



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

December 11, 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

MASS	Sunday **	St. Cecilia	9:30 a.m.
		St. Mary	11:15 a.m.
		** Children Liturgy, last Sunday of the month	
	Monday	St. Cecilia	8 a.m. Holy Hour follows
	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	8 a.m.
	Thursday	St. Mary	8 a.m.
Reconciliation	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.
Religious Education Confirmation Prep.	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.

See #789 in your Music Book for the readings
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

We have been through half way of Advent season – waiting and getting ready for the Lord to come again in our lives. The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday – Rejoice! We rejoice, for “God himself will come to save us” (Isaiah 35:6). We rejoice, for “the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:8), as we are approaching Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Today’s Gospel reminds us again to get ready, but in patience, just as John the Baptist has lived like a patient farmer awaiting “the precious fruit of the earth.” From the midst of the “hardship and patience” that John suffers in prison for being a prophet of God – a forerunner of the Lord – who prepares the way for Jesus to come in our lives,

As we reflect on the person and the mission of John the Baptist, it reminds me of a hilarious story of a woman who has married four times: first, to a millionaire, then to an actor, next to a minister, and finally to an undertaker. At the funeral of her fourth husband, she gave a brief reflection on her life by saying: “one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus describes his cousin John the Baptist not as one who was dressed in fine clothing like a millionaire, nor as a reed swaying in the wind like an actor, but as a prophet, one who urged people to get ready, and to go prepare the way for the Lord.

The greatness of John did not lie in his being rich or famous, but in what he stood for and his mission for others. Indeed, we might agree that a person’s worth is measured not by what he/she has, but probably by how he/she lives his/her life, and because of his/her life-giving force that uplifts others.

Ironically, there are people who spend their whole lifetime just on “one, for the money, and two, for the show.” There are people who may consider money as their god. Everything else is secondary or nothing at all. Relationship with God and others is only for convenience, or just for show. God himself is kept on the side for safety, and just in case, for more blessings.

As we enter this third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday, let us rejoice and be glad, “because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” Yet, the Lord keeps reminding us to “make your hearts firm” and get

ready. Just as John the Baptist was sent by God to “prepare the way” for the Lord, we are called to become “the greater” in the kingdom of heaven, by responding to Jesus’ invitation to prepare the way for the Lord here and now.

How do we prepare the way for the Lord? It is to follow Jesus’ example to give sight to the blind, to help the lame walk, to make the lepers clean, to open the ears for the deaf, and to proclaim the good news of the Lord to the poor.

We rejoice in the Lord during this grace season, but for us, hopefully, Christmas is not just on the level of material and trimmings, not just for the money and the show, not just for shopping, party, gift, vacation, but this is the time for us to get ready in our heart and soul, in our home and community, to welcome the Lord into our lives.

We are called to reach out to share our gifts and blessings with the poor, the needy, and the unfortunate. Just a moment with the Lord, we might say this prayer: “Lord, beyond the money and the show, help me to get ready because anytime I can go.”

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, December 11 to Saturday, December 17

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... John Hieu & Hien (repose)
	11:15 a.m.	SM ... Christina Hohm Whalin (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ... Al Massucco (repose)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ... Ryan Dallara (repose)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM ... Pete DeRutte (special intention)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ... Tai Phan (healing)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM ... Maria & Anton Nguyet (repose)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Second Collection:** today, Sunday, December 11, to support the Retirement Fund for Religious.
- Eucharistic Revival Service:** at St. Sebastian Church, Greenbrae, Thurs. Dec. 15, from 6:30-8:30 pm for all the faithful of Marin County parishes. The event consists of Eucharistic Talk (6:30 pm), Eucharistic Adoration (7 pm) including confession service, and light reception (8 pm). See more details on the bulletin board.
- Thank You:** to the Boylans and the Team and All for the beautiful Christmas party last Saturday at St. Cecilia’s. We really enjoyed the time together as a community, and made some benefit for the parish. Thank you.
- Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary:** due to our busy schedule during this time, we don’t have Visit & Rosary until Wednesday, January 4, 2023.
- St. Mary’s Christmas Concert:** the 15th Annual Christmas Concert at St. Mary’s today, December 11, commencing at 2:00 pm, with joyous voices in concert including Jenny Matteucci, Mwanza Furaha, Mike Duke, the Nicasio Creek Singers, Daniel Lockert, Antonia Van Becker and Greg Lee. Performance followed by a reception with local wines, cheeses and hors d’oeuvres as well as a silent auction. Tickets \$100 per person. Call (415) 450-0567 or lgleagles@gmail.com for further information.
- Valley Toys & Joys:** a non-profit fulfilling holiday wishes for young children in San Geronimo & Nicasio Valleys is seeking donations. Please put your donations in the red envelopes and hang it on the Jesse Tree. Cash or checks made out to Valley Toys and Joys are gratefully accepted. Checks may also be mailed to Grace Tolson, P.O. Box 496, Woodacre, CA, 94973.

2022 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:

St. Cecilia
Goal \$ 6,774.00
Received \$ 6,774.00

St. Mary
Goal \$ 3,906.00
Received \$ 4,298.00

THANK YOU!

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia
Offertory \$ 775.00
Maintenance \$ -----
Total \$ 775.00

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 360.00
Preservat’n \$ 50.00
Total \$ 410.00