



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

December 26, 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
	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.
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.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - 2021

1 Samuel 1:20-28; Psalm 84; 1 John 3:1-24; Luke 2:41-52

I never forget the Christmas Day of 2009 at my former parish when Fr. Denis M. died. He was truly a holy priest – a perfect exemplar for us to imitate. On hearing about Fr. Denis' death, some parishioners shared with me their sympathy saying: "well, another saint in heaven." Then, if somebody would ask me about Fr. Denis, I say: "he is now a saint in heaven."

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family today. We learn from some examples of holiness of God's people. These people gave us a perfect model of family life.

Hannah and Elkanah, because of their faith, trust, and love for God, offered their son Samuel to the Lord to be dedicated in the temple. The gospel also gives us the same story. Every year, the parents Joseph and Mary brought their son Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem during the feast of Passover to worship God.

The examples of these holy parents, Hannah and Elkanah, Joseph and Mary, remind us to ask ourselves: how serious do we care about our spiritual life? Particularly, do you ever ask, or invite, or encourage your children, grandchildren, to go to church, especially on Sundays?

When reflecting on my life of faith, I don't even understand why I become a priest. Born and raised in a Catholic family, but at the young age, I did not go to church regularly, just like other rebellious teenagers. Fortunately, I have inherited the gift of faith from my grandmother who passed away almost 40 years ago. My dearest memory of my grandma is her simple-but-strong faith: no doubt, no question, but believe. She walked every day to the church – about 3 miles away from home – to attend Mass at 5 am; because in Vietnam people start working at 7 a.m. or even earlier. She never got tired of encouraging me and everybody to go to church. "Go to church" were the last words my grandmother said to her children and grandchildren surrounding her death bed. Now, as a priest, I give thanks to God for my holy grandmother, and for the legacy of faith I have inherited from her.

Celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family today, we learn from Jesus, Mary, and Joseph a perfect model of love which sets an example for every family, for every one of us, to achieve the perfection of God's holiness. We may ask ourselves: "what is a legacy of faith you would leave to your children and grandchildren?" One day, we all will die. What would you want your children, grandchildren, telling people about you?

Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "Family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and to receive love... The family is a necessary good for peoples... and a great and lifelong treasure for couples. It is a unique good for children, who are meant to be the fruit of the love, of the total and generous self-giving of their parents..."

In the Holy Family, we find the perfect model of love. Each and every one of you has a time to be a son or a daughter to your parents, then to be a father or a mother to your children. How do you live your life, how do you live your faith, in order to be a good son or a good daughter to your parents, or to be a perfect model of a parent to your children?

In the life of a family, the most important thing the parents can do for their children is to show their love for each other. The children can learn how to love by observing how their parents love each other, and how they are loved by their parents, just as Jesus learned to love in his childhood by being loved. Jesus learned about God's love from experiencing the human love of his parents Mary and Joseph.

Here at this holy table, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fills us brim full with his love – so that we can go forth from here to share that love with other. My brothers and sisters in Christ! Let us learn from the Holy Family, to be holy as God the Father in heaven is holy.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Saturday, January 1: **Happy New Year & Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.** Mass at 8 a.m. at St. Mary Church.
2. THANK-YOU to all parishioners and friends for your generous giving and support to the parish throughout the year in different ways: weekly contribution, Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, fundraising events, church maintenance, decoration for seasonal liturgy, and more... Especially your generous donation to the new roof for St. Cecilia Church and Rectory. Please see the attached report about the roof work to know more details.
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 26 to Saturday, January 1

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... Joyce Massucco & Family (thanksgiving)
	11:15 a.m.	SM	... Fr. Denis McManus (repose)
Monday	No Mass		
Tuesday	No Mass		
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC	... Dallara Family (thanksgiving)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM	... Phillip Joaquin Torres (repose/birthday)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC	... Andrues Family (thanksgiving)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM	... Fr. Anton Tran Dinh Phuc (repose)

<u>Last Week Collections</u>	
<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 690.00
Maintenance	\$ 140.00
Total	\$ 830.00
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 381.00
Roof	\$ 1,100.00
Preservat'n	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 1,581.00