



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

September 17, 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 #922 in your Music Book for the readings 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2023

Sir 27:30...28:7; Ps 103; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Jesus said, "Forgive your brothers and sisters, not seven times but seventy-seven times." Forgive unconditionally. Who among us can forgive like that?

There is a beautiful story about forgiveness. Two high school friends were arguing about something. They got into a fight. Tom unintentionally pushed Jim falling from the second floor to the ground; he died on the way rushing to the hospital. Tom, then, was put in jail. Consequently, he was abandoned by his parents who in distress moved away from home.

Jim's parents were in great despair, too, because of the loss of their only child. But the more they missed their son, the more they prayed for forgiveness, and the more sacrifice they tried to do for the boy's killer. Since they learned that Tom's parents abandoned him, they regularly visited him in prison for many years, and finally adopted him to be their son.

Tom eventually was released from prison. He continued going to school and earned a degree, got married and had a successful life. He lived with his foster parents. He loved them more than ever, and dedicated his life to take care of them in their old age.

The example of forgiveness in this story is how Jesus wants us to forgive others: "not only seven times but seventy-seven times." Forgive without counting the cost. We may not be able to forgive unconditionally as Jesus demands us, but we may ask ourselves: "Can I forgive as the parents of Jim in the above story have forgiven Tom?" Yes, I think we can, if we open our hearts for God's love to indwell.

"It is not easy to be a Catholic." This saying of a friend of mine sounds like a joke; but it is so true. If we are asked: "how often do you forgive your brothers and sisters if they sin against you?" how do we answer this question? Perhaps, with honesty we may say: "I can forgive but I cannot forget." Normally, if somebody hit me, I certainly would hit him back. But Jesus demands us: if somebody hits you on one cheek, give him another cheek, too, just because you are a Christian – a follower of Christ.

In the Our Father, Jesus taught us to clearly pray: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." From the Book of Sirach, we are reminded of the same lesson: "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." If you forgive others, the

Father in heaven will also forgive you. Remember, Jesus also said this to us: leave your offering at the altar and go making peace first... That's why we exchange the sign of peace before receiving the Communion. Have peace in yourself. Clean the room of your heart and soul before you let Jesus come in.

Indeed, forgiveness is one of many difficult things, but Jesus himself had set an example of forgiveness for us to imitate; on the cross Jesus prayed for those who crucified him: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" Have you ever forgiven and then prayed for somebody who hurt you? How could we answer Jesus if he asked us this question?

Today's gospel also challenges us: "Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" We may laugh at the absurdity from the wicked servant in the parable. His master has just forgiven him a huge debt, but he cannot forgive his fellow servant "a much smaller amount."

We all are sinners who owe God infinite debt. There is no way we can ever pay our debt to God. God with great mercy and compassion will forgive us, even a huge debt. However, only one requirement for us to be forgiven is our generosity toward those who sin against us. Jesus reminds us again and again: "Unless each of you forgives your brother and sister, the Father will not forgive you."

When we sin, we come before God with a humble contrite heart and sincere repentance asking forgiveness, and God forgives us all our sins. Should we not forgive our brothers and sisters' faults in the same way? We know that it is not easy to forgive unconditionally. However, as the followers of Jesus Christ, let us learn from him to forgive and to love, for "the Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in kindness."

As we pray for peace and forgiveness, we hope that we practice what we pray – to be the persons with loving kindness and forgiving heart, to forgive our brothers and sisters, "not only seven times, but seventy-seven times."

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, September 17 to Saturday, September 23

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Sophia Kolleth (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ... Shane A. Gordon (his birthday on 9/14)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Taylor Sanchez (healing)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Phero Nguyen Van Tra (repose)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... The Massucco Family (a special intention)
Friday	8 am	SC ... Victor Frugoli
Saturday	10 am	SC ... for people of Padre Pio Society (Feast Day)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Padre Pio Feast – September 23:** this Saturday at St. Cecilia Church, Lagunitas. Mass at 10 am. Devotion and refreshment to follow.
- Wednesday Home Visit and Rosary:** this Wednesday 9/20 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!
- Confirmation Classes & Youth Catechism:** will resume in October. If you have a child interested in participating, please contact Margaret Farley: lgleagles@gmail.com or (415) 450-0567.

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 \$ 582.00
 2nd collect'n \$ 252.00
 Maintenance \$ 650.00
 Total \$ 1,484.00

St. Mary

Offertory \$ 325.00
 2nd collect'n \$ 102.00
 Preservat'n \$ 120.00
 AAA \$ 50.00
 Total \$ 597.00