



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

December 19, 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	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
		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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

Mic 5:1-4; Ps 80:2-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Today's gospel story reminds us of the second joyful mystery of the rosary, the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. There are some paintings, greeting cards, or even Christmas cards depicting this beautiful picture of visitation; both Mary and Elizabeth dress in royal robes, embracing each other in a noble manner. Actually, they were two peasant women: a young girl and a barren old woman. However, God chose these ordinary women to make them exemplars of our faith living.

Normally, people may consider those who are wealthy or famous, such as actors, sports stars, billionaires, or high-class people, to be their idols. That is how we rank one another – by profession, education, social status, etc. With that mentality, it would be easier for people to accept or believe if God chose someone from one of these higher social ranks as the mother of his Son Jesus.

However, God's ways are different than ours. He chose a simple young girl and an old barren woman. They were chosen just because they both had simple faith and trust in God. He chose them as ordinary people who did ordinary things, and he did the extraordinary with them.

God gives us role models in faith such as Mary to learn from. He chooses each one of us, too, as ordinary people, that we may become extraordinary by our actions in faith.

See from the first reading today some historical facts connecting to the Book of Prophet Micah. Micah was about 300 years after King David whose birthplace was Bethlehem, a small village about seven miles south of Jerusalem. Micah was about 700 years before Jesus.

Prophet Micah consoled God's people in Jerusalem during an attack of the Assyrians. He prophesied that salvation would come out of Bethlehem, an unimportant little village, as we hear in the first reading today: "Bethlehem-Ephrathah, from you shall come forth the ruler of Israel" (*Mic 5:2*).

What an amazing prophecy! Seven hundred years later, this Scripture passage became the guiding compass for the Magi when they came from the East to Jerusalem looking for Jesus, the newborn king of the Jews.

The tiny city of Bethlehem where David had been born; it was too small to be among the clans of Judah, but the Lord – the Messiah, the ruler of Israel and of all peoples – shall come forth from this small and humble city. So, you and I don't have to worry about doing anything great; just do the ordinary – our everyday duties – with humility, obedience, faith and trust in God, and let God do the extraordinary for us.

From the second reading today, God does not desire "sacrifice and offering," but he loves those who come to do his will. He desires from us a humble contrite heart of love and trust in him. That is our act of faith. This last Sunday of Advent, and indeed this Christmas, we are called to do the ordinary things of life with a simple faith and trust in God, as said: "Behold, I come to do your will" (*Heb 10:7*).

Maybe like Mary in today's gospel we are called to exercise our charitable act of visitation, to go and see a relative who needs a visit. Maybe we are reminded to write a letter to a distant friend so as to connect again. Or maybe we are invited to spend some time with our own family for whom we normally find it difficult to find time.

May we be faithful in doing the ordinary and God will make it extraordinary! May God bless us all for imitating Mary to do good works for the love of God and neighbors!

WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Christmas Schedule:**

- 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
2. 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.
3. Confirmation Class will start in January. If you are interested in participating, please contact Margaret Farley at 515.492.8690 or Igleagles@gmail.com. Catechism Class for St. Mary's will also start in January. Please contact Margaret if you are interested in having your child participate.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, December 19 to Saturday, December 25

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... Marian Mogel (repose)
	11:15 a.m.	SM	... Lani Pineda (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC	... John A. Legnitto (repose)
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC	... Erika Volhontseff (belated birthday - 12/5)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM	... Petti & Rich Thall (for health)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC	... Daphne & Ken Massucco (thanksgiving)
	3 p.m.	SM	... Christmas Eve pray for parishioners & friends
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... Christmas Day pray for parishioners & friends

<u>Last Week Collections</u>	
<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 625.00
Maintenance	\$ 2,690.00
2 nd collect'n	\$ 406.00
Total	\$ 3,721.00
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 420.00
2 nd collect'n	\$ 160.00
Total	\$ 580.00