

Weekend of September 14 & 15, 2019
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule

Barona:

Mass: Tuesday 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, 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, Barbara Reeves, Nancy Rourke, Judy Robinson

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

Mass Intentions – September 15, 2019

Weekend masses:

Sunday, 8:00 Barona – Mel and Buddy Curo

Sunday, 10:00 Viejas – Community of Viejas

Sunday, 12:00 Sycuan – Community of Sycuan

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Barona – Class will begin on **Thursday**, Sept. 19, 2019 at 2:45 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Viejas – Class will begin on **Wednesday**, Sept. 18, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

Sycuan – Class will begin week of Sept. 16th – time and place to be determined.

If you have any questions, please contact Brother Ed Nolan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 22 – Children's Mass, all reservations

There will be no daily mass beginning Tuesday, September 24. Daily mass will resume Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

We are called to proclaim God's abundant love for all people. Become an instrument of that love. Our world needs you!

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

Religious Education Teachers Needed in Barona

We are in need of teachers for K-8 and we need a teacher for the high school students for religious education. Contact Fr. Herman or Brother Ed if interested or if you have any questions.



Prayer for the canonization of Nicholas Black Elk

Heavenly Father, Great Spirit! Behold us, who stand before you singing our song of thanksgiving for Servant of God, Nicholas Black Elk. Faithfully he walked the Sacred Red Road and generously witnessed the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ

among the Native American people. We humbly ask you to hear the prayers we plead through his intercession. We ask Holy Mother Church to recognize his sanctity by acknowledging his presence among the company of Saints and as one to imitate in his zeal for the Gospel. Open our hearts to also recognize the Risen Christ in other cultures and peoples, to your glory and honor, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Being Loving and Compassionate as God Is
A reflection on the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Suppose for a minute, that you have just died and gone to heaven. That possibility sounds great, after all our lives are supposed to be lived in such manner that we do get there. That is what our faith tells us. Yes, heaven and eternal reward with God is our reward for living faithfully. And we think we did live that way most of the time. But, much to your surprise, your dismay, the first people you run into are Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin. How did they get here you wonder even aloud! How could God do this to men who lived so faithlessly? How could God make them equal to me? Surely they could not have repented. Really, how would you feel if they made it to heaven along with you?

And, they may have made it, for we do not know what sort of repentance, what prodigal return on each of their parts might have happened in their dying moments. Would you want to be in heaven with them? Isn't that a possibility presented in today's scriptures? But, but... we might object to God, only to finally have to realize that God is so good and so loving and so forgiving that this is possible.

Today's readings tell us about that good God, that forgiving God, who would choose to not destroy Moses' followers for adoring a golden calf. It is a God who would allow a persecutor like Paul not only to repent, but to become the one who would bring Christianity from being a small sect within Jewish circles to being a Christianity which truly welcomed all sorts of people. It is the same God who would allow Dorothy Day to move from her way of life to the way we recognize as good.

If we look at the Gospel parable we find the story of a son who basically says you are dead, Father, so give me my share of the inheritance. Yes, to demand one's share while one's father was still alive was

tantamount to saying that to me you are dead. It says, God may have left you alive, father, but I want you out of the way. I want to do my own thing with everything that is mine.

Only when he finds himself lower than a pig does the son awaken and realize a need to come and ask forgiveness. Something in his very gut says I am wrong. I need forgiveness. I need to know I am loved, even if my status with my father cannot be regained.

So, he comes home, his father loves him into new life.

And along comes his older brother. This brother is proud that he has never strayed like his younger brother. He has never tried to act like his father did not matter. He sees himself as having never sinned like his brother has. Yet, he seems to have followed the rules and to have done all of the necessary actions, but without loving the one for whom he is doing them. He cannot see that he was loved all along. And he cannot let himself love someone who has sinned in a manner different from his own way of sinning, to quote a talk by a fellow SVD priest which I heard a few years ago. In fact, the faithful brother cannot see that following the rules without a sense of living lovingly is a sin.

The Gospel explains in simple middle eastern terms just how much God desires to save all, how God truly finds that no one is expendable, not one lost sheep, not one lost part of a married woman's identity, not the son who wandered off to the wilderness to find his way, not the son who lost his way at in the wilderness of his own bitterness while being loved at home. And yet, we find Jesus having to explain to the Pharisees exactly the fact that it is those who have sinned, that God comes to save. We find Jesus having to explain that all have sinned and all are to be saved.

The story of the brothers and the loving nature of God should hit close to home for every one of us. We are likely both brothers at different times. There are times when we walk away from the Father, walk away from life in Jesus, going our own way. Some wander from family or the Church for a long time before finding they are missing being loved. There are times when we live the rules of family or of Church without a sense of life in them, perhaps even to the point of being scrupulous. We sometimes do it with a great sense of pride.

Which way is worse? The elder brother's way seems to say I love God I love the Church because I do everything right. The younger brother says I don't

need God or family, but after a while of wandering he comes to recognize that he has left love behind and needs it badly. As long as either can be prodigal, either can meet that shameless ever giving father who comes running to meet us and welcome us home, showering us with love. The example of the father is there for us to grow into as the way we treat one another.

So, for what shall we pray in today's Eucharist? I think of two graces: the grace to love the other even if he or she sins differently from me; and the grace to know enough to come running to the forgiving God who welcomes us in either case.

And our action out of this Eucharist, what might it be? Perhaps it is to learn to love the one who sins differently from the way I sin.