



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

March 21, 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.
<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"> <i>Note: This section contains schedules that are on hold due to the pandemic. See latest Mass schedule posted each week.</i> </div>	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 OF LENT – YEAR B

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Today's Gospel begins with the incident that some Greeks "would like to see Jesus." We may wonder why Jesus related to the image of "a grain of wheat must die in order to produce fruit" when someone make a request to see him?

Most people at the time had already heard about Jesus and seen him in everyday events: he taught in the synagogue; he performed many miracles; he walked from village to village teach people and to heal the sick... But they still tried to put Jesus to the test; they challenged to see more signs from him, they wanted to see his glory right now. That's why Jesus gave this example, with hope to open their minds to understand how his death would lead to the salvation.

LIFE MUST COME FROM DEATH. A seed must die in order to produce a new growth; through Jesus' death, resurrection, and return to the Father, new life would come forth in those who faithfully follow him, as Jesus promised: where I am, there also will my servants be.

Jesus wants to assure all of us that: "seeing" him means to be ready to accept the fact that the Son of Man, before being glorified, must suffer and die, just as the grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die, in order to grow up again and produce new fruit.

A Greek proverb says: "the beautiful things are always difficult." This is similar with the saying: "there is no rose without thorn," or "no pain, no gain." Indeed, achievements in life are always the results of hard work, sacrifice, and even suffering.

Jesus simply describes how life functions: LIFE COMES FROM DEATH. This statement seems contradictory, but it is so true. The seed must die first, in order to grow and produce fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who sacrifice their life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

During my years at the seminary, I learn some touching stories from some seminarian friends of mine. They used to be a rich and successful businessman, a lawyer, a doctor, or an engineer, but material richness

never satisfied them. They used to have lots of money, but they still felt something missing in their lives: no wife, no children, no love, no friendship, no fellowship, no sharing, no giving, and God seemed to be absent in their lives.

One day, they heard the voice of Jesus speaking to them as he said to the rich young man in a gospel story: "go, sell what you have and give alms to the poor, then come and follow me, and you will have eternal life." So, they did as Jesus commanded them. That's why they became priests.

Usually, people with a generous heart can say: to give is more blessing than to receive. I think it's very true. In life things work that way. In other words, if you live for yourself, you will never satisfy, you will never be happy. But if you can sacrifice yourself and live for others, then you may find life more meaningful, and that may bring you more happiness. Jesus himself gives us this life model to follow: "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation."

The final Sundays of Lent draw us closer to the compassionate Christ who willingly suffered, died, and rose again for us. When we enter the Holy Week with the Passion of Christ, we may understand more of this mystery: a seed must die in order to produce a new growth. Through his death and resurrection Jesus has brought us the forgiveness of our sins, healed us from our sickness, and restored our relationship with God. Let us learn from Jesus to obey God's will and to endure whatsoever hardship we face in this life, with hope that on the final day we will receive the reward of eternal life as Jesus has promised us.

MASS INTENTIONS: (from Sunday, March 21 to Saturday, March 27)

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Phyllis Moreno (RIP)
	11:15 a.m.	SM ... James A. Fogliano (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ... for souls in purgatory
Tuesday	No Mass	
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ... Deacon Michael Doherty (repose)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM ... Sharon Cuthbert (repose-anniversary 03-27)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ... Ryan Dallara & Family (healing & peace)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SC ... Susan Pineda (birthday-thanks-giving)

Last Week Collections:

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory.	\$ 311.00
AAA	\$ 100.00
2 nd : CRS	\$ 146.00
Total	\$ 557.00
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory.	\$ 402.00
Preservation	\$ 130.00
AAA	\$ 300.00
2 nd CRS	\$ 162.00
Total	\$ 994.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Saturday, March 27 at 8 a.m. at St. Cecilia Church: Padre Pio Mass and Devotion (last Saturday of the month)
- Tuesday, March 30 at 5:30 p.m... Chrism Mass @ Saint Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco
- Please sign-up to participate in ministries for the Holy Week and Easter.
- The Holy Week and Easter Schedule (**UPDATED**)
 - Palm Sunday, 3/28** ... Mass schedule is as usual: 9:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia, 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary's. We are unable to organize the Palm Sunday Brunch at the Druids this time yet.
 - Holy Thursday: 4/1** ... no morning Mass... but the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:15 p.m. at St. Cecilia – NO WASHING OF FEET... The Eucharistic Adoration will continue right after the Mass until 11 p.m.
 - Good Friday: 4/2** ... The Good Friday Liturgy starts at 3 p.m. at St. Mary (the hour Jesus died). The Liturgy includes 3 parts: the Liturgy of the Word; the Adoration of the Holy Cross (only genuflect or profound bow... **NO TOUCHING/NO KISSING THE CROSS**); and Holy Communion... continued with walking the Stations of the Cross... and private prayers...
 - Easter Vigil: 4/3** ... Mass starts at 7:15 p.m. at St. Cecilia.
 - Easter Sunday: 4/4** ... Mass schedule is as usual: 9:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia, 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary.

