



st. cecilia church  
lagunitas

December 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

<b>MASS</b>	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 <sup>st</sup> Fri.)	8 a.m. Holy Hour follows
	Saturday	St. Cecilia (other Fri.)	8 a.m.
		St. Cecilia (last Sat.)	8 a.m. Padre Pio & Rosary Devotion
		St. Mary (other Sat.)	8 a.m.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
		St. Mary (except last Sat.)	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
<b>Religious Education Confirmation Prep.</b>	Monday	St. Cecilia	3:45 to 4:45 p.m. (1 <sup>st</sup> thru 6 <sup>th</sup> graders)
	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C**

*Zep 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18*

“Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (Phil 4:4). This message from St. Paul’s letter is the main theme of our celebration today as we enter the third week of Advent.

We have been waiting and longing for the coming of our Lord to fill up the missing parts in our life, and to liberate us from the darkness of sin, selfishness, loneliness, hatred, sadness... And now the Lord is near. That’s why we rejoice.

Now, we see more beautiful decoration. We light the rose candle today that signifies the joyful spirit resounding throughout the Scripture readings today. So, we are in joyful season. What is the joy we are talking about? It could be a true/authentic joy. Or it could be counterfeit/unauthentic.

We probably agree that most people like Christmas even though some people don’t know much about Jesus. If we go to shopping malls at this time, we see people really enjoy this season of shopping and gifts. This is the busiest time of the year for people to go shopping and then wrapping the presents.

Sometimes I hear people say that every year they spend a lot of money to buy Christmas presents to exchange with others in their family on Christmas Day. They eventually come to realize that they possess so many things that some of which they never touch. As the consequence, some people have to deal with the problem of compulsive behavior. It is the disease of materialism. That is counterfeit joy. Counterfeit joy is the result of external things like eating, or drinking, or shopping, or possessing things. By this counterfeit joy, people hold onto temporary realities, and eventually they only find a sense of emptiness.

The joy can be true if we can reach out and share our gifts with others, especially those who are unfortunate. True joy is an interior state, a way of living and loving and giving, in which our hearts open up unreservedly to welcome and help others for the sake of love.

What should we do to get this true joy? We may ask this same question as people in the Gospel asked John the Baptist when they came to him in the desert seeking for penitence and truth. Here is the fundamental commandment John challenges those seeking the true joy: “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise” (Lk 3:11). In addition, John advises us to exercise our profession with uprightness and justice; always show our respect for others.

In this joyful season, we live in hope that our Lord is to come, bringing good tidings to the world, especially to the poor. As the followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to joyfully exercise our love by sharing what we have with others in need. Only the heart of those who love can feel the pain of the suffering. Only the eyes of those who love can open to see the struggle of the homeless. Only the ears of those who love can hear the cry of the poor. Only the hands of those who love can reach out to share with the needs of others.

I like Christmas, because it gives me a true sense of love and giving. I receive gifts from people, and at the same time, I am also challenged to give. Christmas is a perfect time to give thanks to God for many wonderful gifts. Let us give thanks and rejoice in the Lord always! May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus! Amen!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Second Collection** today, Sunday 12/12 is for Retirement Fund for Religious.
- Advent & Christmas Schedule:**
  - Advent Adoration: Monday 12/13, after 8 a.m. Mass to 12 noon, at St. Cecilia’s
  - Christmas Eve Mass: Friday 12/24, at 3 p.m. at St. Mary’s (outdoor if good weather)
  - Christmas Day Mass: Saturday 12/25, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia’s
- 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.
- 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 12 to Saturday, December 18

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... Dan & Mary Smith (repose)
	11:15 a.m.	SM	... Anton Dinh Minh Hoang (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC	... Ralph & Olga Lomele (repose)
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC	... Wes Andrues (birthday)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM	... Kathy Sexton (repose)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC	... Ralph John Treleven (repose/anniversary)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM	... Carol Mori-Prange (birthday)

<b><u>Last Week Collections:</u></b>	
<b><u>St. Cecilia</u></b>	
Offertory	\$ 850.00
Maintenance	\$ 1,140.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,990.00</b>
<b><u>St. Mary</u></b>	
Offertory	\$ 1,002.00
Preservat’n	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,002.00</b>