



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

September 3, 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 #916 in your Music Book for the readings

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2023

Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

We continue today with the message of the cross from last Sunday's gospel. I guess many of us here have a cross with you. There are different kinds of cross. The cross from the rosary, the cross we see from the crucifix there above the altar, plastic cross, wooden cross, golden cross from your necklace, from your earrings...

Those are the crosses we can see and touch. But there are invisible crosses that we cannot see, yet, they are very heavy to carry. Jesus talks about those invisible crosses: the cross of hardship, suffering, hatred, division, gossip, prejudice, criticism which sometimes people create for us to carry; or sometimes, we ourselves create those crosses for others to carry.

From last Sunday's gospel, Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God. With this confession, Jesus makes Peter "Solid Rock" as his name means. On this Rock, Jesus builds his Church. But not too long after the confession, Peter – the rock – becomes a stumbling stone, as today's gospel tells us. Peter cannot accept the idea that the divine Messiah will suffer and be killed. Thus, he takes Jesus aside and dares to rebuke the Master...

Jesus, on the other hand, sees in Peter a similar voice of Satan in the desert, tempting Jesus to use his power to avoid suffering. That's why Jesus strongly warns Peter: "get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Mt. 16:23).

To avoid suffering means to avoid the invisible cross as mentioned above. Normally, people fear hardship, suffering, and death. It is the same way of saying: people fear the cross. We see that fear, even from a great prophet like Jeremiah, in the first reading. He was called to witness to the Lord, to speak against violence and outrage. In turn, he became "an object of laughter" and everyone mocked him. He feared. He intended to run away from this challenging ministry. But the Lord kept him and made him strong "like fire burning" in his heart.

As a priest, before being sent to live and work among different people, I was trained to be ready for different kinds of cross in real life. But when experiencing the "invisible crosses" of complaint, objection, reproach, mockery, criticism... like Jeremiah, I have that fear, too. Sometimes, I feel the cross seems too heavy to carry. Sometimes I am tempted to give up, but Jesus' words encourage me: be not afraid. "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor 12:9). Jesus' words in today's gospel strengthen me to keep walking with him: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mt. 16:24). Jesus knows that he has to face suffering and death, but he is faithful to God till the end. He sets that example for the disciples and for us today.

For us who believe, cross is not a burden but a great promise as Jesus said: "whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever wishes to lose his life for my sake will find it" (Mt. 16:25). St. Paul also advises us in the same way: following the Lord means nothing less than the cross; offering ourselves with Jesus as a living sacrifice and not conforming ourselves to this world. Following the Lord will entail derision and scorn, yet the Lord is with us always to help.

We all know the cross of hardship, suffering, criticism, division, or hatred is heavy to bear. We don't want others to create that cross for us to carry, so we should not create that heavy cross for others. However, if we have to face hardship or suffering in this life Jesus encourages us not to give up, but to be faithful to carry the cross and follow him. Being disciples of Christ means denying ourselves, taking up our daily cross and walk with him. Be not afraid!

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, September 3 to Saturday, September 9

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Daphne Massucco (birthday)
	11:15 am	SM ... Anna Lieu (repose)
Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	No Mass
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Pray for people to come back to church
Friday	8 am	SC ... Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8)
Saturday	8 am	SM ... Alfred Cuthbert (for health)

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

- Wednesday Home Visit and Rosary:** twice a month on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 5 pm. Please sign up to host. Next rosary gathering will be on Wednesday, September 6, at Carol Mori-Prange's home, 24 Elm Avenue, Woodacre, CA 94973
- There is no Mass from Monday, September 4 to Wednesday, September 6:** Fr. Phan will be in Houston to celebrate with his family a memorial Mass for his mother's 10th Anniversary.
- Save the Date:** Our 2023 Parish Rummage Sale (including a Plant and Bake Sale) will take place on Sat. 10/21, 9a-4p; and Sun. 10/22, 11a-4p, in the Parish Hall. Donations may be brought to the Parish Hall on M-W-Fri: 9:30a-11:00a, starting Mon. 10/9 (parishioners & immediate family members only). Your help is needed - please check out the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall, or email Robyn Torres @ wakerobyn425@gmail.com, to volunteer and/or for questions. Thank you!

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia
 Offertory \$ 456.00
 Maintenance \$ 50.00
 Total \$ 506.00

St. Mary
 Offertory \$ 336.00
 Preservat'n \$ 154.00
 AAA \$ 30.00
 Total \$ 520.00