



st. cecilia church  
lagunitas

December 20, 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  
nicasio

<b>MASS</b>	Sunday **	St. Cecilia St. Mary	9:30 a.m. 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 <sup>st</sup> Fri.) St. Cecilia (other Fri.)	8 a.m. Holy Hour follows 8 a.m.
	Saturday	St. Cecilia (last Sat.) St. Mary (other Sat.)	8 a.m. Padre Pio & Rosary Devotion 8 a.m.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Saturday	St. Cecilia St. Mary (except last Sat.)	4 to 4:30 p.m. 8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
<b>Religious Education</b>	Monday	St. Cecilia	3:45 to 4:45 p.m. (1 <sup>st</sup> thru 6 <sup>th</sup> graders)
<b>Confirmation Prep.</b>	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Note: This section contains schedules that are on hold due to the pandemic. See latest Mass schedule posted each week.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B**

2 Sm 7:1-16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



“Time goes by quietly but fast. I can’t believe that it has already been one and a half years since I moved to St. Cecilia & St. Mary Parish. I am still enjoying in memory the wonderful event of my installation Mass on Sunday, September 22, 2019. I give thanks to God for all the blessings, and thank you to my dear people for welcoming me and working with me to keep the parish running, even though we have been struggling with the year of pandemic.

I remember when I got a phone call from the Archbishop’s representative asking me if I would like to be pastor of St. Cecilia & St. Mary, my first thought was fear and uncertainty. That meant I would have to move out of my comfort zone, leaving behind my dear parish and friends and going to a new place where I didn’t know what would happen ahead...

That was just a thought, and as you know, I didn’t dare to say no to the Archbishop. He asked me politely, but I understood that was an order. So, I’d better exercise my virtue of obedience to the Archbishop, as Mary says YES in today’s gospel: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word!”

As you can imagine, at first, Mary, a thirteen-year-old girl, did not understand what the words of the angel meant. She said: “How can I conceive in my womb and bear a son, if I have no relation with a man?” But with the grace of God, Mary eventually accepted God’s will: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word!” Mary’s attitude and her response to God’s invitation should be our attitude and response to love and to serve God through the people God sent to us in our daily life, and through different ministries in our parish community.

During this Advent season, we have been responding to God’s invitation through the voice of

Prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist calling us to “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” Make low every mountain of hatred, violence and conflict; and fill in every valley of sinfulness with love, peace, and justice.

Only a few more days away, we will celebrate the birthday of Jesus. We are called to build a dwelling place for the Lord – not only a physical house but a true home in our hearts and souls for God to dwell. Let us see how ready we have prepared to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

We see more beautiful decoration, more joyful music. People like to decorate their outer appearances for this joyful season: homes, streets, neighborhoods, restaurants, market places, and more... All are beautiful. But we may ask: how about our spiritual home – the church?

We hear from the first reading today that King David lives in a house of cedar – luxuriously – while the ark of God dwells in a tent. David knows this is not right; he examines his conscience and he knows his place in relation to God – he knows things are out of balance. The Ark of God, where the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments are kept, deserves to be housed in a worthier and more respectful place. David’s concern is to build a temple – a worthy place for God to dwell and for people to worship. Do we the people of God have this same concern? Do we have this concern to make our church a more beautiful place to worship?

More than the outer appearance, we may question ourselves about our inner selves. How about “the temple of the Holy Spirit – which is in us? Do we really prepare in ourselves a dwelling place for God? Do we really make room in our hearts and souls to welcome the Holy Son of God?

As we prepare to celebrate the Birthday of Jesus, like Mary who generously answered YES to God’s invitation, may we generously respond to the call to love God and to do the will of God. Spiritually, may we spend more time in prayers, and clean up our inner selves through the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Materially, may we generously give to serve God through the Church and the poor! May we willingly prepare in our hearts and souls a worthy place for Jesus Christ, the Holy Son of God, to enter and stay! O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

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**MASS INTENTIONS:** (from Sunday, December 20 to Saturday, December 26)

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ...	Joyce Massucco & Family (thanksgiving)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Benedetta Massucco & Family (thanksgiving)
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Andrues & Family (thanksgiving)
Christmas Eve	3:00 p.m.	SM ...	Thanksgiving for All Parishioners
Christmas Day	9:30 a.m.	SC ...	Pete DeRutte & Family (thanksgiving)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Jerry Thompson (healing)



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- There are some changes on Mass Schedule this week. Please take note!
- **Thursday, December 24:** No morning Mass, but we will celebrate an outdoor Mass for Christmas Eve at St. Mary Church at 3 p.m. (if no rain) ... We pray for good weather!
- **Friday, December 25:** Christmas Day Celebration... outdoor Mass at St. Cecilia Church at 9:30 a.m. ... MERRY CHRISTMAS! Pray for good weather, too!
- As we give thanks to God for all the blessings, we thank the Lord for all people and families of our parish community. Especially THANK YOU again to our generous parishioners who donate Christmas tree & flowers and give time to help decorating the churches very beautifully. May God bless you for your generous hearts!