



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

February 7, 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

MASS	Sunday **	St. Cecilia St. Mary	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.
<i>Note: This section contains schedules that are on hold due to the pandemic. See latest Mass schedule posted each week.</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.) 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.
	Reconciliation	Saturday	St. Cecilia St. Mary (except last Sat.)
Religious Education Confirmation Prep.	Monday Wednesday	St. Cecilia St. Cecilia	3:45 to 4:45 p.m. (1 st thru 6 th graders) 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

When I reflected on this Sunday's Gospel, this simple line really struck me: "Rising very early before dawn, Jesus left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed."

It brings back to me the memory of the night before my ordination, my spiritual director, Fr. Gene Konkel, called me in to give a spiritual advice and reaffirmation. He blessed me, saying: "Son, congratulations on your ordination! Very soon, you are going to be a priest, a different person ontologically. Remember this important event in your life: ordination marks an achievement of your nine-year studies and formation program. It is not the conclusion yet, but only a first step of your priestly life, the beginning of your journey. There are still many struggles and temptations out there. So, never lose hope, never lose track, but hold on to the Lord! Pray, and pray, and pray!"

I never forget this valuable advice. As priests, pray daily is one of the commitments we promise at the ordination, before God and in the presence of the people of God. As diocesan priests, we formally pray at least four times every day: early-morning prayer, mid-day prayer, evening prayer, and night prayer before rest time. For priests, it's a sin if we don't keep that promise.

In the midst of busy-ness of life, sometimes if I skipped or postponed my prayer, I felt something wrong; I felt lost. I questioned myself: for what purpose, what motivation, am I doing the works that I am doing? Am I doing these works as a priest, or just as a social worker? If I am teaching, too busy to pray, then it seems there is something wrong... So, be alert, Satan is sneaking in me. I need to stop and look back. And I had to go confession for that sin. I was told that some priests left their priesthood because they first lost the sense of their prayer life.

Pray is very important, not only for priest, clergy, or religious men and women, but for all of us as Christians – the followers of Jesus Christ. We should remember this saying: "The more you know, the more you love. And the more you love, the more you know." You cannot love a person without knowing that person and again, you cannot have more knowledge of that person if you don't love that person. You cannot love God without knowing him. You cannot develop your knowledge of God without loving him, which means you cannot know God, if you don't love him, if you don't search for him, if you don't converse with him.

Ironically, people spend a lot of time watching TV or playing games, but they don't have time to pray. God gives us all time to work for living, to eat, to sleep, to entertain, to have party, to travel near and far, to enjoy life, but sometimes we complain that we don't have time to go to church even once a week on Sunday...

In order to be an active Christian, we need to pray, and pray daily. You don't have to take a long time for prayer, but a short prayer is fine, it depends on the circumstance. The idea is to keep God present in your life. Pray when you wake up in the morning and before you begin your day of work. Thank God before you have your meal. Pray before you go to sleep at night.

The Gospel today tells us about Jesus' life and his ministries. He is so busy. He comes to pray and teach in the synagogue. People bring the sick to him for healing. He travels from village to village preaching the Good News of God's kingdom, and to "cure many who are sick with various diseases." Until the evening, after sunset, people still bring to him all who are ill and possessed by demons. The day is so busy, but Jesus never loses his time to pray, for he knows that God the Father is the source of all life, the wisdom of his teachings, the miracle of his healings, and the strength of his ministries.

We learn from Jesus to be more fervent in our prayers so that we can love the sick, the elderly, the lonely who need our love and support. Like Job in the first reading today, we pray so that we can realize the will of God in every situation of our lives, even in times of trouble, sickness, and suffering and death. We pray, like St. Paul, St. Peter and other disciples who assisted Jesus in his ministries, so that we can actively preach the Gospel of love to people through our good examples of stewardship and discipleship. And we pray so that we can generously give and reach out to help the poor and the unfortunate.

Like St. Paul says in the second reading: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel," we preach the Gospel day by day through our living examples. May we learn and practice Jesus' message from today's Gospel! Let us be more fervent in prayer and more active in service to God and others.

MASS INTENTIONS: (from Sunday, February 7 to Saturday, February 12)

Sunday	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	SC ... Maria P. Nguyen (RIP) & Joseph-Jane (repose) SM ... Anton Dinh Minh Hoang (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ... Kevin Kenneally (health)
Tuesday	No Mass	
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ... Susan Pineda (healing)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SC ... Mike Davidson (healing)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ... Ginny & George Kerbs (55th wedding anniversary)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SC ... Grandparents Paul & Martha Phan (repose)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ash Wednesday is February 17th, starting the Lenten Season. Outdoor Mass at 8 a.m at St. Cecilia Church. We have all had a year filled with different ways of living and praying. As we mark the beginning of Lent, we once again need to adapt our practices to preserve the health of all worshippers, while following the ancient traditions of the Church. Therefore, this year, instead of tracing a cross of ashes on the forehead, ashes will be distributed by the ancient custom of sprinkling over the crown of the head. This practice is used extensively in Europe and the Holy See has mandated it be used throughout the world this year. *By sprinkling, the best description of this "sprinkling" is that it is similar to when you are adding a bit of salt to a food – the ashes are pinched between the thumb and forefinger and rubbed so that they are dusted into the hair or crown of the recipient. This is NOT like a Sprinkling Rite with Holy Water and ashes are not sprayed across the congregation.*

- All Fridays during Lent, there will be all-day Adoration: with praying the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Spiritual Readings and Reflections, Penance Service, and more... Please plan to attend.

Last week:	St. Cecilia	St. Mary
Sunday Collection	\$ 373.00	\$ 271.00
Maint./Preservation	\$ 30.00	\$ 230.00
AAA.	\$.00	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ 403.00	\$ 701.00