



st. cecilia church lagunitas

March 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

Table with columns for MASS, Reconciliation, Religious Education, Confirmation Prep, Day, and Church/Time.

See #820 in your Music Book for the readings

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

One of our life-concern questions is: what lies beyond death, or what is the meaning of life?

Human death can be a death-end if we hold onto this worldly life as our ultimate goal. But the truth is nobody can live forever. Life in this world is only temporary.

Where do we go after death depends on how we have lived our life regarding our relationship with God. How deep is our love for God? How do we practice our faith? Where do we keep God: at the center, or on the fringe of our life?

If we choose God and his kingdom as our ultimate value, then death is not the end but a new step of our human life. Death is a threshold or a gateway through which we pass, to continue from this life to a new and eternal life with God in heaven where there is no more suffering, no more sickness, and no more death.

We can learn very much meaning in today's gospel story in which Jesus brings Lazarus from death to life: to comfort us when we are discouraged, to strengthen us when we grow weak, to uplift us when we fall.

Two weeks ago, from the gospel story of the woman at the well, we see Jesus as the Living Water, to quench our spiritual thirst and to wash away our sins through the sacrament of Baptism.

Last Sunday, in the story of the healing of the man born blind, we see Jesus as the Giver of Light: to open our eyes of faith that we may see God, open our ears that we may hear God's voice, and open our hearts that we may love as God has loved us.

Today, the story of the raising of Lazarus reassures us that Jesus is the Giver of Life. Not only to Lazarus but to all of us who believe, Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Jesus Christ is the giver of our new life – one that is not passing away. If we believe in God, if we put our hope in Jesus, physical death will not be the end. If you wish, as Saint Paul said, "the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you." And if you believe, as God said through Prophet Ezekiel, "I will put my spirit in you that you may live."

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Eternal life is not something far away. The eternal life which Jesus gives to those who trust in him and believe in him begins right now, if we really live a life of love, joy, and trust in God.

Like the other miraculous signs in our everyday life, that we may have learned and experienced, the raising of Lazarus is a promise. Jesus asks us to believe, to trust in his promise to us that even though we die, he will raise us up to life, the eternal life of love in God the Father. May our faith be strengthened in the Lord Jesus, the Giver of Life! Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, March 26 to Saturday, April 1

Table of Mass Intentions for Sunday through Saturday, listing times and names.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. 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. this Thursday, March 30.

2. Holy Week and Easter Schedule: Palm Sunday 4/2: Mass: 9:30 am at St. Cecilia, 11:15 am at St. Mary. Holy Thursday 4/6: no morning Mass, but we begin the Sacred Paschal Triduum with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:15 pm at St. Cecilia... The Eucharistic Adoration will continue right after the Mass until 11 pm when closing the church.

Good Friday 4/7: the Good Friday Liturgy starts at 3 pm at St. Mary Church, including 3 parts: the Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of the Holy Cross, and Holy Communion.

Easter Vigil 4/8: starts at 7:15 pm at St. Cecilia Church, Lagunitas.

Easter Sunday 4/9: Mass schedule is as usual: 9:30 am at St. Cecilia; 11:15 am at St. Mary.

2023 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:

Table for St. Cecilia: Goal \$ 7,295.00, Received \$ 6,195.00, Need \$ 1,100.00

Table for St. Mary: Goal \$ 6,095.00, Received \$ 638.00, Need \$ 5,457.00

Last Week Collections

Table for St. Cecilia: Offertory \$ 482.00, 2nd Collect'n \$ 289.00, AAA \$ 200.00, Maintenance \$ 100.00, Total \$ 1,071.00

Table for St. Mary: Offertory \$ 596.00, 2nd Collect'n \$ 105.00, AAA \$ 00.00, Total \$ 701.00