



st. cecilia church lagunitas

March 27, 2022

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

Table with 4 columns: Activity, Day, Church, and Time. Rows include MASS (Sunday-Saturday), Reconciliation (Saturday), and Religious Education/Confirmation Prep (Monday-Wednesday).

SEE # 819 (or # 817 for St. Mary's Church) IN MUSIC BOOK FOR READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

Jos 5:9...12; Ps 34; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1...32

The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, rich in kindness. God's kindness and mercy is main message for us today as we can see from the readings.

In the first reading, from the book of Joshua, because of his love and mercy, God has "removed the reproach of Egypt" from his people Israel; God freed them from the exile and slavery, to bring them back to the Promised Land.

As we learn from salvation history, the chosen people have broken their covenants with God. They abandoned their God. They worshiped alien gods and molten cows. But God sent his prophets, many times, many ways, to warn them, and to call them to come back to God.

From the gospel, we can see the image of God as the merciful father. Even when we are still sinners, God loves us; God does not abandon us; God wants us to be saved; God waits for us to come home. This gospel story is well known as the parable of the Prodigal Son.

According to the parable, both sons were guilty of something. While the younger son was guilty of greed and selfishness, the elder son was guilty of jealousy and un-forgiveness; in his self-righteousness, he thought he has the right to possess all his father's property.

Now, we may ask ourselves: "who am I in this story?" Sometimes we may act like the younger son when we abuse God's gifts; when we waste the gifts and talents God has given to us; when are selfish

and greedy. Sometimes we behave like the elder son when we are resentful and jealous of others' gifts and talents; when we don't want to share our gifts; when we hardly forgive others' faults.

We might be the prodigal son. We might be the selfish brother. However, the significant lesson for us to learn today is from the loving mercy of the father. The father is so kind, so loving, and so merciful that he doesn't need a word of apology from the prodigal son.

The prodigal son, when realizing his miserable condition, decided to return home to his father. "Come home" is the first step to receive his father's kindness and forgiveness. If knowing when and how to make a U-turn can save our lost on the road when we drive, conversion is much more important to save our soul on the journey to eternal life.

Reflecting on the Word of God today, and during this season of Lent, if we have been lost in some aspects of our spiritual life, we need to have the courage to "rise and return home." God does not count our sins, but he is always waiting for us to come home through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and through the Eucharist we receive at Mass – to reconcile with God and live in his grace.

Let us not forget that God is our loving and merciful Father. He is slow to anger and rich in kindness. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Table with 4 columns: Category, Goal, Received, Needed. Rows: AAA 2022, St. Cecilia's, St. Mary's.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. A second collection today, Sunday 3/27/22 to help the victims of war in Ukraine.
2. Living Lent: Lent calls us to pray, fast, and give-alms. For almsgiving this Lent, each household is asked to take home a Poor Box.
3. Preparing lunch boxes for the needy: Margaret Farley and the catechism classes will be at St. Cecilia's kitchen this afternoon to prepare lunch boxes to be given to SVdP.
4. First Friday (4/1): at St. Mary Church. Mass at 8 am, and Adoration until 12 noon.
5. Friday Home Visit & Rosary: Please join the prayer group to visit and pray the Rosary at parishioners' homes on Fridays at 5 pm.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, March 27 to Saturday, April 3

Table with 4 columns: Day, Time, Church, and Intention. Rows: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

Table with 2 columns: Church and Amount. Rows: St. Cecilia (Offertory, Maintenance, AAA, Total), St. Mary (Offertory, Preservat'n, Total).