

Weekend of February 23 & 24, 2019
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, Dolly Albano, Ray Mayor, Mike Montes, Bobbie Turner, Mary Whitespear, Frank LaChappa, 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

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

Mass Intentions – February 24, 2019

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

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 SCHEDULE**

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 meets Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the new tribal hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3, 2019 – Children’s Mass at all reservations

March 6, 2019 – Ash Wednesday

March 17-19, 2019 – Lenten Retreat

March 21 – 24, 2019 – LA Rel. Ed. Congress



SCHEDULE

Barona - 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Sycuan - 5:00 PM

Viejas – 7:00 PM



Jesus helps our faith be fruitful when we follow where he leads. Where is Jesus leading you today?

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

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

**FORGIVING SOMEONE WHO HURT US
 MAKES US FREE**

A reflection on the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Everyone has at one time or another been wounded by someone or, at least, we believe we have been hurt or

offended. Every one of us carries scars from just living and the way in which life can be cruel and hurtful at times. Because of this we can accumulate a tremendous burden of resentments, grudges, hatred and anger. We all know someone who has nursed a grudge for years and who is consumed with their anger, justified or not. Sometimes those wounds are slight and sometimes serious and extreme, especially if at the hands of someone we love and trust. These wounds can be real and our anger justified.

My father had two cousins who never married and lived together their entire lives well into their eighties. At some point in their late teens they had a big disagreement, an event they never forgot and ended up never forgiving each other. They refused to talk to each other for the rest of their lives. They lived and died bitter, spiteful and unhappy women. Other people avoided them because they were so unpleasant to be around. Their entire lives were consumed with their hatred and anger. What a terrible loss.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the solution to our anger and wounds. "Be merciful as your Father is merciful." He asks us to love our enemies and to be good to those who harm and hate us. The key is forgiveness, to forgive those who wound us and hurt us no matter how severe those wounds are. I read a beautiful and inspiring story that I cried at the end about a deacon whose belief in the virtue of forgiveness was put to the test when his 18 year-old daughter was murdered by two men in the process of robbing their home. She was murdered in a brutal and unnecessary way. According to him, at first, he was enraged and his anger, although justified, consumed him. Furthermore, it was with him night and day and he thought of nothing else but his wounds and his anger. But eventually he also recalled the words of Christ that His followers must be willing to forgive, no matter what the injury is. That to continue to hate was contrary to everything that Jesus taught. He said that the moment he came to the point where he could truly forgive the two murderers, through much prayer, there was a sense of peace that was tangible as he let go of his anger and hatred. "To be able to forgive brought closure to me," he said. He added, "Forgiveness is at the very core of Christianity and is the most divine thing anyone can

do. Forgiving frees us who are victims of wounds to go on with our lives. Forgiving does not mean that the wound will disappear, but it will allow you to be able to live with that wound." The deacon said that while he was consumed with his anger, he was unable to perform his duties at work or church with any degree of efficiency. But when he freed himself by forgiveness, he regained his sense of humor and became more of himself.

Jesus means for us to struggle through our feelings of righteous anger and resentment until we find the thread of mercy and forgiveness that breaks the cycle of hatred and anger, or resentment and revenge. The virtue of forgiving can be the result of a long process of recalling the hurtful incident and then letting it go. Another's actions may have been wrong and destructive. But that does not make that person an unforgivable person, no matter what the wrong is. We must make the choice to forgive another despite our feelings to the contrary. That choice truly leads us to freedom.

The virtue of forgiveness finds its fullest expression in the challenge of Jesus to love our enemies. His very life is an example to us of forgiveness from the very start of his public ministry to his forgiveness of the thief on the cross. We are all the recipients of that divine forgiveness. No matter how far any of us has strayed from God, He always gives us a chance and leads us back to Him who is ready to forgive us. God touches us in our sinfulness, which is part of our very humanity, and is there to forgive us. God's forgiveness is the love He has for us that reaches into the dark spaces of our failings and brokenness, raises us up, and holds us in the palm of His hand until we are healed. The love of God and His willingness to forgive us gradually leads us from our sinful ways to a life of grace and purpose.

Jesus calls us to be a forgiving people. He calls us to ask for forgiveness from those we have wounded and to forgive those who have wounded us. This is our call today as followers of Christ. "Pardon and you will be pardoned – Forgive and you will be forgiven". Is there someone you need to ask for forgiveness today for some wound you inflicted? Is there someone you need to forgive today for

something they did to you? DO IT! In doing so,
forgiveness will make you free.

