

*Weekend of Aug. 31 & Sept. 1, 2019*  
*Twenty-second 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 1, 2019**

Weekend masses:

Sunday, 8:00 Barona – John and Dora 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. 16<sup>th</sup> – time and place to be determined.

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Saturday, September 7, 2019 -- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Viejas Mission Church. All are Invited to Celebrate this great event. 6:30 PM mass.

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**Humility is needed for those who choose to serve.  
Recognize your gifts and offer them in humble service.**

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

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**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.

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***Blessing of Workers***

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
Creator of the universe and Father of  
humanity.

We praise you for your mighty works  
And for the wonders of your love.

Hear our prayers today  
and grant your blessings to all workers.  
Let our work contribute to the good  
Of all members of this community  
And to your glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**  
**God's Expectation from Us: To treat  
each other the way that He treats us.**

## A reflection of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time

I once heard a similar story just like the Gospel that we heard today. A story is told of an event that happened in a church that was located right off the entrance to a small college. The pastor and elders of the congregation seemed to lament the fact that with all of the students, the faculty and even visitors to the campus, participation at Sunday worship never varied, actually there seemed to be a decline. A study was commissioned and revealed that people not attending the church viewed the congregation as “stuff” and uninviting.

One Sunday the service was well underway when the door opened with a loud creak. Everyone’s head turned to see a young man enter who obviously did not belong. His hair was long and stringy...he wore shorts and tank tops...he had multiple tattoos on his arms and legs...he looked rough and unkempt. He was obviously a student at the school. His presence in the church caused a great amount of tension.

He walked slowly, hesitantly down the center aisle looking for a place to sit but no one would move over to make room in a pew. His presence interrupted the service. He completed his walk not finding a place to sit, so he sat down on the floor at the foot of the sanctuary.

People were shocked. Won’t someone do something? Certainly this person should be dealt with immediately. Then the congregation heard the familiar sound of an elder walking slowly down the aisle toward the miscreant. He was the most respected person in the congregation; he was dressed in his dark blue three-piece suit, he walked with a slight limp and had to use a cane. He slowly made his way down the aisle, each step punctuated with the faint click of the cane tapping the marble floor. He finally got to where the young man was sitting and everyone thought now this individual will get what he deserves. The Elder handed his cane to someone in the front pew and leaned over grasping the shoulder of the man sitting on the floor, he eased himself down next to him to join him in worship.

The minister regaining his composure, commented that they just witnessed the gospel alive in their midst.

There is an immediate tension in today’s gospel. On the surface invitations like the one Jesus received are typically given to equals, people of the same status or

position in the community. The obvious meaning is that all whom the host has invited will certainly return the invitation. Jesus presence then indicates that he is highly regarded in this circle of professionals.

As our gospel begins though, there is a direct reference that all things are not as they appear. The host and guests were “watching” Jesus closely. The implication used in the text is one of hostility. They hoped to catch him in a shortcoming of some sort. After all Jesus did have a reputation of not following accepted practices while dining. What would he do to shock them today?

Jesus is watching as well. He is observant of who has been invited. And he is watching their behavior as they try to position themselves for a better seat at the table. It should come as no surprise that he would comment on what he sees. Yet, it is in his comments that he becomes the host inviting everyone into his Father’s kingdom.

On the surface it appears that Jesus’ comments suggest that guests should be shrewd in positioning themselves at a dinner. He tells them; “Always take the lower seat...and don’t sit at the appropriate place...always sit in the lesser place...otherwise how will you be honored when you are invited to a greater position. It’s almost as if he is inviting the guests to fake humility.”

Perhaps for some this is exactly what they wanted to hear. But in reality is he is talking about changing a way of living. Everyone who heard him (including us) are invited to sit with people who are on the margins of society...be willing to listen to them...to feel what they are experiencing...defend...or...assist where possible. Isn’t this what Jesus did?

Jesus also challenges the host to invite those who cannot possibly repay the kindness. Throw open the doors to your home...invite impartially and your feast will be wonderful. If you only invite those who can repay, they will say to each other... “He only invited us because we are to return the gesture,” in this manner there is no feast...there is no celebration. After all, who among us are worthy of the Father’s invitation? We can do nothing to deserve or repay his invitation. Yet it is through God’s love that we are always invited...always welcomed.

Jesus echoes the lesson in the first reading from Sirach; “My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more...and you will find favor with God.” This way of living that we are called

to model is to be gentle in how we live our lives...from work...to family...to everyday events...in essence we are asked to take into consideration all people that we come in contact with.

Jesus challenges us in the same manner: Do we judge those who we come in contact? Do we place restrictions on who is welcomed? Do we act in calculating ways in order to gain some advantage later?

Our response is to take the time necessary to walk the "aisles" of our life and be willing to sit on the floor to worship...to praise God. And then, we can look at our actions and joyfully witness the gospel alive in our midst.