

August 1, 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.

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

The Vietnam War ended in 1973 when I was a little kid. Until April 1975, the North communists took over the South of Vietnam, and right afterward there was famine taking place in many regions; my village was one of them. Rice was our daily food, but we did not have rice, so we had to eat manioc instead. Once, I unknowingly ate a toxic manioc which made me sleepy, then unconscious. There was no hospital nearby, no doctor, no ambulance in the village. The villagers tried to save my life by pumping lots of water into my stomach, and pushing me to throw up all the manioc I ate. I survived from that food poison. As you may have known, hundreds of thousand people fled Vietnam after 1975 because of political conflict, or famine, or poverty, or hardship in the country.

Another similar story in history is the Great Famine in Ireland – aka Irish Potato Famine. It was a period of starvation, disease and mass emigration between 1845 and 1852. About one million of the population died and a million more emigrated from Ireland's shores. It was a tough time for Irish people. They had to run away from their homeland because of the famine and other hardships in the country.

We hear this same story of daily-life suffering in the first reading today. The Israelites were under the oppression of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, and in consequence, Moses led his people running away from the Egyptians. They endured a long journey in Sinai Desert: hunger, thirst, sickness... They feared death in the desert for lack of food and water. They complained. They cried to God (Ex. 16:2-4). And the Lord rained down mana and quail to feed them all...

As we can see, God never lets his children go hungry. God never abandons us in our daily hardship or suffering. Let us put our trust in God's providence. Do not be afraid, but believe in God's faithful love. There is always light at the end of the tunnel.

In late 1990, I fled Vietnam by boat with 26 others: men, women, and children. It was a life-risking journey. After two days and nights on the ocean, the engine was broken. We lost the direction. The boat was floating on the ocean. Weather began to change: the wind was stronger and colder. We ran out of food and water... We prayed; we cried, waiting to die of hunger and thirst. Suddenly, we saw a lot

of dead fish like sardines floating around the boat. We caught the fish, just by hand, and cooked, right on the boat. We all had a full meal with fish and saved some leftover for later.

Then the storm came. Although in fear, we were satisfied with rainwater. What a miracle: "dead fish and rain water." Rough waves and heavy wind finally brought our boat into China shore. We turned the boat upside down on an isolate beach, to hide in there for almost two weeks under cold weather... We became beggars. Every day, we walked barefoot to the nearby villages begging for food. Having survived near-death occasions, we eventually arrived in Hong Kong after the long journey of twenty-six days and nights.

Looking back on this critical time, I realize how much we need God. I do believe in miracles. I totally trust in God's care about our needs and concerns. The more we depend on God, the more dependable we find God is.

The crowd in today's Gospel experienced hunger and thirst, too. Jesus miraculously multiplied the loaves and the fish to feed the large crowd as we learned from the Gospel of last Sunday. However, Jesus wanted to draw the people's attention to a higher level, as he said: "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Mt. 4:4). Work not only for earthly food but for the heavenly bread that leads us to eternal life. That heavenly bread is Jesus himself, as he said: "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst" (Jn. 6:35).

Jesus is the bread of life – the heavenly bread that we should seek. We hunger for bodily food, but we should not forget our thirst for spiritual food. Jesus invites us to the Eucharistic meal: come to this table of plenty to be fed until we are satisfied with the bread of life and the word of everlasting life.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, August 1 to Saturday, August 7

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Corey Dallara (birthday)
	11:15 a.m.	SM ... Jacob & Rachel Voight (wedding anniversary)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ... Angelo Gandullia (healing)
Tuesday	No Mass	
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ... Gabriel Massucco (birthday)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM ... Phyllis Moreno (repose)
Friday	8 a.m.	SM ... Kate Andrues (birthday)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM ... Martha McNeil (health)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next Sunday, August 8: right after 9:30 am Mass, at St. Cecilia Church: fundraising meeting with Elena Boylan and the Committee. Please plan to attend.
- First Friday Mass at 8 am, Friday, August 6, at St. Mary Church. Adoration right after Mass until noon. Concluded with Benediction.
- Scripture Series with Fr. William C. Nicholas, on the Gospel of John. The class will be presented via ZOOM, at 7 pm on Thursdays from September 9 thru May 26. Class information can be found at www.frbillnicholas.com under "Zoom Presentations" ... For everyone interested in Bible Studies.
- We remember in our prayers for those who are sick, especially pray for Martha McNeil.

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	\$ 2,236.00
Need	\$ 1,093.00

Last Week Collections:

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 540.35
Maintenance	\$ 165.00
Total	\$ 705.35
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 378.00
Baptism	\$ 125.00
Preservation	\$ 360.00
Total	\$ 863.00