

# Weekend of December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017



## Third Sunday of Advent

### 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, 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. 17, 2017

Weekend Masses:

Sunday, 8:00 AM Mel and Buddy Curo

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. **Please note: there will be no classes on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4, due to the Christmas break.**

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

**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.

### Upcoming Events

**What You Don't Know About the Prayers You Pray:** Sessions meet in Ed Nolan's office on Mondays at 6:30 PM (Nov. 13 and 27, Dec. 4, 11, and 18).



**Sunday Mass Schedule, Weekend of Dec. 23/24**

**Saturday, December 23:**

4:00 PM Sycuan

6:00 PM Viejas

**Sunday, December 24:**

8:00 AM Barona

**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



### Family Activities for Advent

Let go of a problem you can't solve, and enjoy the season.

Take a basket of Christmas goodies to your local fire and police stations.

Help your children bake Christmas breads or cookies

to give to teachers, coaches, and school bus drivers.

Refuse to let heavy traffic and long lines dampen your Christmas spirit.

### Christmas Tree Blessing

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
before whom all the trees of the forest sing for joy,  
for you have come to rule the earth and all its peoples  
in your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of  
Peace.

By his death on the cross and his rising in glory,  
the tree of our defeat has become our tree of victory,  
and the pure light of Christ forever gladdens our  
waiting world.

We ask you to send your blessing upon this tree  
which we have decorated in honor of your Son's  
birth.

Let it help us to celebrate this holy season  
as living branches of him,  
and bear the fruit of good works for your glory,  
this day and every day,  
both now and forever. Amen.

---Fr. Michael Kwatera

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rejoice! Rejoice!

A Reflection for Gaudete Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is often called  
“*Gaudete*” which means, “rejoice”. We count it as  
the mid-point of this season of anticipation. You  
noticed that the candle we light today is pink not  
purple and Father Herman's vestments are rose  
suggesting a more rejoicing attitude. At this midpoint  
we relax our sense of wanting, to see that the long  
awaited one is almost with us. That longing for the  
fulfillment of a promise. That special time of  
preparation and waiting is almost over.

How have we been doing in our preparation? Have  
we been reading our Advent meditations every  
day? Did we make it to the Advent penitence service  
last week? Have we minimized our pre-holiday  
celebrations? Or, are we just too busy being caught up  
in a shopping frenzy and partying to have paid much  
attention to Advent? Well, although we are over half  
way through, we still have time to make ourselves

ready for the great saving Solemnity of the Nativity of  
our Lord, Christmas. But time is running out.

John the Baptist was doing everything he could to  
help make the people of his time ready to accept  
Jesus. This was his calling, his reason for being and  
he was not going to go about it timidly. In fact many

saw him as a “wild” man, a description many of us  
here would not disagree with, with his camel hair and  
disgusting diet. But it was his message that caught  
the attention of those in the area around Bethany and  
the Jordan.

There is a commercial for a car manufacturer in  
which a little boy is standing at the side of the road  
and as the car races by and he says “Something's  
up”. The same thing John was saying ... Something's  
up ... Something has happened and you don't know  
anything about it and I'm trying to tell you!

So, we should not be overly surprised when the  
priests and Levites quiz John to try and find out just  
who he was and what he was really up to.

First, because they were expecting the Messiah, they  
asked him if he was he. If he were ... that would be  
big news ... because most of them were looking for a  
“blood and thunder” Messiah who would overthrow  
the Romans, but John said NO.

Then they asked if he's Elijah. Elijah did some pretty  
fancy things himself; or rather Yahweh did, in answer  
to Elijah's appeal. Remember Elijah among other  
things was carried to heaven in a chariot of  
fire. Maybe John's inquirers are hoping to see some  
real-life special effects, but John said NO.

Then comes the big question ... if you're not one of  
these ... what are you doing here and why. I'm  
preparing the way, said John, “For there is one among  
you whom you do not recognize, whose sandal strap I  
am not worthy to untie.”

Jesus was there but was not recognized because he  
was not what they were looking for nor had his time  
come. Almost 2000 years later, there is still one  
among us whom we often do not recognize. We  
sometimes don't see him in the hungry and thirsty; in  
the naked and homeless; in the sick and in the prisons  
because we are not looking for him there. Yet, he is  
there.

In this season of Advent we prepare for the coming of  
the Christ child, the Savior of the World, but are we  
prepared to see him, today, in others and perhaps even  
in ourselves?

Prepare  
the way  
of the  
LORD  
ISAIAH 40:3