



st. cecilia church lagunitas

September 4, 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: Category, Day, Church, Time. Rows include MASS (Sunday-Friday), Reconciliation (Saturday), Religious Education Confirmation Prep (Monday-Wednesday).

Please see #921 in your Music Book for the readings TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – C

Jesus was on the journey and numerous people were traveling with him. He did not promise them anything exciting but only the cross: "If anyone comes to me without hating... even his own life, he cannot be my disciple..."

As baptized Catholics, you and I probably know the meaning of this expression: what the cost of discipleship. To follow Jesus is to carry our daily cross and faithfully walk with him to the end.

A friend of mine always says: "It's not easy to be a Catholic." Why? Because if somebody slaps me on one cheek, I have to give him the other cheek. If I were not Catholic, to that person, I returned not only one, but two fists.

If somebody takes your cloak, give that person the other shirt that you still have. Who can do that? Yet, Jesus always asks us to "walk an extra mile." Who among us can love our enemies? But because we are Catholic, we must love our enemies.

In many countries in the world today, Catholics are still being persecuted, but because we are Catholics, we are not allowed to revenge, but only pray for peace.

In the second reading we hear that Onesimus ran away from the community of Philemon, but Saint Paul urged them to receive Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as a beloved brother. Why? Because they were Christians – the followers of Christ.

All these difficult things are examples about the cost of discipleship, just as Jesus challenges us in today's gospel: "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciples."

To be disciples of Jesus, you and I have to turn away from the loved ones, renounce possessions, and carry the daily cross. Does Jesus really mean that we have to hate our father, mother, brothers, sisters, wife, children, and our own life? No, not like that. See what Jesus taught us from the fourth

commandment: "honor your father and mother." Actually, the word honor means to love and to respect. God's commandments teach us to love and to show respect to God and others.

But the word hate originally from Greek means putting into second place or turning away from. Here is what Jesus challenges us: sometimes, we have to turn away from what we think we really love in our life: parents, wife or husband, brothers, sisters, children, if we want to be Jesus' disciples.

We are also challenged to turn away from our material possessions, as Jesus says again: "anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." Let God be primary in our life; everything else is secondary. A true follower of Jesus needs to make the right choice when facing obstacles in life. We need to ask ourselves: will I give up if difficulty comes in my way?

Before building a tower, sit down and figure out if we can finish. Before going to war, sit down and think if we can win the battle. Before following Christ, sit down and think if we can be faithful in any circumstance.

"Sit down and think" means we need to pray, so that the wisdom of God is always the counsel and the guidance for us in everything we do. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, our lives are transformed; we bear the name of Christ; we are Christians – the followers of Christ. We have decided to follow Jesus, to carry our daily cross and faithfully walk with him to the end. No turning back. We don't give up. May the grace of God be sufficient for us on this journey of life and faith.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, September 4 to Saturday, September 10

Table with 4 columns: Day, Time, Church, Intention. Rows for Sunday through Saturday.

2022 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:

St. Cecilia Goal \$ 6,774.00 Received \$ 6,774.00 THANK YOU!

St. Mary Goal \$ 3,906.00 Received \$ 2,798.00 Need \$ 1,108.00

Last Week Collections:

St. Cecilia Offertory \$ 854.00 Maintenance \$ 150.00 Total \$ 1,004.00

St. Mary Offertory \$ 483.00 Preservation \$ 86.00 AAA \$ 00.00 Total \$ 569.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary: Wednesdays at 5 p.m. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, please sign up. This Wednesday, September 7, will be at Carol Mori-Prange's home: 24 Elm Avenue, Woodacre.

2. Second collection for Military Services today Sunday, September 4, 2022.

3. St. Cecilia's annual rummage sale will be held on Sat. Oct. 1 from 9 am to 4 pm, and Sun. Oct. 2 from 10:30 am to 2 pm. Please donate your quality housewares, art, jewelry, tools, plants, books & toys to our parish fundraiser. Donations will be accepted starting Mon. Sep. 26 thru Fri. Sep. 30, at the parish hall between 10 am and 12 noon. (*) While we appreciate your support, we cannot accept any large household item, furniture, appliance, clothing, car seat, crib, bed or any broken or dirty item. Volunteers are needed – rummage sale flyers and volunteer sign-up sheets are at the back of each church. We also need donations of paper bags for our shoppers, and donations of plants/bulbs, etc. for Plant Sale. Contact Robyn Torres at wakerobyn425@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer your time. Thank you!