



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

December 25, 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
	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.

See #796 in your Music Book for the readings

CHRISTMAS – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Today, together with the whole world, we celebrate the Birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every year, we hear this same Christmas message again and again: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.” It is true that Jesus is born into the world to bring us peace and the joy of salvation. However, people may only see the appearance – the outer picture of Christmas: joyful music, beautiful decoration, wonderful parties... but they may not have a chance to think about the inner meaning of Christmas. What does Christmas really mean to people? What does the story of Jesus’ birth mean to us? Why is there “no room” in the inn? Why is the Son of God born in a manger?

When you stand and pray before the Nativity scene, what do you see? Probably it is a beautiful decoration: pine trees, snow, icicle, stars, colorful lights, statues of angels, shepherds, magi, Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus. All are arranged in a beautiful picture. But it was not actually beautiful like that at the time when Jesus was born.

When Joseph, and Mary with child in her womb, came to ask the inn keeper for a room to stay over the night, he yelled at them: “Go away, no room for you here.” With no compassion, he slammed the door at their face. As a consequence, Baby Jesus was born in the manger – a filthy place for sheltering animals. We can imagine the smell of the manger. We can feel the sharp cold of snow and wind. We can hear the heartfelt cry of the new-born baby, urging humanity for a little room to stay. We can feel the pain inside Joseph and Mary when being rejected.

The Son of God was born in a filthy manger, on an open field, in the sharp cold of winter, because there was “no room” for him in the inn. If Jesus were to come to your home today as the family gathers to open Christmas presents, would there be room for him? Would you make room in your heart to welcome Jesus? Christmas means the birthday of Christ Jesus. But instead of saying “Merry Christmas,”

now people say “Happy Holiday.” Ironically, there is “no place in Christmas for Christ.” People try to keep Jesus’ name out of Christmas. People celebrate Jesus’ birthday, but he himself is not invited. There is neither room for him in people’s home, nor in their hearts. Food is plentiful but Jesus is left hungry. There is a lot of fun as people gather around the table for party; they gather at the fireplace to keep warm, or around the Christmas tree to drink, and laugh, and sing, and exchange presents, but Jesus himself is left cold outside their door.

The Son of God was born to the world in a manger on the field of Bethlehem. But this is the good news to the world, especially to the poor. Why does it become good news? Because if Jesus were to be born in a luxurious palace, how could the poor (the shepherds) dare to come close to him? This becomes good news, a comforting news to the poor, the lowly, the alienated, because, even the Son of God has to endure hardship, then whatever difficulty we face in this life is nothing to be compared with the sufferings Jesus endured.

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas, let us listen to this beautiful Christmas reflection from Pope Benedict XVI: “God has done everything; he has done the impossible: he was made flesh. His all-powerful love has accomplished something which surpasses all human understanding: the Infinite has become a child, has entered the human family. And yet, this same God cannot enter my heart unless I open the door to him.”

Jesus Christ is asking you and me for a little room in our hearts. He asks for only one thing that we open the door to welcome him by sharing our blessings, our gifts with the poor and those in dire need, for he said: “whatever you do for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you do that for me.”

WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, December 25 to Saturday, December 31

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Christmas blessings for all parishioners
	No 11:15 a.m.	Mass at St. Mary’s today.
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ... Massucco Family (Christmas blessings)
Tuesday	No Mass (John Massocca → repose: anniversary 2017)
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ... Haley Dallara (birthday)
		... Kate Andrues (special intention)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM ... Bro. Rem Pineda (birthday/Dec. 28)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ... Ryan Dallara (repose)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM ... New Year blessings 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!

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia

Offertory \$ 777.00
Maintenance \$ 100.00
Christmas \$ 150.00
Total \$ 1,027.00

St. Mary

Offertory \$ 267.00
Christmas \$ 300.00
Total \$ 567.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary:** we will resume this prayer ministry on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Please sign up to host.
- Next Sunday, January 1, 2023:** Happy New Year & we will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
- 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 liturgies, and more...