



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

October 11, 2020

Mission Statement of St. Cecilia's & St. Mary's

To be Nurtured by Christ's Word, Supported by a Faith Loving Community, and to Serve the Needs of Others as Called to Minister

✦ St. Joseph Church, Magdalena, Colombia (sister parish) ✦



st. mary church
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| MASS | Sunday ** | St. Cecilia | 9:30 a.m. |
| | | St. Mary | 11:15 a.m. |
| | | ** Children Liturgy, last Sunday of the month | |
| | Monday | St. Cecilia | 8 a.m. Holy Hour follows |
| | Wednesday | St. Cecilia | 8 a.m. |
| | Thursday | St. Mary | 8 a.m. |
| | Friday | St. Mary (1 st Fri.) | 8 a.m. Holy Hour follows |
| | | St. Cecilia (other Fri.) | 8 a.m. |
| | Saturday | St. Cecilia (last Sat.) | 10 a.m. Padre Pio & Rosary Devotion |
| | | St. Mary (other Sat.) | 8 a.m. |
| | Reconciliation | St. Cecilia | 4 to 4:30 p.m. |
| | Saturday | St. Mary (except last Sat.) | 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. |
| Religious Education | Monday | St. Cecilia | 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. (1 st thru 6 th graders) |
| Confirmation Prep. | Wednesday | St. Cecilia | 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. |

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – 2020

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14

Almost a year ago, I sponsored my two brothers, their wives and their three grown children, to come and live in the US. Now they are settled in Houston, Texas. When they were still in Vietnam, they never missed Sunday Mass. But now, they begin to struggle with finding time to go to church on the weekend. I call them regularly; just to learn that they are so busy with work that they have to skip Sunday Mass sometimes. I try to reassure them not to miss Sunday Mass, saying: "Remember! When you were in Vietnam, when you were in need, you were closer to God. You prayed, and God granted what you asked for. Now you come to live in this land of plenty and freedom, and you begin to forget God. Don't be ungrateful!"

We hear the same story in today's readings, especially from the Gospel, all about our response to an invitation to a feast or a banquet. A feast is a joyful event, because it is when we gather together to enjoy food and drinks, to meet our friends, and to share stories. To be invited means I am remembered; I am important to the person who hosts the banquet.

From the first reading: "The Lord of host will provide a feast for all peoples..." It is a joyful and happy time when "the Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces," and replace with joy and happiness. This tells us about a heavenly feast when the Lord God gathers all people after they depart from this earthly life to the heavenly life with the Lord.

The gospel reading is also about an important feast – the wedding of the king's son. He organizes a lavish banquet and sends out his servants to invite guests. Sadly, many guests refuse the most important invitation in their lives – Oh, I am busy with my own business; I don't have time to attend the feast...

It is the same story of our daily life. When a king or a president or any important person holds a reception, and sends out personal invitations to their guests, they would never like the idea of declining.

In the parable, it is God who invites all people: "Come to the feast," but they refuse. We are invited to "Come to the Mass! Come to the Eucharistic celebration," but sometimes, if not often, we refuse, too.

Like the first group of people in the Gospel, we just refuse without giving any explanation. We might say the same: "No. I have no interest to go to church at all."

Or like the second group, we might refuse with some excuses: "Because of my daughter's birthday party, or because of my son's baseball game, I don't have time to go to Mass today."

The third group is really bad; some of them turn hostile, maltreat the Lord's messengers and slay them. So, what does the king do? He punishes those who killed his messengers. He sends his servants to "round up everyone they met."

Interestingly, as told by the story, there's one person who did accept the invitation and came to the wedding feast, but he did not dress properly for the event. So, what happened? He was thrown out.

Sometimes, we might assume that we are already seated at the banquet table of the Lord. However, if we do not watch out, if we do not prepare, we may end up being thrown outside like the guest without a proper garment.

We can apply this in our everyday practice when we attend Mass. Being present regularly at Mass is good, but we need to prepare ourselves spiritually, to participate actively in our celebration by listening attentively to the Scripture readings; singing with the choir; responding to the prayers at Mass, preparing our heart and mind and soul to receive the Holy Communion worthily.

The story is all about us; about the banquet that the Lord prepares for us here on this table. It is about the Eucharist, the Mass of our thanksgiving to God for all the gifts he has been giving us. Today, once again, the Lord invites us: "Everything is ready. Come to the feast. Be prepared spiritually!"

Let us be attentive to the Lord's invitation. Let us push away all other busy-ness of our daily life. When we come to Mass, like the guest with the wedding garment, let us be prepared, be worthy of heart and soul to come before the Lord's table and receive the Body and Blood of Christ with faith, hope, and love; with joy, happiness, and peace.

MASS INTENTIONS:

(from Sunday, October 11 to Saturday, October 17)

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| Sunday | 9:30 a.m. | SC ... | Anthony Dinh Minh Hoang (repose) |
| | 11:15 a.m. | SM ... | Grace Farley (birthday on Oct. 13) |
| Monday | 8 a.m. | SC ... | Mamita Emiliana Taaca (for healing) |
| Tuesday | No Mass | | |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m. | SC ... | Kylen Elkins (birthday) |
| Thursday | 8 a.m. | SM ... | Walter Echo (for health) |
| Friday | 8 a.m. | SC ... | for unborn babies |
| Saturday | NO MASS | | (you may join the Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Raphael's Church) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reception: Today – Sunday, October 11, 2020, around 12:15 p.m. (right after 11:15 a.m. Mass) at St. Mary's Church. You are invited to celebrate with us the reopening of the church after the Covid-19 and especially after the completion of the renovation.
- 2nd collection next Sunday, 10/18/20 for the World Mission Sunday.
- Congratulations to Sean Olson and Channing Hussey on their wedding at St. Mary's Church at 3 p.m. this Saturday, 10/17/20.
- There is no Mass on Saturday, 10/17/20. We will join Archbishop Cordileone for Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Raphael's Church, followed by a rosary walk to the nearby Planned Parenthood clinic.
- Please join with others across the nation for the 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign—40 days of peaceful prayer and vigil (Sept. 23 – Nov. 1, 2020), with masks and social distancing, on the public sidewalk outside the Planned Parenthood abortion business at 4th & H St. in San Rafael. Further information and participant sign-up calendar are available at <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/san-rafael/>, or contact Ruth Ann Cawley, phone 415-383-6681, email racawley60@gmail.com.