



st. cecilia church lagunitas

August 22, 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

Table with columns for Mass, Reconciliation, Religious Education, Confirmation Prep, Day, Location, and Time. Includes a 2021 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal summary for St. Cecilia and St. Mary.

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-21; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69

From last Sunday's gospel, Jesus said: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (John 6:51-58).

This revealing truth of Jesus causes a shock to all people who listened to him. They hardly accept Jesus' teaching, especially when he reveals of himself to be God. The crowd is scandalized by his claim that they must eat his body and drink his blood; and then even those close to him – his disciples – are murmuring: "this is a hard saying, who can accept it?" and they start walking away, one after another.

It is a sad situation. God so loved the world that he gave his beloved son Jesus to die for us, in order to save our lives. But nobody realizes God's unbounded love, nobody appreciates Jesus' love for them, even the disciples abandon him, their Master.

Jesus, however, respects the freewill of all people. He does not force them to return to him, but only tells them the truth, saying: "I am the living bread that comes down from heaven. Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." He challenges the crowd to make decision: to believe or not believe. He also challenges his disciples, saying: "Are you going to leave me too?" Peter represents his fellow apostles, professing his faith in Jesus: "Lord, I will follow you. To whom shall we go [if we leave you]?"

From the first reading today, Joshua also challenges his people Israel in the same way, to decide whom they should follow: the Lord God of their ancestors, or the false gods. The Israelites, however, choose to remain faithful to the Lord God, the one who first calls them. Joshua reminds his people that following the law of the Lord will not be easy, therefore they must be ready to resist temptations and deceptions of the pagan world.

As for us, following Christ is not easy at all, so we have to make our commitment too. Saint Paul uses the model of marital relationship as the guidance for our faithfulness and love for God and for one

another. Especially to those who are husbands and wives, Paul calls for mutual submission of one to another. Women are called to submit to their husbands in the same way the Church submits to Christ. A man's love for his wife must at least equal his love of himself; he must nourish and cherish her as he nourishes himself, and as Christ nourishes the Church.

Married love involves commitment and mutuality. In the end, it should resemble the love between Christ and the Church. Man and woman become "one flesh" in marriage – a great mystery that somehow expresses the relationship between Christ and his bride, the Church. That is how our relationship with God, with Jesus, should be; as we come to receive the Holy Communion, we receive Christ in order to become "one" with Christ and also with other members of the Church.

Two things we may learn from our reflection on the readings today: 1/ is our decision to faithfully follow Jesus; and 2/ is our commitment to the Church, especially the mutual commitment between husbands and wives in family life.

Perhaps, we still face many difficulties in both family life and church life. But the question for us is: should we confront the difficulties and try to find a good resolution, or should we turn and walk away?

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have been attending Mass daily or weekly. Perhaps, this is time for us to question ourselves: "Do I really and deeply believe in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ present in the Holy Communion I receive?" To this question, as Jesus asked Peter and his disciples, may we respond to Jesus with all conviction: "Amen! Yes, Lord, I do believe."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. SF Archdiocese Liturgical Ministers Initial Training and Re-certification Workshops for new and experienced Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion as well as for Readers – at St. Sebastian's Church, Greenbrae – Sat. Oct. 16, 2021, 9am-3pm and Sat. Oct. 23, 2021, 10am-12pm. Fulfill Archdiocese requirement to be certified every three years for these ministries. The cost will be paid by your parish: \$20.00 per person paid in advance or \$25.00 same-day. Please register to participate in these ministries. For more information, contact Robyn Torres at wakerobyn425@gmail.com or 415-663-9320.
2. Randy Lafranchi will be hosting and cooking the Annual Chicken BBQ on Sun. Sep. 5, 2021 at the Lafranchi Deer Camp. 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm. Ticket: \$50.00 per person including drink. Come and join us for this country style BBQ buffet with wines, and support our annual fundraiser for St. Mary's Church, Nicasio. For more information, contact Torri Carlson or Carol Perez (415) 662-2191 or wperezcperez@gmail.com
3. We welcome Joseph Meyer & Lucia Roca into our Faith Community through the Sacrament of Baptism today: Sunday, August 22 at St. Mary's 11:15 am Mass.
4. Padre Pio Mass and Devotion: Sat. Aug. 28 at 8 am Mass, St. Cecilia.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, August 22 to Saturday, August 28

Table with columns for Day, Time, and Intention. Includes intentions for Joseph Tai Nguyen (repose), Hilary Stock (repose), Joyce Massucco (birthday), John Thi (repose), Martha McNeil (repose), Fr. James Dien (repose), and Barbara Felling (health).

Last Week Collections:

Table with columns for Location, Item, and Amount. Shows collections for St. Cecilia (Offertory \$756.00, Maintenance \$350.00, Total \$1,106.00) and St. Mary (Offertory \$332.00, Preservation \$300.00, Total \$632.00).