



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

August 20, 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

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
Reconciliation		St. Mary (other Sat.)	8 a.m.
	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
Confirmation Prep.		St. Mary (except last Sat.)	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

See #910 in your Music Book for the readings

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

We learn from the Canaanite woman in the Gospel story her example of faith, genuine prayer, and perseverance that saves her daughter's life. While the disciples don't want to be bothered as they try to "send her away," Jesus puts her to a difficult test by saying: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of house of Israel," and it sounds very rude when he says: "It is not right to take the food of children and throw it to the dogs."

If we were that woman in the Gospel story, we would have given up and walked away, but the woman keeps begging Jesus and humbly says: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Jesus is amazed by her humble words of faith and trust, as he replies: "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." With such a great faith, Jesus grants her the reward by healing her daughter.

In our prayer life, there may be times we pray, but easily give up because we don't see the result; just because we don't realize God's abundant grace in our lives. However, Jesus is always with us and he continues to encourage us to be persistent in our prayers. Indeed, persistence or perseverance is the key for success in what we are looking for. And our faith in Jesus' healing power is the main factor for miracle to happen, as Jesus always says: "Your faith has saved you."

The role of faith is to co-operate with God's mighty works. For Jesus, faith has a decisive importance for the purpose of salvation. The faith of this Gentile woman is bold and insistent. Her firm faith in the Son of God obtains the miracle.

Although all three readings today concern the special role of God's chosen people – the Jews – in God's plan, the main theme for us to reflect on today is *God's salvation is for all*, as exclaimed in the responsorial psalm: "O God, let all the nations praise you! May your way be known upon earth! May your salvation be known among all nations!" The almighty God, ever-loving Father, extends his love and care beyond the boundaries of race and nation to the hearts of all who live.

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies a time when the Temple at Jerusalem will become a house of prayer, not just for his own people, but for all peoples. The Lord said: "I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain." Those who observe what is right, those who do what is just, those who love the name of the Lord, those who keep holy the Sabbath, those who keep and practice God's Commandments, their offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on the altar of the Lord, as he promises: "my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

St. Paul's letter to the Romans also asserts this: God's gifts and mercy are for all. Jesus came to the world to proclaim the Gospel of the kingdom to all people, and to cure every disease among the people. God is for all of us, not for only a particular group of people.

Being affected by the mentality of this worldview, we sometimes discriminate people as rich or poor, woman or man, black or white, American or Irish, or Italian, or Asian, or Mexican. Even in religious practice, we sometimes classify people as insider or outsider, newly baptized or long-time parishioner. But in the light of faith in Jesus Christ, there is no discrimination of rich or poor, slave or free, Gentile or Jew, woman or man at all.

We are followers of Jesus Christ. We are encouraged to put our faith and hope in God. We are called to do the works of charity and unity of God's people. In Christ Jesus, there is no discrimination. Let us together praise God in faith, hope, love and unity as we pray in the responsorial psalm today: "O God, let all the nations praise you... because your salvation is for all nations."

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, August 20 to Saturday, August 26

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Ann Conley (for healing)
	11:15 am	SM ... Deacon Tony Paulino (repose – birthday 8/19)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Fr. Paul Perry (for healing)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Ryan Dallara (repose – birthday today 8/23)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Joyce Massucco (birthday 8/23)
Friday	8 am	SC ... Fr. Jerry Murphy (for health)
Saturday	10 am	SC ... Hildegard Buel (repose)

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 \$ 5,102.00
Need \$ 993.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- First Friday Mass & Eucharistic Adoration:** at St. Mary Church, Nicasio on Friday, September 8. Mass at 8 am, and Adoration until noon.
- Wednesday Home Visit and Rosary:** twice a month on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 5 pm. Next month rosary gatherings will be on September 6 and September 20. Please sign up to host.
- Padre Pio Mass & Devotion:** at 10 am, Saturday, August. 26, at St. Cecilia Church, Lagunitas.
- Save the Date:** Our 2023 Parish Rummage & Plant Sale will take place on Sat. Oct. 21 and Sun. Oct. 22, at St. Cecilia Parish. More details to follow soon. Please join us for a second planning meeting today Sun. Aug. 20, after the 9:30 am Mass, in the Parish Hall. Questions? Contact Robyn Torres: wakerobyn425@gmail.com.
- Our friend Anne Corda** had an open-heart surgery and is healing well. Thanks be to God! Let us keep Anne and her family in our prayers.

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia
Offertory \$ 623.00
Maintenance \$ 400.00
Total \$ 1,023.00

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 591.00
Preservat'n \$ 50.00
AAA \$ 30.00
Total \$ 671.00