

*Weekend of September 23*

*@ 24, 2017*

*25th Sunday in Ordinary*

*Time*

**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

**Weekend Masses:**

Sunday, 8:00 AM

Darrell and Roni Romero

Doreen Romero-Ford

Sunday, 10:00 AM

Community of Viejas

Sunday, Noon

Marie Johann

**Barona:** Classes for Grades K – 8 at Barona meet on Thursdays, at 2:30 and 3:30.

**Viejas:** Classes resume Wednesday, Sept. 27, 3:30 Kateri Hall.

**Sycuan:** Classes meet at 11:00 AM Sunday mornings in the church.

**Barona and Sycuan:** We are still in 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.

**Upcoming Events**

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

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



**Native American Prayer for Autumn**

*O Great Spirit,  
whose voice I hear in the winds,  
and whose breath gives life to all the world,  
hear me! I am small and weak,  
I need your strength and wisdom.*

*Let me walk in beauty,  
and make my eyes ever behold  
the red and purple sunset.*

*Make my hands respect the things you have made  
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.*

*Make me wise so that I may understand  
the things you have taught my people.*

*Let me learn the lessons you have hidden  
in every leaf and rock.*



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, Sister Romero

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

**Mass Intentions – September 24, 2017**

*I seek strength,  
not to be greater than my brother,  
but to fight my greatest enemy – myself.*

*Make me always ready to come to you  
with clean hands and straight eyes.*

*So when life fades, as the fading sunset,  
my spirit may come to you without shame.*



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

The parable in this 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time about the workers in the vineyard has always been a tough one for me to swallow. There just doesn't seem to be any fairness in it. And, as we all know, "fairness" is what it's all about in the United States these days. Even after the Gospel, when we say, "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ", many of us think, "I do give praise to Jesus Christ but it still isn't fair"!

I think, perhaps, in order to get a better handle on what God is trying to tell us in this parable, we've got to look at what it's not about. It's not about economics or a just wage or labor-management relationships or, and perhaps most of all, it's not about fairness. This parable is about generosity and mercy.

It's so easy for us, isn't it, to identify with the workers who've worked all day long in the hot sun? Especially, if we've worked hard all of our lives. How unfair can you get? The boss giving the same pay to people who worked only one hour as he gave to the people who worked twelve. Where was the grape-pickers union when they really needed it?

Well, if you agree with the boss' unfairness, your head may be in the right place, but your heart sure isn't. You see, the main stress of the parable isn't on the early workers. It's on the latecomers and the boss.

Ah, the latecomers. The ones who didn't exactly rush to get in line so that they could work. The ones who, perhaps, might have preferred drinking the finished product rather than making it. So, is the owner being arbitrary or is he being generous and compassionate when he gives the latecomers a full day's pay so that they could have enough to feed their families?

And, aren't we fortunate that our God is like that; generous and compassionate in His love for us? After all, whether we want to believe it or not, all of us are latecomers too, aren't we?

So, let me ask. Are you sure that you'd want God to judge you with fairness? Or, would you prefer that He judge you with mercy? The reason I ask about these things is because we've got to get over the traditional American idea that runs along these lines. You get what you deserve. Nothing comes free. You want something? Work for it. If you don't catch a break, tough.

Instead of these attitudes, God tells us that He doesn't want us even trying to earn our way into heaven because none of us, not one, can do it. Not St. Anthony the Hermit who served God faithfully for 105 years. Not St. Agnes of Rome who was martyred at age 13. Not St. Francis of Assisi or Mother Teresa.

Compared to these saints, how do you think that you stack up? How about Saint Padre Pio or St. Joan of Arc or St. Paul or St. Teresa of Avila? Do you still think that you're not a latecomer?

This is why God is so great. He doesn't want people strutting around saying, "Look at all that I've done for God". No, God's kingdom is His free gift to us. All we can do is love and trust. Love God and our neighbor and trust that He will give us all the graces that we will ever need toward our salvation. All the graces to die in His arms and in His love.

Perhaps the best way to look at how this parable relates to us is this. All that is good in us is ours, not by right but as a free gift of God. To be sure, there is much that we have earned: our salary, our home, a decent car, a cold Budweiser.

But, all this is possible only because so much has been given to us: life itself, eyes to see, ears to hear, hands to touch, a good mind, a heart to beat with Christ's love, the power to give hope to someone in despair, to love where others hate. All of these things and so much more are pure gifts, not rewards. Each of us is incredibly dear to our Lord. But, none of us are able to do anything to have either earned it or demanded it.

So, today, let's rethink our ideas about fairness. Let's change our ways of thinking until we're no longer upset with God's generosity and mercy. We have to remember that God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

Our challenge is to let God be God. It would be a lot better for all of us.

Praise God.

Praise God.

Praise God.

