



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

December 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.
		** Children Liturgy, last Sunday of the month	
	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
Reconciliation	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
		St. Mary (except last Sat.)	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
		St. Cecilia (last Sat.)	8 a.m. Padre Pio & Rosary Devotion
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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:3-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

As we continue our Advent journey, waiting for Jesus to come at Christmas, John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way – the highway – to get ready for the Lord to enter our lives.

We see many highways or freeways nowadays. But very interestingly, there had been highways in Palestine before Jesus' time, or more than 2000 years ago. People of Israel were able to build a nearly-four-hundred-mile road called King's Highway which went through the country; it is the major north-south route, east of the Jordan River, mentioned in the Book of Numbers (Num 20:17). People at that time did not have cars as we have today. They only traveled by camels, horses, oxen, or on foot. However, the King's Highway was a main road which helped people to travel easier.

When I went back to visit Vietnam the first time after 15 years away from home, I was amazed by new constructions everywhere: houses, office buildings, roads, bridges, and highways. Growing up in a poor village in Vietnam, I had never seen a highway. Land was covered in hills and valleys; and the old roads were twisted. But now, people have filled in the valleys, leveled the hills and generally made the roads straight and wider. There is a highway running through my home town, that helps people to travel faster and easier.

From today's gospel, John the Baptist fulfills the prophecy of Prophet Isaiah. He urges people to prepare the way for the Lord, fill in the valleys and level the mountains to clear a straight path for the Lord to come. We can see from the image of a highway, not only in physical meaning, but also in spiritual sense. We can play with the word: "Highway" means not-a-low-way. As people of God, we are reminded to seek whatever comes from "above" not from "below."

John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ Jesus; he comes to call us to repentance: "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths," to change our lives to please God – the one who loves us into happiness.

What hills need to be leveled? Let us make low the hill of our anger and hatred. Maybe there is someone whom we find it difficult to get along with; or maybe we have not talked with some relative for a long time. Now is time to level that hill – to make peace with people we don't like; we pray for reconciliation and forgiveness.

What valleys need filling in? Maybe it is the coldness of our hearts to God's love; or maybe our indifference to people who suffer. Let us now spend a little more time in prayer and allow God to fill our hearts with love. Maybe we could do some act of charity for someone in real need, such as giving more generously in this Advent season, as an intention of our sacrifice, to prepare the room in our hearts for Jesus as Christmas is coming. Maybe we can do something we feel God is calling us to do at home with our family or neighbors. Whatever it is, we are called to fill in that valley.

There are many other ways we can prepare our hearts and souls for the Lord, but most importantly, we are called to build the way for Jesus in our hearts and in the hearts of those around us so our communication with God is clearer.

Today let us build our highway to Jesus and for Jesus. Seek what is above, not what is below. Let us ask the Lord to grant us spiritual strength, to fill the valley of our sins. Make the rugged land of our soul a plain of peace. Make the rough country of our heart a broad valley of love. Create in our home, in our community, a world of love and peace for God's kingdom to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Second Collection** next Sunday is for Retirement Fund for Religious.
2. Wednesday, December 8: **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Mass at 8 am, at St. Cecilia Church.
3. It's Christmas time and once again Toys and Joys is giving personalized gifts to children-in-need in the San Geronimo and Nicasio Valley communities. You can make a donation at St. Cecilia or St. Mary for the next few weeks. Checks can also be mailed to: Toys and Joys: PO Box 496 Woodacre, CA 94973.
4. **St. Cecilia's Christmas party fundraiser**: this Saturday 12/11, from 4-9 pm, at the Boylans Barn. Cost: \$100/person, including heavy appetizers, beverages and live music. Prepaid would be preferred. Must be vaccinated to attend, adults only and limited to 50 people. Contact Ginny Kerbs (415) 488-9694 or georgekerbs@comcast.net for more details.
5. **Christmas on the Farm**: Annual Christmas Fundraiser for St. Mary's Church. Come and join the St. Mary's Community as we welcome in the joyous holiday season together. On Saturday, December 18th commencing at 4:00 pm, join us at Hummingbird Farm, the home of Greg Lee and Antonia Van Becker in Nicasio, for a festival night. Enjoy local wine and food as well as the music of the Nicasio Creek Caroles. Limited to the first 50 people who register! Cost is \$100 per person. Contact Margaret at (415) 492-8690 or lgleagles@gmail.com to secure your ticket and for more informations. Don't miss the fun. See you all there.

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

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... John Massucco & Maureen Healy (repose)
	11:15 a.m.	SM	... Huong Le (birthday 12/3)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC	... Al Massucco (repose)
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC	... Benedetta Massucco (birthday)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM	... Thomas Troy (birthday 12/7)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC	... Tami Tanner (repose)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM	... Gail de Rutte (repose)

<u>Last Week Collections:</u>	
<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 465.00
Maintenance	\$ 215.00
Total	\$ 680.00
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 405.00
Preservat'n	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 505.00