



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

December 18, 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.
		<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.

See #792 in your Music Book for the readings

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Behold, “the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel” (*Is 7:14*). This announcement, prophesied by prophet Isaiah, is reaffirmed in Matthew’s gospel today. Emmanuel means “God is with us” (*cf. Mt 1:23*). Jesus is Emmanuel; the Son of God is with us. To think that the great, almighty, holy, transcendent God would come down here and make the earth his home, and stay with us and become part of our human family, is almost too good to be true.

Nevertheless, this truth had happened more than two thousand years ago: “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (*Jn 1:14*). Emmanuel “God is with us” gives us the assurance of why Christmas means so much to us. The Word became flesh. God became man, born of the Virgin Mary; the Son of God humbled himself to share our human nature, so we may come to share the divinity of Christ.

As we believe, God is always present with us. However, so many people, even Jesus’ own people, failed to recognize him as their long awaiting Messiah. They didn’t expect the fact that the Messiah, the Son of God, would come to them as a normal baby, born to a young girl in a small, poor village.

It may be easy for us to criticize Jesus’ contemporaries for failing to recognize him. But we may ask ourselves: do we really see Jesus in ordinary events of our daily life: both in happy moments and in sorrowful situations?

When people confront difficulties, or when they recall painful incidents in life such as natural disasters or tragedies, they question: “Where is God?” They complain that God is not there. Many of us might say the same complaint in our difficult times. Nonetheless, we should know that even God’s beloved Son had to suffer and die on the cross. It is a lively example of God’s sharing pain and suffering

with us. It gives us the consolation that God is always with us in any situation, even in our time of pain and suffering. God is with us.

God comes to us in more ordinary ways too. He comes to us, again and again, in the normal events of everyday life, in people we know and love. God continues to come and knock on the door of our hearts and souls. He waits for us to open the door for him.

Opening the door to God and letting him enter our lives is the most worthwhile thing we can do. Opening the door to God means to say yes to his calling to love and to share what we have with those in need.

Living in the spirit of Advent, we keep waiting and longing for the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ to fill up the missing parts in our life, and to free us from the darkness of sin, of sadness, loneliness, selfishness, hatred. Now the Lord is near, as we are approaching the birthday of Jesus again. Let us open our hearts and souls to let him enter and dwell among us, for he is Emmanuel – God is with us.

Emmanuel – God is with us

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, December 18 to Saturday, December 24

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Carol Mori-Prange (birthday)
	11:15 a.m.	SM ... Teresa Aye Pyone (birthday)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ... Daphne Massucco (special intention)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ... Joseph Tien & Anna Nguyen (repose)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM ... Ryan Dallara (repose)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ... The DeRutte Family (Christmas blessings)
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	SM ... Christmas Eve (pray for all parishioners)

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Thank You:** to Antonia Van Becker and the Nicasio Creek Singers & Choirs, and to Margaret Farley and the Team, for your hard works for the Christmas concert & party last Sunday at St. Mary’s Church. We had a wonderful time together as a parish community. Thank you All for your support to the parish event.
- Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary:** due to our busy schedule during this time, we don’t have Visit & Rosary until Wednesday, January 4, 2023.
- Christmas Eve:** at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24, at St. Mary’s Church, Nicasio (*Note: there is NO morning Mass this Saturday).
- Christmas Day:** at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 25, at St. Cecilia’s Church, Lagunitas (*Note: there is NO St. Mary’s 11:15 a.m. Mass on this Sunday).
- 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. We are going to collect your gifts today and send to the children.

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia
Offertory \$ 647.00
2nd collect’n \$ 270.00
Maintenance \$ 300.00
Xmas Party \$ 863.00
Total \$ 2,080.00

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 549.00
2nd collect’n \$ 120.00
Preservat’n \$ 850.00
Total \$ 1,519.00