

**April 28, 2024**



st. cecilia church  
lagunitas

Mision 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

<b>MASS</b>	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 <sup>st</sup> Friday)	8 a.m. Holy Hour follows
		St. Cecilia (other Fridays)	8 a.m.
	Saturday	St. Cecilia (last Saturday only)	10 a.m. Padre Pio Mass & Devotion
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
		or by appointment call:	(415) 488-9799
<b>Confirmation Prep.</b>	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**See #836 in Music Book for the readings**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8*

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the vine. You are the branches." And we've just heard again in today's gospel that Jesus reaffirms this to all of us: "Remain in me as I remain in you... Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit... but anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither." First of all, we thank God for our precious gift of faith, that God's Spirit inspires us to remain in Jesus as the branches remain on the vine. Furthermore, we keep in our prayers for those who lost their faith or not practicing their faith.

There is a story of a parishioner who was very active in his parish. But for some reason, he stopped going to church for a while. The parish priest then came to visit him at home. It was a very cold evening. They sat by the fireplace for a long time without saying anything. Then the priest picked up the tongs, took a glowing coal from the fireplace, and set it separately on a place away from the fire.

As the two watched silently, the coal slowly lost its glow and died. A few minutes later, the parishioner said: "Father, I understand what you want to tell me. Tomorrow, I will come back to church."

We may ask ourselves: "Is there anything that threatens to cut me off from Jesus and causes me to lose my glow? Is there anyone who has been cut off from Jesus that I might help, as the priest helped that parishioner?"

Today's readings remind us two things. First, from the witness of St. Paul to the Risen Lord, we are called to conversion. Second, with the metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus reaffirms us to remain in him so that we may have life in abundance.

You may have known very well the story of St. Paul's conversion, especially the incident that happened to him on the road to Damascus to persecute the followers of Jesus. Like St. Paul, we sometimes betray Jesus, we crucify Jesus because of our sins, or because of our hatred or arrogance, we blaspheme God, we criticize the Church, we persecute the Church...

Now, it is the time Jesus calls us to conversion, to look into our human weakness and change our way of life, turn away from our sinfulness and come back to God. Furthermore, we hear this message from the Gospel today, as Jesus is saying to us again: I am the vine and you are the branches. When you are a part of me and I am living in you, you will do great things for God. But if you are cut off from me, you can do nothing. All those who do not stay part of me are like dried-up branches that can only be gathered up and burned. But if you are a part of me and you live by my words, you may ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you. When you do good deeds, you show that you are my disciples, and you give honor and glory to God.

We do not only remain in Jesus to keep that flame burning in order to live, but we also need to be pruned in order to have abundant life. The love of God is the tool we need, in order to cut away the unhealthy branches. Pruning can be a painful process and one we would probably like to avoid. However, this process is necessary so that what is dying or has died does not smother new life. Once the withering branches are cleared away, new growth is encouraged.

So, through pruning process, God cuts something out of our lives, but it is his work of love and care for us; it is God's loving desire for our healthy flourishing. We may ask ourselves: "What needs to be cut away or out of my life so that I may have an abundant life and bear more good fruits?" Help us, Lord Jesus, to realize how much we need you. Help us to remain in you always, as the branches remain on the vine, so that our lives may be fruitful.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** from Sunday, April 28 to Saturday, May 4

Sunday	9:30 am	SC ... Stan Gayle DeRutte & Family (special intention)
	11:15 am	SM ... Fr. Robert V. Gavin (repose/anniversary)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Daphne & Ken Massucco/Family (special int.)
Tuesday	.....	no Mass .....
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Fr. George Batchelder (birthday)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Fr. Piers Lahey (repose/birthday)
Friday	8 am	SM ... Rosie Paulino (birthday)
Saturday	8 am	SC ... James A. Fogliano (birthday/anniversary)

**2024 Annual Appeal**

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Goal	\$ 8,036.00
Received	\$ 9,366.00
Exceeded	\$ 1,830.00

<u>St. Mary</u>	
Goal	\$ 5,533.00
Received	\$ 5,533.00

**THANK YOU!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Second Collection:** today, Sunday, April 28, to support Catholic Home Missions (USCCB).
- Home Visit & Rosary:** at 5 pm, Wednesday, May 1. Carol Mori-Prange's home: 24 Elm Avenue, Woodacre.
- First Friday (May 3) Mass & Eucharistic Adoration:** at St. Mary Church, Nicasio... Mass at 8 am... Adoration to follow until 12 noon.
- Save the date:** WALK WITH JESUS across the Golden Gate Bridge: Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 11 am, Mass at the Cathedral in San Francisco... Monday, May 20, 2024, at 1:30 pm ... Walk Eucharistic procession to St. Raphael Parish via Albert Park (151 Alderson Dr. San Rafael). Contact Sandra Kearney (415.614.5505) [kearneys@sfarch.org](mailto:kearneys@sfarch.org) for more information.

**Last Week Collections**

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 712.00
Maintenance	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ <u>912.00</u>

<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 307.00
Preservat'n	\$ 40.00
Total	\$ <u>347.00</u>