

July 4, 2021



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

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	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 Devotion
		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 Confirmation Prep.	Monday	St. Cecilia	3:45 to 4:45 p.m. (1 st thru 6 th graders)
	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Ex 2:2-5; Ps 123; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6a

Many of us probably know this saying of George Eliot: “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” Unfortunately, we very often judge the book by its cover. We judge people by the appearance, the clothes they wear, the car they drive; or by their social status, education, occupation, family background/origin, skin color, race, language...

For the first time after being ordained a priest when I went back Vietnam to celebrate the Mass at my home parish, the people from my village said to me: “I don’t care who you are now – a priest or a teacher, a famous or infamous person – you are still our countryman.” My parents, actually my mother, also reminded me: “Now, at the parish, the church, you are a priest; but at home, you are my boy. Be careful of what and how you say things to us.” The opinions of my parents and my villagers reminded me of what Jesus experienced from his native people, as told in today’s gospel.

Jesus came to his native place, Nazareth, to tell the people about God’s love. He taught them about peace and justice, he guided them how to live God’s law through the Ten Commandments. But they couldn’t see how his humble origins could be compatible with his wisdom and mighty deeds. They questioned about his family background: “Is he not a carpenter, the son of Mary...” The villagers knew his relatives very well. He’s nothing special, in their opinion. What could he possibly say that they needed to hear? Because they were “sated with contempt,” and lacking of faith, they closed themselves off to the astonishing works he could have done for them.

Rejection is a negative term. Nobody wants to be rejected. We don’t want to hear about it, or to experience it. Unfortunately, rejection happens very often in our daily life through relationships among people. Friends betray each other. Lovers break up. In family life, brothers fight against each other; sisters speak ill of one another. Parents are irresponsible to their children. Children abandon their elderly parents. Couple divorce. Family life is broken. Community is divisive.

Each and every one of us somehow has experienced rejection in life. We may have rejected others; or we may have been rejected by others. We may be rejected because of our bad behaviors; but we may also be rejected because of our good deeds. Today’s readings show that this happened to Ezekiel, Paul, and Jesus.

God sent the prophet Ezekiel to do an uneasy task, to proclaim God’s word of truth to a rebellious people. He called the people to conversion. But they were stubborn – “hard of face and obstinate of heart.” They had rebelled and turned their backs on him; they had resisted him.

Paul, in the second reading, spoke of the thorn in his flesh. This “thorn in the flesh” might be the people’s disbelief in the Gospel; it might be his figurative expression of a divisive Christian community... Paul had to face difficulties. But Jesus encouraged him: “My grace is sufficient for you,” that kept him persevere on the mission.

With grace of God, Paul eventually realized that whoever holds firm to the truth will be saved by the end, as he said: “Therefore, I am content with weakness, insults, hardship, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

To be a messenger of God is not easy at all. God’s messengers are to call people to stand up against injustice, oppression, violence, wars, abortions, and many other evil deeds. God’s messengers are to invite people to show love, peace, justice, faith, and hope. But people don’t want to hear this, they don’t accept these challenging teaching, that’s why they reject God’s messengers.

Like Ezekiel, we come to people not by our own will, but by the will of God who sent us. Like Paul, we humbly say that we have nothing to boast of ourselves except our weakness. God’s power is made perfect through our human weakness; and divine grace is always sufficient for us. And with Jesus, we need to understand the reality that: “A prophet is respected everywhere except in his own home town and by his relatives and his family.” (Mk 6:4)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you and I are call to proclaim the truth, to prove the truth, and to live the truth. We are called to be faithful, carrying our daily cross to follow Jesus. We need to pray for God’s spiritual strength and wisdom to deal with all the circumstances and be patient, for Jesus promised us: “My grace is sufficient for you.”

MASS INTENTIONS: *from Sunday, July 4 to Saturday, July 10*

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... Marco & Sue Torres Family (special intention)
	11:15 a.m.	SM	... Fr. Paul Rossi (birthday)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC	... Joseph Tien (repose)
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC	... Anna Nguyen (repose)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM	... Martha McNeil (healing)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC	... Anna Ly (repose)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM	... Susan Pineda (healing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

1. You are invited to the meeting on Sunday, July 11 right after 9:30 a.m. Mass, at St. Cecilia Church, with Elina Boylan and Ginny Kerbs and the committee to finalize the fund-raising plan. Thank you all for your generous help to the parish.
2. We continue in our prayers for those who are sick, especially for those in our families and in our parish community...

2021 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Goal	\$ 4,962.00
Received	\$ 5,144.00
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Goal	\$ 3,329.00
Received	\$ 2,066.00
Need	\$ 1,263.00

Last Week Collections:

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 370.00
Maintenance	\$ 220.00
Total	\$ 590.00
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 347.50
Preservation	\$ 83.00
Total	\$ 430.50