

July 16, 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

MASS	Sunday **	St. Cecilia	9:30 a.m.
		St. Mary	11:15 a.m.
	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.)	10 a.m. Padre Pio & Rosary Devotion
Reconciliation	Saturday	St. Mary (other Sat.)	8 a.m.
		St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
Confirmation Prep.	Wednesday	St. Mary (except last Sat.)	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
		St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

See #895 in your Music Book for the readings

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Is 55:10-11; Ps 65:10-14; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

The gospel story today is about a farmer going out to sow the seed. We can see the farmer diligently scattering the seed. The seed fall all over around him. Some seed fall on the footpath, some on rocky ground, some on thorny bushes, some on good soil.

Now we can understand this parable in this way. Jesus is the farmer who goes out to sow the seed in his field. The seed is his message – it is the word of God. The field is the people gathering around Jesus and listening to him. Through this parable, Jesus describes exactly what happens when he himself speaks to his people, and to you and me today, too.

Just as the farmer scatters the seed on the varied soil around him, so Jesus offers the word of God to the varied audience in front of him – and to all of us today. Some listeners accept it; others reject it. Some are overjoyed by it; others remain untouched or uninterested. Yet for all, it remains a fertile seed, ready to grow.

Jesus scatters the seed of his message on the different kinds of ground – which are we. The seed and the ground, just like God's word and human's life, have to do with an intimate encounter. They need each other. The seed need the ground to grow up and to bear fruit. The ground would become alive thanks to the seed which will bring about plants and bear fruits. We can image that the ground would be lifeless if there is no seed, plants, and fruits. It is the same for us and our relationship with God. God's word is made for us; it can only take root in us. We are made for God's word; God can only bear fruit through us.

This parable of Jesus reminds me of the wasting of my time in the refugee camps. For most of people in those detention camps, time goes so slowly and insignificantly, leaving nothing for people to carry on in their lives. During those seven years in the camps, I spent most of my time with the so-called bad crowds, killing time with cigarette and alcohol. People had too much free time, but nobody could focus to study anything, or even to read a book.

I remember a priest coming to visit the camps and say Mass for us every week, bringing in Bibles to give to people – both Catholics and non-Catholics. That was his work of evangelization: scattering the seed of God's word. However, most of people did not read the Bible. I felt upset when seeing the Bibles thrown in garbage cans. Then I reported it to the priest and suggested him not to give out the Bibles any more. "It was such a waste," I told him. The priest calmly said: "It's not wasting. Jesus left behind ninety-nine healthy sheep in order to find a lost sheep. Ninety-nine Bibles may be thrown in the garbage cans, but who knows, there may be one person – a lost sheep – finding the way back to God."

Whenever I think about the priest's words, I can imply that one person is I myself. I once was lost but now I am found. God has to give up his beloved Son in order to save the lives of many. Before gaining something, we have to lose something. This is what we learn from the parable in the gospel today. To do the work of evangelization, we sometimes face opposition, even defeats, but we don't give up, for God's grace is always with us.

Now, we can ask ourselves: what kind of soil am I? Am I open and ready for the word of Jesus to take root in me and so to bear fruits? There are times when we harden our hearts and do not listen to God speaking to us. But now Jesus challenges us to make ourselves into good soil for the word of God. The prophet Isaiah also reminds us from the first reading today: "make our lives fertile and fruitful, like the seeds given to the one who knows how to sow... Do not let the word of God return to him void, but make it fruitful and abundant."

May we be the seed that fall on rich soil, and produce fruits, a hundred or sixty or thirty-fold!

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, July 16 to Saturday, July 22

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ...Nick & Audrey Massucco (wedding anniversary)
	11:15 am	SM ...Ray Perkins (repose)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Maria Nhuong (repose)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Peter de Rutte (birthday)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Fr. Peter Thiet (repose)
Friday	8 am	SC ... Agnes & Joseph Phan (repose)
Saturday	8 am	SM ... Kathy Drady (repose)

<u>2023 Annual Appeal</u>	
	<u>St. Cecilia</u>
Goal	\$ 7,295.00
Received	\$ 7,295.00
	<u>We've reached the goal!</u>
	<u>THANK YOU!</u>
	<u>St. Mary</u>
Goal	\$ 6,095.00
Received	\$ 4,962.00
Need	\$ 1,133.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Rummage Sales:** There'll be a short meeting in Parish Hall on Sunday, July 30, after 9:30 Mass, regarding tentative plans for a parish rummage sale later this year. Please join in the discussion; share your thoughts, concerns and ideas for improvement. All are welcome. Please contact Robyn Torres @ wakerobyn425@gmail.com for questions. Thank You!
- Save the date:** July 30, 2023, St. Mary's will be holding a fundraiser at the Lafranchi Deer Camp in Nicasio. Join our parish communities for a Western Style Chicken BBQ with fine wines and unique brews. The cost is \$60.00 and limited to the first 60 persons who sign in. Expect to have some fun! Contact Margaret Farley lgleagles@gmail.com for more information.
- Wednesday Home Visit and Rosary:** twice a month on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 5 pm. Please sign up to host. Next rosary gathering is on Wednesday, July 19 at David & Allison Puglisi's home: 65 Barranca Rd, Lagunitas, CA 94938.

<u>Last Week Collections</u>	
	<u>St. Cecilia</u>
Offertory	\$ 500.00
Maintenance	\$ 250.00
Total	\$ 750.00
	<u>St. Mary</u>
Offertory	\$ 276.00
AAA	\$ 1,205.00
Preservat'n	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 1,506.00