



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

March 19, 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

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.
	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 #817 in your Music Book for the readings

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Sight is a wonderful gift, but what we see with our mind and heart, our inner vision, is even of greater value. We have examples of that inner vision in all of today's readings. God sees what human beings don't see. God helps us to see clearly.

How surprisingly God chose young David among the sons of Jesse, to be anointed by Prophet Samuel to be the king of Israel. All the sons of Jesse had the dignity and physical characteristics of being good leaders, but God knew who would make the best king. God's way is not human's way. When Samuel prepared to anoint one of Jesse's sons to be the King, the Lord reminded him: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature... Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." Do not judge the book by its cover. We are probably familiar with this saying.

St. Paul, in the second reading today, also tells us that: we were once in the darkness of sin, but now we are in the light of Christ. As in the well-known song *Amazing Grace* we thank God for the gift of sight: "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretched like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see." We have been enlightened by the Lord. So, brothers and sisters, let us live as children of light.

That amazing grace is clearly seen in today's gospel story (*John 9:1-41*). Jesus healed a man born blind, and released him from his bondage and darkness. But the Pharisees and scribes, and those who claimed to be able to see, were indeed blinded by their arrogant attitude - their spiritual blindness.

We read from today's *Communion Antiphon*: "The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God" (*Cf. Jn 9:11, 38*). This is for us to reflect on during this week, and also throughout Lenten season; it reminds us about renewal of our baptismal call. At the Baptism, we are

washed clean, we are anointed with the Holy Spirit, we are enlightened by Christ to see the face of God, and we come to believe. Especially, *I went, I washed, I saw, and I believed* is also our thankful prayer to God on behalf of the catechumens and candidates all over the world during this time, as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist – at the Easter Vigil to come.

During Lent, we support and pray for the catechumens and candidates by journeying with them through scrutiny process, with three long stories from the Gospel for these three times of scrutiny. The first scrutiny was last Sunday with the story of the Samaritan woman encountering Jesus at the well of Jacob. This Sunday, the second scrutiny, we hear the story of the blind man encountering Jesus to be healed; and eventually, he followed Jesus and worshiped God. Next Sunday, the third scrutiny, we will hear the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from death which foreshadows the mystery of Jesus' Death and Resurrection; this story also signifies that through the water of Baptism we die to our sins, so to become a new creation in Christ.

As we hear from the gospel today, Jesus reaffirmed the faith of the blind man with the question: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" When the man confessed with all confidence: "Yes, Lord, I do believe!" the miracle happened for him: "he was blind but now he sees."

Jesus asks you and me today too: Do you believe in God, the Father, who sent me to you? Do you believe I am Jesus – the holy Son of God – who comes to save you and this world from sins and death? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit – the Sanctifier – who proceeds from the Father and the Son – to guide you doing right things and to help you avoiding wrong things?

We all need healing. Let us confess to Jesus with confidence as the blind man did: "Yes, Lord, I do believe in you!"

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, March 19 to Saturday, March 25

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Bishop David O'Connell (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ... David Hamilton (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ... Crissa Volhonseft (birthday – 3/10)
Tuesday	No Mass	
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ... Yordanos Stefanos (birthday)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM ... Ruby Palmieri (repose)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ... Karen Castenon (health)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SC ... Stephen Mori-Prange (birthday – 3/14)

Last Week Collections

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 717.00
AAA	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ <u>817.00</u>

<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 490.00
AAA	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ <u>540.00</u>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Second Collection today, Sunday, March 19:** is for Catholic Relief Services.
- Chrism Mass:** you are invited to join the archbishop, the priests, and the faithful of the whole archdiocese for the celebration of the annual Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, at 5 pm. Thursday, March 30 (the Thursday before the Holy Week).
- Lenten Day of Adoration and Reconciliation:** at St. Cecilia's Church, Lagunitas on Friday, March 24. Beginning with daily Mass at 8 am; Eucharistic Adoration to follow until 4 pm; ended with Benediction. Fr. Phan is available for confessions during the day.
- Padre Pio Mass & Devotion:** Monthly Padre Pio Mass at St. Cecilia Church, Saturday, March 25. Mass at 8 am, and Devotion to follow.