



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

September 12, 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
Reconciliation	Saturday	St. Mary (other Sat.)	8 a.m.
		St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
Religious Education Confirmation Prep.	Monday	St. Cecilia	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	3:45 to 4:45 p.m. (1 st thru 6 th graders)
		St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Is 50:4-9; Ps 116; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

We profess our faith in the Creed: “I believe in God... in Jesus Christ... in the Holy Spirit... in the holy catholic Church...” We profess. We believe. However, we may ask ourselves: does this profession of faith reflect how I live my life as a believer? Do I practice what I believe, or do I merely profess my faith with empty words?

Saint James challenges us: what good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone has faith but does not have works? Faith, if it does not have works, is dead” (Jas 2:17). When we are in union with Christ Jesus, what matters is: “faith that works through love” (Gal 5:6).

Our faith may be a living faith or a dead faith. Living faith is the faith manifested itself in works of charity. Dead faith is the faith without works. When we only say empty words to a poor person in need of food and clothing, but show no love, no compassion, it does not reflect our faith in the loving God at all. If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has nothing to eat, and you say to them: God bless you! Go in peace! Goodbye and good luck! Keep warm, and well fed, but you do not give them anything, what good is it? St. James says: faith without works is dead. Anyone who claims to have faith but does not practice charity is not living the Christian faith.

A friend of mine claimed himself to be a Catholic, but rarely goes to church. Once he said to me: “I believe in God. But I don’t have to go to church. God is everywhere, I keep God in my heart. That is enough. I can pray anytime, even when I stay at home, I still love God.” I told him: “My friend, may what you said be true! Let me give you this example: I believe that you and your wife had some time of dating before you married. Did you ever say this to your then-girlfriend: “my sweetheart, I love you and I just want to keep your image in my heart, that is enough, so I don’t need to come to see you every single night?” Loving God and going to meet God in the church is somehow like loving your girlfriend and spending the night with her.

Another time, this same friend told me: he had the feeling that going to church was only to give donation to the collection basket. I was really sorry for his narrow-minded opinion, I asked him: “Is this the reason that keeps you from going to church? My friend, nobody dares to take a penny out of your pocket, if you don’t want to give it away. Going to church is to give thanks to God for all the gifts you have received in your life: the gifts of time, the gifts of treasure – the money you have, and the gift of life itself – the body you have, the air you breathe. Remember, all these things you would not have if God had not given you. How could you have money to give it away to the church if God had not given you?”

My friend did not accept what I said to him. I think he wouldn’t like these challenging words of St. James: “faith without works is dead. Show me your faith that does not have work, and I will show you my works that tell you about my faith” (Jas 2:18). Let us not forget to practice the faith we profess.

In the Gospel today, when Jesus asked Peter and other disciples: “Who do you say that I am?” Without hesitation, Peter confessed: “You are the Christ” (Mk 8:29). However, when they confessed Jesus to be the Christ, they thought that he was the Messiah, the Savior – a hero who would throw out the Roman army, and the people of Israel would be in charge. But Jesus clearly told them: he did not come to fight as warriors or earthly kings, but to change the world by his love. He was the Christ who came to serve and to give his life for the ransom of many. To be the Christ means to suffer, to be rejected, to be killed, and so to rise again... Then Jesus assured them: “Are you ready to follow the Christ? If you want to follow me, you must deny yourself, take up your daily cross, and follow” (Mk 8:34).

My brothers and sisters, what we believe is not much proven by our empty words, but by our concrete works of charity. What good is that if we confess our faith in Jesus Christ without works of love? To believe is to follow even in time of difficulty. Let us take up our daily cross and walk faithfully with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. In memory of Martha McNeil who organized the fundraising BBQ every year, we are very grateful to Randy & Nancy Lafranchi for hosting and generous donation to the fundraising BBQ for St. Mary Church last Sunday. Thank you also to Carol Perez, Teri Carlson, and the Team for all your works. To our parishioners and friends, thank you for your presence and support to our parish event. We have made \$2,500 for St. Mary’s Preservation Fund. Thank you!
2. 2nd collection next Sunday, September 19 is for Priests’ Retirement Fund.
3. 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!
4. You are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life from 09/22 to 10/31. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, September 12 to Saturday, September 18

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... Fr. Dennis McManus (repose)
	11:15 a.m.	SM	... Giuse Nguyen Tan Tai (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC	... for the souls of victims of 9/11 and Covid-19
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC	... Martha McNeil (repose)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM	... Hoa Truong & The D. Phan (birthdays)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC	... Anna Hinh (repose)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM	... Leo Nguyen (healing) & for Family

Last Week Collections:

St. Cecilia
 Offertory \$ 385.00
 2nd collect’n \$ 213.00
 Maintenance \$ 490.00
 Total \$ 1,088.00

St. Mary
 Offertory \$ 1,151.00
 2nd collect’n \$ 109.00
 Funeral \$ 150.00
 Total \$ 1,410.00