

**April 9, 2023**



st. cecilia church  
lagunitas

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

<b>MASS</b>	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
	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.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
		St. Mary (except last Sat.)	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
<b>Religious Education Confirmation Prep.</b>	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 #827 in your Music Book for the readings**

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

*Acts 10:34...43; Ps 118; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9*

Jesus Christ is risen today. Let us shout for joy: Alleluia! Alleluia! The power of God through Jesus Christ has triumphed over sin and death. Our celebration today begins from the empty tomb. On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning. She saw the tomb emptied. She was so panicking that she could not think about anything else but "somebody had taken away the Lord's body." But when the other disciples – Peter and John – arrived, they saw the tomb empty, and they all believed that the Lord was risen.

What is the significance of the empty tomb for us?

There is a story of an empty tomb hidden on a high mountain in Italy where thousands of people climb up the mountain every year to visit a pilgrimage site: the Stations of the Cross. Usually, when the pilgrims reach the mountain top, they just stop at the large wooden crucifix to pray and rest. However, a lady once noticed a little trail that led beyond the cross. She followed the unused trail, and surprisingly she discovered a shrine which symbolized the empty tomb.

From the story, we see that almost every pilgrim had gone as far as the cross, but they only stopped there. They never came to this empty tomb. However, there is something beyond the cross. There is more to Christ than the cross. There is the empty tomb beyond the cross. So, there is always hope beyond the pain and despair of our lives.

Many of us experience the cross in our lives. You may have experienced difficulty and hardship in your lives. It could be the loss of a job; it could be a trouble with family or friends; it could be a chronic illness; even it could be the death of a loved one. When facing pain or suffering, we probably wonder: where is God? It seems hard to believe that God is love when we are stuck in the midst of all the pain and suffering. It seems hard for us to move beyond the cross.

On the Good Friday, confronting the suffering and death of Jesus, all the disciples and all people may say: there is no hope at all. They got confused. They doubted if Jesus was really the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. The question remained unanswered until the Easter Sunday, the first day of the week, when the disciples experienced the sign of resurrection. They saw the empty tomb, they understood the sign, and they believed. There is hope. Yes! The Lord is risen.

The empty tomb of Jesus in today's gospel symbolizes that hope, because it points to the resurrection of Jesus. Faith in Jesus' resurrection says that there is a future for every human being. Christ's resurrection is good news for us because God has chosen what human beings have rejected: "the stone which the builders rejected has become the corner-stone." This is the assertion of hope and joy for all the world: Jesus Christ is risen. That is the message of Easter. God himself is our future. Resurrection is our future.

Resurrection is the centrality of our Christian faith. St. Paul says: if Christ was not raised to life, our faith was useless. Then the Church should not have existed. Perhaps, we have no need to go to church. And our faith is meaningless; our life is meaningless, if Christ is not risen. What do we hope for in this life? Why do we have to live in this world, and try to do charitable works, if we don't have belief and hope in the Resurrection of Jesus.

As we encounter the Risen Lord through this Eucharistic meal, we obey Jesus' command to celebrate his death and resurrection, and to be witnesses of the joy of resurrection to the world, by telling the good news, not only by words but also by living a good life and testifying the love of God to people around us. Let us become Christ for others.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** from Sunday, April 9 to Saturday, April 15

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC	... Thanksgiving for all Parishioners
	11:15 am	SM	... Thanksgiving for all Parishioners
Monday	8 a.m.	SC	... Steve Linh Dinh (birthday)
Tuesday	No Mass	.....	.....
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC	... John Morris (repose/anniversary 4/11)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM	... Deacon Tony Paulino (repose)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC	... Mamita & Pineda Family (special intention)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM	... Nickolas Fesunoff (repose)

**2023 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:**

St. Cecilia

Goal	\$ 7,295.00
Received	\$ 6,695.00
Need	\$ 500.00

St. Mary

Goal	\$ 6,095.00
Received	\$ 1,018.00
Need	\$ 5,177.00

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND FAMILY!**

1. **Wednesday Home Visit and 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 the next prayer meeting at your home.

2. **First Communion:** There will be the First Communion for children at 11:15 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 28, 2023 at St. Mary's Church, Nicasio. Please keep these children in our prayers.

**Last Week Collections**

St. Cecilia

Offertory	\$ 890.00
Maintenance	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ <u>990.00</u>

St. Mary

Offertory	\$ 537.00
AAA	\$ 280.00
Presevat'n	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ <u>867.00</u>