

Weekend of September 9

@ 10, 2017

23rd Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Weekend Masses:

Sunday, 8:00 AM	Charlie and Gene Curo Doreen Romero-Ford
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Community of Viejas
Sunday, Noon	Marie Johann

Lectors Needed: Please sign up to be a lector. It is an important ministry within the Mass.

Religious Education Classes Resume: Classes for Grades K – 8 at Barona will begin on Thursday, September 21. There are classes at 2:30 and 3:30.



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.

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



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

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

Upcoming Events

Anniversary Mass for Elmer (Bud) Mendoza: Saturday, September 23. Mass at 10:00 AM, Barona, followed by blessing of the headstone. Reception follows.

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

Family Mass – All Reservations: October 1.



On Thursday, September 14, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sing we now a hymn of triumph
Of the Cross on which Christ died!
On that Cross his life he offered
That with him we might abide.

Mass Intentions – September 10, 2017

By that tree that was forbidden
We were all once doomed to die;
But the tree on which Christ suffered
For our sins did satisfy.

To the Father, Son, and Spirit,
Equal praise be given now,
As we call to mind Christ's Passion,
And in deep repentance bow. Amen.

--From *Pange, lingua, gloriósi*

From the Pastor's Desk

A friend and I were talking about how children practice the faith that parents try to pass on to them. I told him of a relative who has four children in their mid to late 30s. There is a large disparity in how they practice their faith although they all came from the same home environment. Two attend Mass weekly and are involved in parish ministries. Another is wishy-washy and attends Mass with no regularity. And another has not attended Mass in about 20 years. However, I sense that they all practice that one well-known characteristic of God: they love well.

My friend shared with me about his wishy-washy child and that he and his wife had a plan that they were soon to embark upon. They proposed to have a personal, heart-to-heart talk with their child about practicing the faith. The child has the potential to be the spiritual leader at home, but has not yet lived up to that potential.

Practicing the Catholic faith is a requirement for the parents and godparents of a child to be baptized. At baptism, parents are asked if they will bring their child up in the faith. Similarly, the godparents are asked if they will help the parents. It is not possible to respond affirmatively to these questions if the parents and/or godparents are not practicing their faith.

The scripture readings today suggest what we must do as Christians. The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel was one of those people who told people what they needed to hear, whether they wanted to hear it or not. He quotes the LORD saying, "*You* I have appointed watchman" — "Warn the wicked" — "I will hold *you* responsible."

And Matthew reinforces this statement in the gospel today. If your brother does something wrong, have it out with him privately, then with a witness, then with the community. Do all you can to warn him and help him change his ways. *You* have the responsibility to convert "your brother," your family, friend, or acquaintance.

We Catholics, I think, are a little uncomfortable with this view. Could it be that we have become a little insular? How often do we look after ourselves, leaving those who have fallen by the way — or even those who have no interest — to their own devices, without any challenge, because we are more comfortable in our own cocoon of our personal encounters with our Lord?

In our society today, it may seem that "anything goes." Being critical of others is not popular. In the name of "correctness," we might even feel that everyone should be allowed to live as he or she sees fit, regardless of rules and regulations. It seems like the "contemporary" way.

Members of the more outgoing charismatic churches often shock us with their direct challenges to those with little or no religious commitments. A nurse in an assisted living home had the nerve, or guts, to confront those who were near the stage of dying. She would say to them, "Have you made your peace with God?" "Oh, you don't know God; don't you think it's about time to make the effort? The clock is ticking, you know, and God is waiting." We might think that these seem to be shocking statements, or ill timed. But, isn't that what we are being told quite clearly to do today?

We are often guilty of saying or thinking my partner, my friend, my child, or an associate, is on the wrong track, so I will pray for her or him. "Conversion from a distance" is nice and clean since no personal contact or involvement is required. But God is saying, "No! I will hold *you* — you personally responsible!"

This is the same message that the Spirit is speaking to our hearts today. We must take on the missionary responsibility we inherited at our baptism, get our hands dirty for God, be actively involved and use every means available to turn our brother, friend, partner, or child around. It is not enough for us to be a good, participating Christian while leaving others to their own devices, *especially* when they may be close family members!

We must speak out, privately. Then if that fails, call on the assistance of friends and the community. We

need to do everything possible before we relent and leave them be.

This is serious. If we don't, *we* carry the blame! If we love them, we will reach out to them in a pastoral way. And when we do, our God of love will be there with us. As St. Paul told us in today's reading, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

