



st. cecilia church  
lagunitas

January 3, 2021

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.

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

On the coming home after a space exploration, an astronaut firmly admits that: "I couldn't help believing in God, the Creator of heaven and earth. I was in awe of the Almighty God. The whole wonderful universe lay open before my eyes: the solar system, the moon, the stars, all was beautiful, awesome, and perfect. I firmly believe in God." Another astronaut, however, said: "I tried to search all over the sky, but I did not see any god up there."

As we can see, God rains his grace equally upon every one of us, but it is truly grace for those who open their entire being to catch and receive it. Those who refuse it will never experience this grace.

The astronauts derive two opposite views from the same exploration: one firmly believes in God; the other keeps denying God. Just as two opposite reactions are derived from the same star appearing in the sky of Bethlehem, as we learn from the Gospel reading today. For the magi – or the wise men from the East – the star is an invitation of adoration and worship; but for King Herod, the star becomes the cause of hatred and hostility.

The wise men see the star and they believe that the heavenly wonder symbolizes the birth of a heavenly person. They believe that God is showering his love on the world. For them, the bright guiding star is a sign of joy, hope, and love pouring down from heaven. They see the star which serves as their guide in finding the Messiah. The gospel tells us that: "They saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." They are filled with the desire to lay at the feet of the Child Jesus the noblest gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

King Herod, however, is greatly upset when he hears about the star and the arrival of strangers from the East. Herod is afraid that this little child is going to interfere with his life, his place, his power, his influence, and he is filled with hatred and hostility; therefore, his first reaction is to destroy the Baby Jesus.

The world today is unjustly threatened by war and poverty, by terrorism and even religious persecution. During this time of pandemic, we have been discriminated on our right to worship. There are still those, like the evil king Herod, who would gladly destroy Jesus Christ because they see in him the one who interferes with their lives. They wish to do what they like, and Christ will not let them do what they like; and so, they would kill him.

What do we learn from this feast of the Epiphany? The Epiphany is all about the Lord's revelation – the manifestation of the Son of God to the world – as we hear from the first reading: "the glory of the Lord shines upon you." Nations shall no longer walk in darkness, but in the Light... and every nation on earth will adore the Lord, our God, our Savior, our Light, and our Hope.

This is a blessed and memorable day for us, on which the mercy of the Redeemer called us in the person of the Magi, from the darkness of unbelief, to the knowledge of the true faith.

Saint Paul also tells us today through his Letter to the Ephesians: "Now it has been revealed that the Gentiles are coheirs of the promise." Through the Magi, God revealed himself to the gentiles, to all the nations on earth, to all of us – the people did not have chance to know God and to see God, but now we become "coheirs of the promise." So, the Gentiles, who were the last, become the first.

This is the good news for us: "God became man so that man might become God. The Magi are our forefathers and our models in faith. Happy are we if we imitate the Magi, and follow in their footsteps, to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ, the Bright Star, the New Born King, in the world we live.

May God, who has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light, pour out in kindness his blessing upon us! May we perceive the Lord with clear sight, so to bring the light of Christ to our brothers and sisters! May God make our hearts firm in faith, hope and charity!

**MASS INTENTIONS:** (from Sunday, January 3 to Saturday, January 9)

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ...	Ralph John Treleven (repose)
	11:15 a.m.	SM ...	Luke Tran Minh Tuan (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Massucco Family (thanksgiving)
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Guido Mori-Prange (for health)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Jackie Kerbs (repose)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ...	DeRutte Family (thanksgiving)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Petti & Rich (thanksgiving)



**WHAT WE LEARN FROM THIS CELEBRATION**

1. What is "epiphany"? Epiphany is the revelation of God – God reveals himself to us.
2. Because of a deep desire to see God, the Magi leave everything behind: their homeland and families, so that they can begin their journey to seek God. They follow the leading star to find the Baby Jesus – the newborn king, the Son of God. Three magi represent different peoples/nations/countries, coming to adore God through Jesus.
3. What do the Magi respond to God when they find Jesus? They offer gold to proclaim Christ's kingship. They offer incense to adore his Godhead. They offer myrrh to acknowledge his mortality.
4. Creation responds as well. St. Gregory the Great wrote this: "When the king of heaven was born, the heavens knew that he was God because they immediately sent forth a star; the sea knew him because it allowed him to walk upon it; the earth knew him because it trembled when he died; the sun knew him because it hid the rays of its light."
5. "And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way." The manifestation of the Son of God to the world begs belief from us by which we will be led home by another way. When we meet Christ, we no longer go back to the same way of sinfulness, but the light of Christ leads us home by another way.