



st. cecilia church  
lagunitas

February 26, 2023

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

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|--|-----------|--|--|
| 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 <sup>st</sup> Fri.)                      | 8 a.m. Holy Hour follows   |
| Reconciliation                         | 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.   |
| 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 <sup>st</sup> thru 6 <sup>th</sup> graders) |
|  | Wednesday | St. Cecilia  | 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  |

See #808 in your Music Book for the readings

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A**

*Gn 2:7...3:7; Ps 51; Rom 5:12...19; Mt 4:1-11*

Last Wednesday, responding to the invitation to pray, to fast, and to give alms, we came to receive ashes, intending thereby to begin the penitential season of Lent. Today, the first Sunday of Lent, the divine message we have heard from the scripture readings, both reminds and leads us step into the real world of Lent: fast and pray in order to resist temptations.

Today's first reading tells us the story of the creation of our first parents Adam and Eve, and then their temptation and their fall from grace. This story tells us more about the source of evil. Adam and Eva let themselves be convinced by the serpent's suggestion and disobeyed God's commands. They broke the relationship with God. By their sins they brought death into human world. While God created us to be happy and to share in his grace and friendship, we brought suffering upon ourselves as a result of giving-in to temptation. We use the free will which God gave us to say no to him, to disobey him; not trusting in God but making our own rules.

Jesus, nevertheless, when being tempted, refuses to give-in to temptation. He let God's word judge the suggestions of the tempter. He makes a threefold confession by saying to the tempter: "Man shall not live by bread alone. You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

The Son of God was tempted in order to give us an example that temptation is a part of our human life. Jesus went into the wilderness to be alone, to fast, and to pray. It is practical for us to learn from how Jesus was tempted and how he overcame the temptations. Only when we are alone, we are able to hear God's voice speaking in our hearts and minds.

It may well be that we often go wrong simply because we never try to be alone. There are certain things which a person sometimes has to work out alone. There are times when we need to stop acting and

start thinking. It may be that we make many a mistake because we do not give ourselves a chance to be alone with God. Jesus in the desert reminds us that we all need to go into the desert from time to time. The desert here is not only a solitude place like the wilderness for us to reflect and pray, but also the innermost and quiet space in our heart and soul.

Lent is a kind of little desert as we are encouraged to back away from a few of life's pleasures – pleasures that pull us away from God or distract us from reflecting on the more serious side of our spiritual life; as Jesus reminds us of that spiritual life: "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." Life is beautiful for all of us today, but it could be over for any of us tomorrow. The important thing to know is that eternal life is ahead for us too if we remain faithful to our Lord and follow him.

Whenever facing temptation of sin, we need to pray, so to make our choice: resisting the temptation or giving-in to it. I really like a saying of the late Msgr. Kennedy, a former pastor of St. Raphael's parish; he began at everyday Mass with this reminder to the people: "Life is short. Death is certain. Heaven and hell are forever. Make your choice." Then he continued: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Jesus told us he will never reject anyone who comes to him. But we do have the freedom to follow his way, or to turn away from him by not following his way. Lent is time to help us to think and pray about our relationship with the Lord. Let us follow Jesus' examples, to enter the desert of our life – deep down in our heart and our mind, so we can fast sincerely, and pray earnestly, and do our work of charity more generously.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, February 26 to Saturday, March 4

|           |           |   |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| Sunday    | 9:30 a.m. | SC ... Laura Thomas (repose)                  |
|           | 11:15 am  | SM ... Fr. Piers Lahey (repose)               |
| Monday    | 8 a.m.    | SC ... Dr. Remegio Reyes Pineda (healing)     |
| Tuesday   | No Mass   |   |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m.    | SC ... Ryan Dallara (repose)                  |
| Thursday  | 8 a.m.    | SM ... Bonnie de Rutte (repose – anniversary) |
| Friday    | 8 a.m.    | SM ... Raymond Greer (repose)                 |
| Saturday  | 8 a.m.    | SM ... Julie Bowder (repose)                  |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- We continue taking 2<sup>nd</sup> collection today for the 2023 Annual Appeal:** Thank you for your contributions.
- Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary:** only twice a month on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 5 pm. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, please sign up to host. This Wednesday, March 1 will be at the rectory with Fr. Phan.
- First Friday, March 3:** Mass at St. Mary Church at 8 am. Adoration to follow right after Mass until 12 noon.
- Saint Patrick's Day Party:** ☐ Get your Irish on! Come to our annual St. Patrick's Day Party on Saturday, March 4, 2023 @ St. Cecilia Church! St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner, and once again, thanks to Elina and Mark Boylan, we will be celebrating in style. The Boylans are doing the shopping, prepping and cooking of the main entree. Everyone's help is needed to round out the feast by bringing Appetizers, Soda Bread, Rolls, Side Dishes and Desserts. Cocktails start at 5:00 pm. Dinner to be served at 6:00 pm. Adults: \$15.00; Children under 12: \$5.00. RSVP and potluck sign-up sheets are at both churches. You may also email your RSVP, your selected potluck item(s), and/or any questions to Cia Donahue directly at: [cpdonahue@comcast.net](mailto:cpdonahue@comcast.net). Please let us know at your very earliest convenience if you plan to attend, and the number in your group. We would like to give an estimated headcount to the Boylan's as soon as possible. **Thank you and see you on Saturday, March 4th!**