

July 23, 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
		St. Cecilia (other Fri.)	8 a.m.
	Saturday	St. Cecilia (last Sat.)	10 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.
Confirmation Prep.	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

See #898 in your Music Book for the readings

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Wis 12:13-19; Ps 86; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

In today's responsorial psalm we praise the Lord for he is "good and forgiving." Although there are shortcomings in our everyday life, but the Lord is merciful to us, slow to anger, and rich in kindness. Three parables in today's gospel give us a "good ground for hope." We long for the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom of heaven is like an abundant harvest. The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed sown in a field; it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when fully grown it is the largest of plants. The kingdom of heaven is like yeast mixed in flour to be made delicious leavened bread for people.

The kingdom of heaven is like the life and work of each and every one of us here in our parish. Each person's work is simple and humble, depending on the person's role: as priest or altar servers, as musicians or lectors, or Eucharistic ministers, as assembly or contributors of time, talent, and resource. All are put together as our beautiful gifts offering to God that make the life of our parish community more meaningful. By working together, we make the kingdom of heaven present here among us.

When talking about the kingdom of heaven, we usually think about beautiful images, like the abundant harvest, the grown mustard plant, the leavened bread, the lively parish. However, we should not ignore the fact that the kingdom of heaven and the presence of Satan coexist. "Weeds among wheat" is reality of a harvest. "The evil among the good" is reality of this world. "The sinner among the saint" is reality of the Church.

The harvest is good and abundant, for the wheat is to be gathered into barns. Yet the harvest is also the time for the weeds to be separated from the wheat and to be burned; for the evil to be separated from the good.

We probably learn from today's gospel that the parable of the weeds among the wheat becomes a moral lesson about the day of final judgment when God shows his justice; when the good are rewarded, and the wicked are punished. The Lord our God is both lenient and just. He is lenient in that he waits patiently for the harvest time which allows time for the sinners to repent. Yet, God is just in that he does separate the wicked from the righteous at the end time.

God does not judge without planning ahead of time; the first reading reminds us that God is a patient and kind God: there is "good ground for hope." In all three parables of the kingdom the outcome is assured: justice will come; the smallest seed will grow; yeast will leaven. This assurance is grounded in God's "mastery over all things."

God's mastery leads us to the way of repentance. This is also mentioned in the first parable, where the master advises the slaves not to pull up the weeds, but to let everything grow – give time for repentance. We are encouraged to repent of any shortcoming – any "weed" in our lives – and be faithful to our loving God.

Some of us may have a tendency of living in fear of God's judgment, thinking of ourselves only as weeds to be burned. But the gospel today encourages us to look beyond and see the possibilities for repentance, trust in God's mercy, and be open to God's loving kindness.

Jesus' message today encourages us to live in hope: there is no saint without a past; there is no sinner without a future. In his patience, the Lord allows both weeds and wheat to grow together, both saints and sinners to respond to salvation in the Kingdom. May the Spirit assist us in our weakness, to have courage to come back to God, for the Lord is good and forgiving!

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, July 23 to Saturday, July 29

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Guido Mori-Prange (repose/his birthday)
	11:15 am	SM ... Bob Dougherty (repose)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Madelyn Foge (special intention)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Alfred Cuthbert (health)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Anna Nguyen (repose)
Friday	8 am	SC ... Peter Tien & Anna Hinh (repose)
Saturday	10 am	SC ... Stephano Tung & Anna Que (repose)

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!
- Fundraising BBQ at Lafranchi Deer Camp:** Next Sunday, July 30, 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, August 2 at Daphne & Ken Massucco's home in Woodacre.
- Congratulations to Nicholas Civetz & Kelsey Heaphy** on their Wedding at St. Mary's Church, Nicasio, Friday, July 28, 2023.
- Monthly Padre Pio Mass and Devotion:** Saturday July 29, at St. Cecilia Church, Lagunitas. Mass begins at 10 a.m.

2023 Annual Appeal

St. Cecilia
Goal \$ 7,295.00
Received \$ 7,295.00
We've reached the goal
THANK YOU!

St. Mary
Goal \$ 6,095.00
Received \$ 4,962.00
Need \$ 1,133.00

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia
Offertory \$ 737.00
Maintenance \$ 50.00
Total \$ 787.00

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 354.00
AAA \$ 30.00
Total \$ 384.00