



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

September 5, 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	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	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
	Saturday	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.

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:7-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

When I studied at Saint Patrick's Seminary, the then Archbishop William Levada brought in the seminary a sign language program for deaf seminarians. Consequently, a deaf seminarian from my class was ordained a priest with me. For those deaf seminarians, we had to be very careful when in communication with them. No using of the word "deaf" when we were talking about them; if they saw that word "deaf" written down before their eyes they would be very offended. Thus, instead of saying "deaf students," we politely used other words: "sign-language students" to talk about them.

How difficult for those who endure handicap abilities. People probably think that blindness is worse than deafness. But Helen Keller, the founder of the Braille, who endured both blind and deaf, said that total deafness is a far greater handicap. There are blind people who become accomplished musicians or writers; they are also well represented in the learned professions. But deaf people find it difficult to match those achievements.

Deafness isolates its victims from others more than blindness. The deaf see others talking and realize that they are excluded. Conversation with someone in everyday world seems impossible. Radio or even television seems useless to them. Nowadays, thanks to the invention of sign language that brings more meaning to their lives.

The deaf man brought to Jesus by his friends in today's gospel has never heard human speech. He had a "speech impediment." He spoke indistinctly. Filled with compassion, Jesus commanded the deaf man: "Be opened!" Jesus set him free from the affliction.

Jesus' healing of the deaf man fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah in our first reading today: when God's Anointed One visits his people, "the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf cleared... the tongue of the mute will sing." Jesus is the Anointed One. He comes to heal and to save us, "to proclaim freedom to prisoners, the good news of salvation to the poor, and joy to those in sorrow."

The healing miracle reveals God's power and compassion through Jesus. Jesus shows his will to heal and to save us. He opens our ears to hear his redeeming word and moves our hearts to love as he has loved us.

As we can see, deafness has closed the man off from others. Nevertheless, we may have no difference with what the deaf man suffers. We may be deaf and dumb – not physically but spiritually. There are times our ears are closed to God's invitation to love; our eyes are closed to others who are poor and in need. Most of the conflicts, divisions, or wars in the world, in communities, or in families are the result of people not being open. In today's Gospel, Jesus is saying to us what he said to the deaf man: "Ephphatha! Be opened!" Let us be open to God and others.

The healing of the deaf and mute man also gives us hope in our spiritual journey. As we come to share the word of God and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we come with open-minded for Jesus to heal us of our deafness and dumbness. Let Jesus touch our tongues so that we are able to speak of God's love. Let Jesus put his fingers in our ears, and open our minds and hearts to him, and let him do for us what he did for the deaf and mute man, so that we are able to communicate with God and with others in faith, hope, and love.

2021 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:

St. Cecilia
Goal \$ 4,962.00
Received \$ 5,144.00

THANK YOU

St. Mary
Goal \$ 3,329.00
Received \$ 3,016.00
Need \$ 313.00

Last Week Collections:

St. Cecilia
Offertory \$ 367.00
Maintenance \$ 140.00
Total \$ 507.00

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 417.00
BBQ \$ 100.00
Funeral \$ 375.00
Preservation \$ 250.00
Total \$ 892.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today's 2nd Collection is for Catholic University of America (USCCB).
2. Save the date: Memorial Mass for our dear friend Hilary Stock at St. Mary's Church, Saturday, September 18, at 11 a.m. May she rest in peace!
3. From 09/22 to 10/31, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside of Planned Parenthood at 4th and H in San Rafael (SR), and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach. For more information, and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Ruth Ann Cawley at racawley60@gmail.com. You can sign up at 40daysforlife.com and find the SR campaign.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, September 5 to Saturday, September 11

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... Norma & Rudolfo Magat (repose)
	11:15 a.m.	SM	... Joseph Dinh Xuan Canh (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC	... Grandma Anna (repose)
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC	... Edmund Duggan (repose)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM	... Anton Dinh Minh Hoang (repose)
1 st Friday	8 a.m.	SC	... Andrues Family (special intention)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM	... for victims & families of the 9/11(20 th anniversary)