



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

September 10, 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 #919 in your Music Book for the readings 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2023

It is noticed in today's gospel that pardon and the power to forgive are both duty and gift. Pardon is our duty. Since we are many parts of the same body of Christ, the Church, if one part does not function well, it affects the whole body. That's why Jesus says: "if your brother sins... go and tell him his fault..." Jesus encourages us to find all means to help the wrongdoer. It is our duty to help our brothers and sisters who go astray, and to bring them back, just as the good shepherd goes searching for the lost sheep.

The power to forgive is gift. Jesus said: "whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." This saying of Jesus becomes the starting point of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus has bestowed his power to forgive on Peter and the Apostles, and then on the priests of the Church, that they become channels of God's merciful love and forgiveness for all people.

Prophet Ezekiel in today's first reading also challenges us to show our genuine love for others through our responsibility to help them to turn away from sin. In the name of God, he says: "If you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his *sinful* way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself." In our love for one another, we are called to confront our brothers and sisters for the wrong they may be doing.

As told in the Church history, King Henry VIII of England in 16th century used to be a devout Catholic. He married Catherine of Spain. Their only child was Princess Mary Tudor. Henry decided to divorce Catherine, and so he could marry Anne Boleyn, with hope that he would have a son to succeed him. However, his annulment process was refused by the Catholic Church, and opposed by Bishop John Fisher, and Sir Thomas More of England, who was his close friend and adviser. Henry was so angry. He led the Church of England in its break with Rome, and became the head of the Anglican Church. He ordered both Bishop John Fisher and Sir Thomas More to be beheaded. What the cost of living the truth!

The Gospel today speaks of fraternal correction, which is part of our Christian life; yet, it is an unpleasant task. Correcting the fault or mistake of others is not an easy thing to do. Many of us would

rather not correct or remind a loved one or a friend for fear of hurting him or her; or for fear of being misunderstood. But it has to be done; and it has to be done with love.

Are there people who correct you? Are there people who point out what is wrong or what can still be improved? Usually, these are the people we would rather avoid because they make us uncomfortable. They may be named as the joy-killer. But consider yourself lucky if you have people who really care for you. Consider yourself blessed if you have people who risk your rejection, just because of the duty of Christian charity.

In contrast, there are other people who will butter you up – especially when you are "up-there" people. They will say or do anything to make you feel that you are excellent, or that there are no problems, and there is no need to worry about anything, for you are "perfect." These are the people who will tell you what you want to hear, not what you need to hear. One of the oriental proverbs says this: **"The one who sincerely corrects your faults is your genuine friend; but the one who insincerely praises you is your enemy."**

Facing problems in everyday life, even immoral issues in our society and in the world we live, may challenge us to respond based on the truth of our consciences and the values of our Catholic faith. We may ask ourselves: how do I give witness to Jesus? How do I stand up for what I believe? Can I stand up to gospel values? Or do I simply keep silence or turn around for my own safety?

In conclusion, let us be advised by the words of Saint Paul in the second reading today: "We are to owe nothing to anyone except to love one another." Helping one another to keep and live the Lord's commandments. Don't be afraid to correct our brothers and sisters in a constructive way, with genuine love, for as the Gospel tells us: "if your brothers or sisters listen to you, you have won them over" because Jesus himself is in the midst of such love.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, September 10 to Saturday, September 16

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Claire Straube (for health)
	11:15 am	SM ... Gabriel Caprio (repose)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Alena Litchfield & Family (her birthday on 9/8)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Phero Nguyen Van Tra (repose)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Shane Gordon (birthday) ... Victor Frugoli (repose)
Friday	8 am	SC ... The Massucco Family (a special intention)
Saturday	8 am	SM ... Ine Ngu & Maria Rau Nguyen (repose)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Second collection today, Sunday, September 10:** to support the Church of Latin America.
- 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 20, at Teresa & Corey Dallara's home, 95 La Cuesta Ave, Lagunitas, CA 94938.
- 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!

2023 Annual Appeal

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Goal	\$ 7,295.00
Received	\$ 7,295.00
<u>We've reached the goal</u>	
<u>THANK YOU!</u>	
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Goal	\$ 6,095.00
Received	\$ 5,102.00
Need	\$ 993.00

Last Week Collections

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 654.00
Maintenance	\$ 450.00
Total	\$ 1,104.00
<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 345.00
Preservat'n	\$ 120.00
AAA	\$ 30.00
Total	\$ 495.00