

Weekend of December 22 & 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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, Tom Hyde, 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, Clayton Curo, Dolly Albano, Ray Mayor, Mike Montes, Bobbie Turner, Mary Whitespear, Frank LaChappa, Steve and Vera Tucker, Helen Cadiente, William and Berniece Marrujo, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Stephen Nolan, Agnes Mayor, Audrey Wallace

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

Mass Intentions – December 23, 2018

Weekend Masses:

Sunday, 8:00 AM Mel and Buddy Curo

Sunday, 10:00 AM Community of Viejas

Sunday, Noon Community of Sycuan

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 SCHEDULE**

NOTE: DUE TO CHRISTMAS BREAK, THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES Dec 24 – Jan 6, 2019. Classes will resume on Wednesday, Jan 9, 2019.

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

Sycuan: Grades K-8, Class meet at 10:30 a.m. before Sunday Mass
High school Confirmation class, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, December 24-Christmas Eve

Sycuan Mass 5:00 PM

Barona Mass-7:00PM

Viejas Mass-10:00PM

Christmas Day

Barona Mass- 8:00AM

New Year's Mass Schedule

Mon., 12/31/18 New Year's Eve Mass – Sycuan 5:00 PM

Tues., 1/1/19 New Year's Day Mass – Barona 9:00 AM



Prayer Before Preparing a Christmas Family Feast

Lord, you know all the things that still need to be done—

the cooking and cleaning, the preparation and anticipation, the anxiety and worry that everything will be just right.

As I prepare this meal, help me also to prepare myself that I may not be distracted by all these concerns.

And when you enter this home and sit at this table, May I sit beside you and remember that only one thing is needed;

To love you with all my heart, with all my being, with all my strength, and with all my mind, and to love my neighbor as myself.

Amen.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
**The Beauty of Joy, Love and Peace at
Christmas**
**Reflection on the 4th Sunday of Advent
and Christmas**

Another Advent has passed. Today is unique in that the hustle and bustle of the last minute shopping, television commercials and the "hype" of Christmas is slowly fading. Most of the stores will close at 6 o'clock and the peace of Christmas will descend on families throughout the world.

In just a few hours, midnight Mass will be celebrated, churches will be more crowded than at any other time of the year and a true "peace" will descend on our world. The problems of society won't go away, the animosity between peoples and nations won't disappear but for a very short span of time, there will be Peace on Earth. Why? Because the people of the whole world recognize that in a manger in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago, a Savior was born.

We may be thinking, "Well, if the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ can bring such an outpouring of love and reverence for one day, why can't this same spirit last throughout the year?" That's a legitimate question but misses the point. I believe that what is amazing is that this world does stop, if only for a day, and honor the birth of a baby who would, 33 years later, die on a cross, rise from the dead and ascend into Heaven. Listen again to the first reading from the Book of Micah who lived 800 years before Christ was born:

Bethlehem, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be the ruler in Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord. For now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; He shall be peace!

He shall be peace! And isn't that what will happen for one day. It boggles the mind to realize that even in this strife torn, hedonistic, antagonistic world peace would come, even if only for a day, to honor the birth of the Savior of the world.

What does this say to us? It says we are right! It says that even in our despair because of the conflicts that exist, the evil of children dying and our society being morally polluted by those who control the movie and television industries, that on this day the world pauses to give credence to our belief that "today a Savior is born." We believe and today the entire world joins us in celebrating this event. In parts of the world that are not Christian, wars pause. The machinery of capitalism and the hectic pace of the stock markets around the world stop. Even though there are many apparent evils in our world today, everyone pauses. Some don't even know why this peace comes on Christmas but they, too, are must change their routines while of the rest of the world pays tribute to the baby Jesus.

Individually, we can't control our society. We can't stop wars or change all the evils that seem to surround us. However, our God asks that we do what we can to change the minds and hearts of men and women. Our presence indicates that by our example we can spread His word to others. In the last analysis, though, we can only directly control one destiny, our own. And how are you doing that, today, the eve of the anniversary of Christ's birth?

You are with Him, in the church, worshipping Him. The majority of the people in this world may not believe in Him. On December 26th, our world may once again revert to a planet of hostility, moral excesses and irreverence. By on the 25th everyone paused to remember what happened 2000 years ago. We have proof we are justified in our beliefs. On Christmas day, His birthday, even the huge commercial enterprises pause and give honor to Jesus. How do they do that? By closing their doors, shutting down their cash registers and for this day, there is peace and quiet.

But, you may say, "After Christmas day, it's back to the rat race." But not for us! The message for us is that the whole world does recognize, if only for a day, that a Savior was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. It says to us that tomorrow, Christmas Day, the world stops and acknowledges what we acknowledge every day of our lives. As Paul says in the second reading:

When Christ came into the world He said: As it is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.

For us this is not a one day event. We repeat those words each day of our life: "I come to do your will, O God". And so, don't dwell on the thought that there

are many moral, social and physical problems in our world. Instead, rejoice in the knowledge that, like Jesus, the whole Christmas message is confirmed by this crazy world in which we live. Everything stops while people consciously or unconsciously recognize that "Today, the Christ is born. He is the Savior of the world."

Draw upon His strength, upon His grace and upon His love so that we, unlike many who pause only for one day, will dedicate every day of our lives in anticipation of what He promises: Peace!

MERRY CHRISTMAS