

*Weekend of December 23th
and 24th, 2017*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Viejas: Classes meet on Wednesdays, 3:30, Kateri Hall.

Please note: Religious Education classes will resume on all reservations the week of Jan. 8, 2018.

Today - Retirement Fund for Religious: Please give to those who have given a lifetime. This fund provides support for thousands of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Envelopes are in pews and in the back of the church. Flyers are available in the back of the church. Please be generous.

Mass Schedule
<p>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</p>

UPCOMING EVENTS
Family Mass - January 14, 2018 on all reservations



Christmas Eve Mass Schedule, Sunday Dec 24:

- 4:00 PM Sycuan
- 6:00 PM Viejas
- 10:00 PM Barona

Christmas Day Mass Schedule, Monday, Dec. 25:

- 9:00 AM Barona

New Years Mass Schedule:

- New Years Eve 5:00PM Barona
- New Years Day 9:00AM Barona



Gilbert Rodriguez, Tom Hyde, Carol Lane, Anita Curo, Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, A. J. Samot, Angelo Samot, Lourdes Adora, Donna Berardi, Secora Nelson, Daniel Vicaldo, Kash Osuna-Sutton, Gabe Dowell, Diana Pico, Clayton Curo, Bobby Malibago, Dolly Albano, Ray Mayor, Mike Montes

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

Mass Intentions – Dec. 24, 2017	
Weekend Masses:	
Sunday, 8:00 AM	Darrell and Roni Romero Doreen Romero-Ford
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Community of Viejas
Sunday, Noon	Community of Sycuan

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

A Prayer Before Gift Opening

Lord God,
 you are the one who blesses us with all good things. As we prepare to open these gifts, help us to cherish this time we spend together. We know that giving gifts is one way we show our love for each other. Let these gifts we share also remind us of the greatest gift of love you have given to us, your son Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Jesus versus Santa Claus: Who is more popular on Christmas?

A reflection on the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas

The story is told about Jesus and Santa Claus meeting each other in heaven. Jesus said: "You know Santa, I am jealous of you." Whereupon Santa asked: "Why so, dear Lord?" And Jesus answered: "Soon it will be my birthday, but, it is you the people are preparing and waiting for."

In today's Gospel (Lk. 1, 26-38) we hear of the preparations that led to the birth of our Savior. I must say I am impressed with the efficiency of the search committee in heaven. How on earth did they "Google," and find a simple girl in an unknown village somewhere in the land of Israel to become the Mother of the Savior? I must also acknowledge the temerity of the Divine Plan that rested on the "yes" of a virgin to conceive sans relationship with a man. What if she said "no"? What if she refused to cooperate? Was there a Plan B?

More than impressed, I am touched by the reaching out of the Divine to us mortals. The message of the annunciation is the importance of each one of us in the eyes of God, and the respect of the Divine for our free will. Yes, we count on God's heart.

There is a song titled "Somewhere Out There." What an assuring and heartwarming message to know that "someone's thinking of you and loving you tonight." But more heartwarming is the reality that this Great Someone is now not just "out there" but has already come down here and loves us in flesh and blood. All because a simple girl said "Yes," "Fiat," "Thy will be done"! What made Mary say "yes"? It was the greeting "The Lord is with you" from the Angel Gabriel. It made her accept her calling and made her overcome her fears. May this greeting, "The Lord is with you," help us too whenever we go through

difficult, and even impossible, situations. Our greatest assurance is that the Lord is with us no matter where, no matter what.

It's a joy always to visit and give communion to Gilbert (Rodriguez) on Saturday evenings. He tells me that every day, he prays to his little friend, Santo Nino (statue of Infant Jesus that was given to him)

not only for his health but also for many people including myself. All he holds on to is the assurance that the Lord is with him in his pain and illness. I am so touched by his simple, humble, hopeful faith. Yes Gilbert, the Lord is with you!

Take note that all that people need to know really is that the Lord is with them. I often ask myself if we are really making this message heard and felt. All too often, we tell people about rules, issues, doctrines, obligations, and we forget to proclaim unto them God's living and loving presence in their joys and pains in the here and now. Further down the line, I often ask myself with concern and fear: Are we really connecting with the young, with the worldly, with the poor and the marginalized? Are we really communicating with them, and is our message really coming through? I hope that we do not wake up one day and realize that we have lost them, or are no longer relevant to them.

May we all feel the Lord's personal presence this Christmas. To do that we all have to have some quiet moments and let Him make His presence felt, and that happens if we take time to have time with Him. Focus on Jesus, not so much on Santa Claus, nor on the Three Kings and their gifts, nor on the shepherds and their lambs. Lessen on shopping and partying, and add on loving and praying. May we also make God's presence felt by others, especially the poor, the sick, the needy and the marginalized this Christmas. Remember, Christmas is making God's love present and alive in the here and now. **DO SOMETHING GOOD THIS CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!!!!**

Want to feel real Christmas joy and not just Christmas happiness? Start with yourself. Just like what: Fr. Paul Farrelly, OSB said to us during our Advent retreat: "Be reconciled with God, and with people you have wronged or have wronged you. And forgive yourself for whatever failures because you are loved without conditions. Remember, "The Lord is with you!"

God is a God of surprises. Let us open our hearts and minds to possibilities—and miracles. Let us broaden our horizons, and spread wide our arms in peace and

love, and let us dig deep into our pockets too, for the world around us is so much in need of salvation and love.

Merry Christmas