ruiz Family, Cash Osuna-Sutton, Gabe Dowell, Barbara Rogers, Bob Pilkington, Jan Jacobs, Pat Curo

**Please check prayer list and add names as desired.**

**Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, September 9:** Grave blessing for Marian Whalen. 11:00 AM, Conejos.

**Sunday, September 10:** Feast Day of the Viejas Mission, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 10:00 AM Mass, followed by potluck in the hall.

**Anniversary Mass for Elmer (Bud) Mendoza:** Saturday, September 23. Mass at 10:00 AM, Barona, followed by blessing of the headstone. Reception follows.

**Saturday, September 30:** Anniversary and blessing of monument for Leroy Elliot. 8:00 AM Mass, Manzanita.

**Family Mass – All Reservations:** October 1.

**Pow Wow Prayer**

*Dear God, we ask you to bless our local pow wow.  
With every beat of the drum  
and with every step of the dance,  
remind us of the great power of Mother Earth  
and of the beauty of your people.  
All nations praise your name through the symbolism  
shown in their native dress, and through the  
meaningful movements of the dance, representing*

*nature and all your exquisite creation.  
May the spirit of the pow wow and its unifying force  
bring together peoples of many tongues, colors,  
and communities.  
We praise you, dear God, for the many gifts you have  
given our native peoples, and for the contributions  
they have made in conserving our land and showing  
us the harmony that strengthens the bonds between  
Mother Earth and her children.  
May Maayahaa bless all our endeavors and watch  
over this gathering.*

*Dedicated to Boxie Phoenix*

### ***From the Pastor's Desk***

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why am I going to church today?” If you have, I have great news for you. In a recent study published in “demography magazine” it was discovered that those who attend church regularly may live 14 years longer than those who don’t go to church.

The survey indicates that attending church has a positive effect on our physical and mental well-being. In this 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time readings, Jesus takes this concept one step further when he says, “what profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life.” As I recall, the phrase used to be, “and suffer the loss of his soul.” So, obviously, Jesus is referring, today, to eternal life. But there’s a problem. Paul points it out when he writes, “do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” When Paul writes, “this age” is he referring to the United States of America, today, or is he referring to the age of the early Christians? Applying “this age” to the moral condition of our present society, it would seem that Paul’s words really do apply to us.

If we conform ourselves to this age, our society in the United States, we can ruin our life rather than prolong it. Let’s be honest. Following the examples set by the current soap operas or sitcoms seen on television, doesn’t mean we’ll wind up being perfect or happy. How about the movies? Follow their examples and that’s a good way to forfeit one’s life. Even following the example of some of our political leaders can spell disaster.

So, which advice do we want to emulate, that of Jesus and Paul or that of our modern society? Jesus says, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.” But wait a minute. Surveys indicate those who obey the commandments are healthier and probably happier. If the commandments are the cross we must bear, we must realistically look at the alternative. Do we really want to become liars? Do we want to steal from others? Does any unmarried man or woman look forward to a pregnancy? It seems those who are disobeying God’s commandments are the unhappy ones. It doesn’t matter what stage in life we may be in... the teen years, young adults, the middle aged or the senior citizens. Christ’s words are directed at all of us.

I’m amazed at the peer pressure exerted on the teens and the young adults. It must be extremely difficult to keep one’s faith when everywhere around us we see and hear a message that seems to contradict Jesus’ message. But His words tell us not to listen to those who would lead us away from our faith. The path to peace and happiness does not lie in that direction. But, we are free to choose.

The same pressure is being applied to each of us, no matter what age we are. Corporations and individuals are literally spending billions of dollars to get us all involved in activities through which we may “gain the whole world, in a sense, but forfeit our eternal life.”

Many of the messages we hear are false. Being involved in drugs, sex and alcohol will be a cross that makes our lives more difficult rather than more enjoyable. Living for our own pleasure without any regard for sharing what we have with those who are in need, leads to a hollow, meaningless existence.

I know that very often younger people will ask, “What’s wrong with following the example of my friends? Everybody’s doing it so it must be all right.” Well, I would ask those young people, “Would you want your parents to follow the example set by some of your friends?” The usual response is, “oh, no. That could ruin our family.” That’s true, and so Jesus is asking that all of us, young and old, follow the same guidelines. His guidelines.

His promise, today, is simple: “Take up my cross and follow me. Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” If we study “this age”, our society, it would seem that Jesus’ words are absolutely true. Those who do not live by his words pay a terrible price but those who follow him seem to be at peace, to be conscious of the really important: Aspects of life ... family ...

love of one another and God ... and the joy of sharing the blessings that He has given us with those less fortunate. And, as another reward, we may live 14 years longer.

**Carry the cross  and follow me.**  
Luke 14:27, NRSV