

Weekend of Jan. 7 & 8, 2017 Epiphany of the Lord

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, Martha Redman, Anita Curo, Dixie Necochea, Casey Olaya, Nicole Aceves, Anita Curo, Bob & Colleen Crowden, Mark Price, Donna Berardi, Diego Suarez, Osvaldo Sanchez, Barbara Huston O'Donnell, Boxie Phoenix, Father Ron Hebert, John Kostos

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

For Sunday, Jan. 22, we will be clearing all the names off this list. If you would like to keep someone on this list, please re-enter their name on the sheet in the church.

Mass Intentions – January 8

Weekend Masses:

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| Sunday, 8:00 AM | Charlie and Gene Curo |
| Sunday, 10:00 AM | Community of Viejas |
| Sunday, Noon | Community of Sycuan |

Upcoming Events

2017 Calendars: Calendars for next year are in the back of the church. Please take one.

Annul Catholic Appeal: Coming soon.

January 15, 2017: Family Mass

February 5, 2017: Family Mass

Religious Education Classes

Barona:

Classes for high school will resume on Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 PM.

Classes for grades K – 8 will resume on Thursday, January 12, 2:30 and 3:30 PM.

Viejas: Classes will resume on Wednesday January 11, 3:30 PM, Kateri Hall.

Epiphany Blessing

O God of light and peace,
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,
still draws the nations to yourself:
bless us abundantly
and dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,
that, like the wise men, we may come
to kneel before Christ in true worship,
offer him our hearts and souls,
and return from his presence to live as he has taught,
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

--Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family

Sacramental Preparation

First Eucharist (Communion):

Requirements: For children baptized in another parish, a baptismal certificate is required. All children must be enrolled in the appropriate grade level of the parish religious education program for two years.

Additional Information: Children will usually make their Penance (Confession) and First Communion in the 3rd Grade. Children beginning the program in the 3rd Grade or later will receive these sacraments after their second year of preparation.

Marriage:

Requirements: Please contact the priest at least nine months prior to the wedding date. If you were baptized in another parish, a baptismal certificate is required. You are required to take the Pre-Cana, Evenings for the Engaged. or a weekend Engaged

considered and canonically processed by the Church.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In the olden days, we used to greet each other: Happy Three Kings!, now, we greet each other

"Happy Epiphany!"

Many people often go to fortune-tellers in order to know what their future would be or see what their future would look like. By merely looking at the stars, fortune tellers could foretell future events. Future events for them may be good or bad, depending on the arrangement of the stars. Sad to say, many of us Christians believe more on what they say rather than what the Sacred Scripture says. They put so much faith in fortune-tellers, and they are kind of surrendering their own fate to them.

In the gospel reading, we find that the "star" led the wise men to the newborn "king of the Jews". The wise men in the gospel are associated with interpretation of dreams, Zoroastrianism, astrology and magic. So, we may ask, what made them decide to go and pay homage to Mary's child? They could simply sit down and wonder at the star they saw. But then again they set out on a journey to pay homage to the newborn king of the Jews.

First, let us reflect on the "star". As astrologers, the wise men must have observed this star as extraordinary among the celestial bodies. Perhaps they were struck by its brightness, or size, or its position. They said to Herod, 'We saw his star at its rising..' The wise men believe that the star reveals important information about the child. The star was already pointing to the one who will shepherd Israel, to a leader, as predicted in the scripture. That particular star reveals the true nature of Jesus. The star that the wise men saw serves God's purpose and leads them to Jesus. The power of astral determination is broken. There is no more prediction of the future. The star has pointed us to Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life. Our future is in Christ and is Christ.

Second, the wise men were overjoyed at seeing the star. Stars, together with the moon, are beautiful to behold at night. We can see its grandeur, as well as the marvels of God for creating these heavenly bodies. We always enjoy watching stars at night. The gospel passage stresses on the reaction of the wise men upon seeing this star. They were overjoyed. This feeling of joy must also be maintained by us. The star, who is Jesus, must be a source of joy in our life.

Third, let us reflect on the gifts. The wise men set out on a journey bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Traditionally these gifts symbolize the kingship, divinity and redemptive suffering of Christ respectively. The gifts are also considered as an anticipation of Christ's life. Christians are also in a journey bringing those gifts that the wise men brought. It was also a gift to us, a gift from God. This is to remind us that our journey never ends in Christmas, looking at Jesus who revealed Himself to us as a child. We continue to walk with Him as a royal people.

The Church is considered by the Second Vatican Council as a pilgrim Church. The Church is on a journey towards the Fatherland, our homeland. Like the wise men, let us continue our journey full of hope in Jesus who saves. As the wise men were directed and guided by a star, let us also be guided by Christ while on a journey. Our journey without Christ could be meaningless, and even impossible. Let us always turn our gaze on the Star who is Jesus. He is the Way, and therefore, through him we would certainly arrive at the home of the Father safely and securely.

