



st. cecilia church lagunitas

August 29, 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, Church, and Time. Includes a 2021 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal summary for St. Cecilia and St. Mary.

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Dt. 4:1-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17-27; Mk 7:1-23

People sometimes do things without knowing why they're doing what they're doing. A young lady is cooking a Thanksgiving meal. As always, she cuts off an ending piece of the ham before putting it into the cooking pan to bake.

The mother answers the phone with all laughing: "Don't be silly, my dear. I cut off the end of the ham just because the butcher's ham was always two-inches longer than my cooking pan. Now you have a bigger cooking pan, you don't have to cut off a piece of the ham and throw it away."

The young lady cuts the end of the ham and throws it away; but she doesn't really know why she does that. There are questions regarding what a priest does during the Mass, such as: why does the priest put a few drops of water into the wine? Why does he need to wash the hands? Why does he break a tiny piece of the consecrated host and drop into the chalice?

Every act or ritual we do at Mass must have its reason. Be sure we know its meaning. We cannot answer all these questions in this limited time, but maybe only one question at a time, or you can ask me later if you want.

Regarding the triple sign of the cross before the gospel reading, I remember when I was a kid, I saw people do this and I just imitated what they did... With my observation, I thought people did something like roughing on their forehead, their mouth, and their chest.

asking the Lord to open our minds to understand God's word, open our mouths to proclaim the word, open our hearts to love God and his word... So, be sure we know why we do what we do.

From today's gospel, Jesus knows very well the thoughts of the Pharisees and the scribes when they ask him: "why do your disciples not follow the tradition of [washing hands and vessels], but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" So, Jesus challenges them to see deeper meanings of human tradition, and of religious rituals they perform every day.

"Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come from within are what defile." Food doesn't make people bad, but what makes us bad comes from our evil thought, hatred, envy, malice, arrogance, greed, lust, adultery...

From all the readings today, we are challenged to "hear and understand" the words. That means using more than our ears. It means filtering the information through our minds and hearts so that our actions reflect the meaning of Jesus' commands.

In Deuteronomy, God tells the people to "hear the law of God and to observe the law." St. James tells us the same, to be "doers of the word," not hearers only. For a person of faith, hearing the word of God must lead to obeying its commands and putting the word into action.

When Jesus quotes from Isaiah saying: "This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me," he wants to remind us to understand the true meaning of our love and relationship with God and neighbor through our good deeds rather than merely the ritual in our worship, or attending Mass, or wordy prayers.

My brothers and sisters, let the word of God take root in our hearts and lead us into actions. Being "doers of the word, not hearers only" means to observe the rituals we perform at the Mass, and practice and live accordingly to what we learn from the Mass. We may spend more time in daily prayer. We may volunteer to visit and bring Communion to the sick and the homebound. We may generously offer our time, gifts, and talents to help our parish in different ministries. Love is our response, to be doers of the word, not hearers of the word only.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. 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 Terri Carlson or Carol Perez (415) 662-2191 or wperezcperez@gmail.com
2. Congratulations to Joseph Meyer & Lucia Roca and the families on their Baptism last Sunday.
3. First Friday, Sept. 3, Mass at St. Mary at 8 am. Adoration after Mass until noon.
4. Next Sunday, 2nd Collection for Catholic University of America (USCCB)

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, August 29 to Saturday, September 4

Table with columns for Day, Time, Church, and Intention. Lists intentions for Sunday through Saturday.

Last Week Collections:

Table showing collection amounts for St. Cecilia and St. Mary, including Offertory, Maintenance, Funeral, and Preservation.