



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

November 22, 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. |
| | | <i>** Children Liturgy, last Sunday of the month</i> | |
| | 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.) | 8 a.m. Padre Pio & Rosary |
| | | St. Mary (other Sat.) | 8 a.m. |
| Reconciliation | Saturday | St. Cecilia | 4 to 4:30 p.m. |
| | | 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 - 6 th grade) |
| Confirmation Prep. | Wednesday | St. Cecilia | 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. |

Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving
TODAY, 11/22/2020
4-5:30PM
 Community Gathering of Gratitude. **ZOOM** link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89314299920>

THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING – YEAR A – 2020

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46

People sometimes ask question: how long have you been a Catholic? It doesn't matter how many years you and I have been a Catholic or a Christian: one or two, five or ten, twenty or fifty years, or the whole life, quantity is not as important as quality. Jesus, on the Day of Final Judgment, when he will be enthroned to be the King of heaven and earth and the Judge of all people, will evaluate us on how we have lived our Christian life. He will ask us: have you loved God? Have you loved your neighbors? Have you obeyed the will of God the Father? Have you forgiven others? Have you shown people mercy and love? Have you helped the poor? Have you recognized Jesus' face in your suffering brothers and sisters?

Today we the Church enter the last Sunday of Liturgical Year A with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King. We might ask: what sort of king Christ Jesus is?

From the first reading, we may see Jesus as a king who shepherds his flock. He is the good shepherd who cares for the flock and concerns about their need. He binds up the injured, heals the sick, and seeks out the lost. This king is not lording but being the servant of all. This king lives and practices accordingly to the words he says: I come to serve, not to be served. The leader is the servant of all.

From the second reading, we may see Jesus as a king who defeats evil powers and shares his victory with those on his side. He will destroy death; he will win victory over "power," and brings all of us from death to life – to the final resurrection.

From the gospel reading, we see Jesus as the king of the universe. At the final judgment, Jesus will appear in all the power and glory of God the Father to judge the living and the dead. He will sit on his glorious throne and "all the nations will be assembled before him." He will separate the sheep from the goats; he will separate the good from the bad.

All of us will be there and Jesus Christ the King will test us about the same matters, as he says in today's gospel: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you do for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me."

He will ask us just like he once asked Peter: "Have you really loved me?" Have you shown kindness to the poor? Have you fed the hungry? Have you given drink to the thirsty? Have you welcomed the stranger? Have you sheltered the homeless? Have you clothed the naked? Have you cared for the sick? Have you consoled the suffered? Have you visited the elderly and the lonely? Have you?

Take some times in our days to think over, deep down in our hearts, examine our consciences, and be honest with ourselves to answer the above questions. Try to see Jesus in the face of suffering brothers and sisters whom we meet in our everyday life.

Hopefully on that Final Day, to those questions, we will be able to answer "YES" with confidence, so that Christ the King of heaven and earth will welcome us into the joy of his heavenly kingdom.

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM FATHER PHAN

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Cecilia & St. Mary Parish Community,

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving during this difficult time affected by the pandemic, I would like to reflect on the questions: Can we give thanks even in the midst of difficulties? How can we show gratitude in times of trouble? Should we still say HAPPY THANKSGIVING to one another?

The answers should be WHY NOT? Experiencing what is happening these days, people may say that it would be too frustrating and discouraging to celebrate. But I still see the celebration of Thanksgiving this year as very significant. This is a time to give thanks to God for all the blessings we have in our daily lives: food and drink, children and family, relatives and friends, health and joy, happiness and peace, faith and freedom, even life itself...

Very often people forget about the source of these blessings. They are all from God! How often do we forget to give thanks to God for His divine goodness? How often do people teach children to say, "Thank you, God!" Many people celebrate the harvest, but forget the Lord of the harvest. We eat the meal but forget the cook who prepares the meal for us.

During the difficult time of shelter-in-place, I received phone calls from my friends, near and far, to check on me. Very often, they brought me meals. They sent e-mails and notes of care and encouragement. For these and many other reasons, every day I give thanks to God, and thank people for their loving kindness to me.

Normally, when we think about Thanksgiving, we only remember the turkey, potatoes, squash and pumpkin pies. I am from Vietnam, so, I learn that many Vietnamese people in the U.S. call Thanksgiving "Le Ga Tay" meaning "Turkey Festival".

Indeed, Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated as a day of feasting and giving thanks for divine goodness. But the concrete work of our gratitude should be our generous giving to serve the poor. It is a time to share with the less-fortunate the blessings we have received from God.

Let us remember this: nobody is too rich to receive; and nobody is too poor to give. As we enjoy the spirit and blessings of the holiday, we should always remember to give thanks to God. And with this gratitude, we should generously share the gifts with the less-fortunate, the poor, and the needy.

Happy Thanksgiving with Many Blessings!



MASS INTENTIONS (from 11/22 to 11/28)

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| Sun. | 9:30 a | SC | Michael de Rutte (repose) |
| | 11:15 | SM | Marie Foge (death anniv. tomorrow) |
| Mon. | 8 am | SC | Dino Lucchesi (repose) |
| Tue. | ... | | No Mass |
| Wed. | 8 am | SC | Pattie Grey (repose) |
| Thur. | 8 am | SM | <u>Thanksgiving for our Parishioners</u> |
| Fri. | 8 am | SC | Margaret & Stan Greer (repose) |
| Sat. | 8 am | SC | Patricia McAuliffe (repose) Padre Pio |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Second collection today to support the Campaign for Human Development.
- Thanksgiving Day Mass at St. Cecilia Church: 8 a.m. Thursday, November 26, 2020. Come and give thanks to God for all Blessings we have received from Him.
- November 29 – First Sunday of Advent.
- Let us continue our prayers for the sick in our parish, especially for healings of Craig Carlson, Ann Conley, Elizabeth Ohannesson, and those who asked us to keep them in our prayers.