



st. cecilia church lagunitas

August 27, 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

Table with columns for Mass, Reconciliation, Confirmation Prep, Day, Church, and Time.

See #913 in your Music Book for the readings TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

When Jesus asked the disciples: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" they replied: "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." But Jesus wanted to know the disciples' opinion. So, he asked them: "But, how about you? Who do you say that I am?" Peter, inspired by the Spirit of God, professed with conviction that: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

The question seems very simple, but if Jesus asks you and me today that same question, "Who do you say that I am?" what shall we answer him?

It might be quite easy for us to answer as Peter did: "Lord, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Nevertheless, to believe what we profess and to live accordingly to what we believe is really not easy at all. Christ is cross and vice versa. Nobody can separate Christ from cross. To be a Christian means to be a follower of Christ; it means to be ready to carry the cross and follow Christ. Jesus reassures us that being disciple of Christ means denying oneself, taking up the cross to follow him.

I remember after the communist of North Vietnam took over the South in 1975, I was among the students who underwent discrimination by the atheist communists. Like every high school student, I had to write an autobiography, reporting to the government about my family's political and religious background before taking the examination in order to attend college. The communist government unfairly classified the students, and scored their exams based on their family's backgrounds. So, religious background became an obstacle for many students like myself. One of the challenging questions I had to answer was: "What is your religion?" If you were Catholic or any religion, you lost points. I was tempted to avoid the check box which says "Catholic," and intended to check the other box which says "no religion." But thank God, I didn't do that. However, I felt disappointed when I had to answer: "I am Catholic," because I knew that I would be denied to enter the college. I knew that by confessing "I am a Catholic" in an atheist communist country means to carry the cross with Jesus. Indeed, I was denied of attending college in Vietnam.

To profess that "Jesus is the Christ" means we are to accept his cross (whatever the hardship we face in life) and being ready to carry our daily cross, and walk with him.

If you are asked to express your Catholic belief in this scandalous world of injustice, prejudice, hatred, violence, and war, will you firmly profess your faith in Jesus Christ, or deny your faith just for your own safety or for your comfort zone?

Thanks to the revelation from God the Father, Peter has faith in Jesus. Jesus in turn displays his confidence in Peter. Peter becomes what his name means - the Rock. He becomes the solid rock on which the Church, the community of believers, rests. On this Rock, Jesus will build his Church, "and the power of death shall not prevail against it."

Indeed, the Catholic Church has been built on the everlasting foundation: Jesus Christ. Then Jesus entrusted the Church to the Apostles, and the head of the Apostles was Peter.

Jesus also entrusted to Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. This is the starting point of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we go confession, we believe that through the ministry of the Church, particularly through the priest, God gives us pardon and peace, and the forgiveness of our sins. Because as Jesus promised Peter: "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

As in the Creed, we believe in the Apostolic Church, and we believe in the forgiveness of sins. May the Lord grant us spiritual strength to keep and practice our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, as we profess!

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, August 27 to Saturday, September 2

Table of Mass Intentions for Sunday through Saturday, listing times and intentions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. First Friday Mass & Eucharistic Adoration: at St. Mary Church, Nicasio on Friday, September 1. Mass at 8 am, and Adoration until noon.
2. 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.
3. Save the Date: Our 2023 Parish Rummage Sale (including Plant & Bake Sale) will take place on Sat. Oct. 21 from 9-4pm, and Sun. Oct. 22 from 11-4pm, at St. Cecilia Parish. More details will be updated. Questions? Contact Robyn Torres: wakerobyn425@gmail.com.
4. Maui Wildfire Relief: We've received many inquiries about how to help people impacted by the Maui wildfire. We can support those in need by giving to the Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation via a link on the Archdiocese web site (Maui - Archdiocese of San Francisco (sfarch.org)). You also can write a check to the Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation (the address is on the web page). As Catholics, we are called to help those in need. We invite everyone to consider assisting.

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

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia Offertory \$ 676.00 Maintenance \$ 200.00 Total \$ 876.00

St. Mary Offertory \$ 482.00 Preservat'n \$ 50.00 AAA \$ 30.00 Total \$ 562.00