

July 30, 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

See #901 in your Music Book for the readings

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

1 Kgs 3:5-12; Ps 119; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

There are numerous examples of the life of the saints and great people who have experienced tremendous joy of conversion, on which they find Jesus Christ as priceless treasure of their being.

St. Paul, for example, used to be a persecutor of Christians. On his conversion, finding Christ as precious gift, he exclaimed with a great joy: “Nothing will ever be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”

St. Augustine was intellectually brilliant but was like a prodigal son for about 30 years in his life. On his conversion, Augustine realized that all that he had in his life was nothing to be compared to the treasure he had gained in Jesus Christ. Augustine wrote in his *Confession*: “Jesus, you yourself are true and highest sweetness, sweeter than all pleasure.” St. Augustine’s reflection has become beautiful words in a familiar song of praise: “Then sing my soul, my Savior God to Thee. How great Thou art! How great Thou art!”

Thomas Merton was also away from faith for a long time. On his conversion after being survived a shipwreck, he wrote the words in the *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.”

All is about the joy of Christian discipleship – the great joy of finding Christ as great treasure of our lives.

Perhaps many of us here are familiar with the gospel passage in which Jesus said: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all other things that you need shall be given unto you.”

As you see, today’s readings remind us of what is most important in this life? God or money? What kind of treasure we should look for in our life? Spiritual goodness or material rich?

The first reading tells us that God says to Solomon: “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” If the Lord tells you and me to ask him for something, we may ask for an easy life, or to be rich, or a wonderful family, or to have a bigger house or more money in the bank... Many things to ask for.

But for Solomon in the first reading, the treasure that he looks for is not a long life for himself, not worldly richness, not temporary power, but the gift of wisdom and an understanding heart to judge his people and to distinguish right from wrong. For Solomon, God’s wisdom is greatest treasure.

Another example is about a poor farmer who works on the field. He discovers a buried jar filled with gold and silver coins. The farmer goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. The purchase costs everything he has, but he is overjoyed, for he found a valuable treasure – he found God.

The person of true wisdom, like Solomon, will seek the reign of God and treasure it above all else. Finding God’s life in Christ Jesus is more precious than gold and silver. We may ask ourselves: how do I see the value of Christ’s presence in my life? Do I seek first the kingdom of God, above everything else?

My brothers and sisters in Christ! Let the eye of our faith not be obscured by the pleasure of this passing world, but let Christ be the most precious treasure that we seek. Let Christ be our true joy, true peace, and true happiness. Let Christ be our God and our all.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, July 30 to Saturday, August 5

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Walter & Barbara Echo (special intention)
	11:15 am	SM ... Mary Lafranchi (repose)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Alfred Cuthbert (health)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Corey Dallara (birthday)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Toma Tinh & Maria Tu (repose)
Friday	8 am	SM ... Kate Andrues (birthday)
Saturday	8 am	SM ... Ryan Dallara (repose – anniversary August 6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fundraising BBQ at Lafranchi Deer Camp:** today, Sunday, July 30, right after St. Mary’s 11:15 am Mass. Contact Margaret Farley gleagles@gmail.com for more information. Thank you, Margaret and the Team for organizing this beautiful event for the parish. Especially, thank you, The Lafranchi for your generous supports and contributions to the parish through this Annual Fundraiser.
- Rummage Sales Meeting:** in Parish Hall today, 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!
- Wednesday Home Visit and Rosary:** twice a month on 1st and 3rd Wed. at 5 pm. Please sign up to host. Next rosary gathering is at Daphne & Ken Massucco’s home in Woodacre. Wednesday, August 2.
- First Friday, August 4:** at St. Mary’s Church, Nicasio. Mass at 8 am, and Eucharistic Adoration until 12 noon.
- Acknowledgements:** We had a good meeting of the Parish Finance Committee last Wednesday. Thank you to the committee members, especially to Barbara Echo – the Chairperson – for her humble-but-tremendous works she has been doing for the parish.

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 \$ 553.00
Maintenance \$ 150.00
Total \$ 703.00

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 253.00
AAA \$ 30.00
Total \$ 283.00