

## March 14, 2021

## 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) +

lagunitas

st. mary chi nicasio

MASS	Sunday **	St. Cecilia	9:30 a.m.	
		St. Mary	11:15 a.m.	
Note: This section contains		** Children Liturgy, last Sunda	st Sunday of the month	
schedules that are on hold	Monday	St. Cecilia	8 a.m. Holy Hour follows	
due to the pandemic.	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	8 a.m.	
See latest Mass schedule	Thursday	St. Mary	8 a.m.	
posted each week.	Friday	St. Mary (1st Fri.)	8 a.m. Holy Hour follows	
	5	St. Cecilia (other Fri.)	8 a.m.	
	Saturday	St. Cecilia (last Sat.)	8 a.m. Padre Pio & Rosary Devotion	
		St. Mary (other Sat.)	8 a.m.	
Reconciliation	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.	
	5	St. Mary (except last Sat.)	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.	
<b>Religious Education</b>	Monday	St. Cecilia	3:45 to 4:45 p.m. $(1^{st}$ thru $6^{th}$ graders)	
Confirmation Prep.	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.	

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

2 Chr 36:14-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son [to die on the cross for us], so that whoever believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." This beautiful message from chapter 3 of John's Gospel is one of the essential points in the Bible that proves the truth that GOD IS LOVE. But we still have a hard time to understand this: what does the truth "God is love" has to do with letting his only Son Jesus die on the cross? Indeed, God's way of thinking is not the same way we normally think.

There is a couple who have four sons. One day, the parents tell each other: our first two sons look handsome, clever, and studious; hopefully they will become a doctor and an engineer in future. The fourth – the youngest one – is healthy and active; we may rely on him to support us in our old age. But our third son doesn't look clever at all; he looks unhealthy and inactive. We worry that he will not have a successful life. So, let us give him to God. Let us send him to the nuns asking them to raise him. Who knows: he might become a priest, and we don't have to worry about him!!!

We usually choose good fruits and only give to God rotten fruits. That is how we humans concern about life. But God's way is not our ways; God's thought is not our thoughts. Nobody is able to understand the mystery of love that God has shown us through the cross.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn 3:16). God loves us. God loves the world through the person of Jesus Christ – the Son. This truth has been handed down to us from generation to generation through the Scriptures and the Apostles. We the Church are built on the foundation of this truth: God is love.

Saint Paul tells us in the second reading today: brothers and sisters, "God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ" (*Eph 2:4-6*). God loves us even sometimes we are unfaithful. God, our merciful and loving Father, doesn't want any among us to perish, but he wants to bring us safely home by the end.

We may look up the crucifix and ask: "Jesus, how much you love us?" Jesus may not answer us but he stretches out his arms, lowers his head, and dies, because of love. There is no greater love than laying down one's life for one's friends. Jesus did this for us on the hill of Calvary, because he loved us.

Perhaps, we have been carrying our daily cross and walking with Jesus more than half way of the Lenten journey. We are called to spread God's love throughout the world in which we live:

- by our concern for people in any kind of need,
- by our thoughtful attention to people who are lonely or troubled,
- by our willingness to listen even to people with whom we disagree,
- by our patience with those who perturb us, beginning in our own families, and
- by our efforts to spread peace in the world we live.

Sometimes we choose to do difficult things in our lives; sometimes we choose to do sacrifices for others, because, as we hope, the end is a spiritual reward. But let us practice the simplest thing in our life: let us love one another as God has loved us, by showing our concerns and cares for our brothers and sisters we meet in our everyday life.

MASS INT	ENTIONS:	(from Sunday, March 14 to Saturday, March 20)	Last Week Collections:
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC Stephen Mori-Prange (birthday)	St. Cecilia
-	11:15 a.m.	SM Pat White (birthday)	Offertory. \$ 755.00
Monday	8 a.m.	SC for the sick – especially in our parish	Maintenance \$ 60.00
Tuesday	No Mass	se in for the sterr espectancy in our parish	AAA <u>\$ 130.00</u>
2		CC = V = V = 11 = (1 = 1)	Total <u>\$ 945.00</u>
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC Kay Kenneally (repose)	<u>St. Mary</u>
Thursday	8 a.m.	SM Joseph Lee Phan (repose/1st anniversary)	Offertory. \$ 466.00
Friday	8 a.m.	SC Fr. Joseph Walsh (birthday)	Preservation <u>\$ 200.00</u>
Saturday	8 a.m.	SM Adam Watchorn (repose)	Total <u>\$ 666.00</u>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1. Second collection today is for Catholic Relief Service (CRS).
- 2. Please sign-up to participate in ministries for the celebrations of the Holy Week and Easter, for example: readers at Mass, and/or the Passion, and/or the Easter Vigil; the twelve volunteers for Washing of Feet at Holy Thursday Mass are needed.



- 3. The Holy Week and Easter Schedule:
- <u>Palm Sunday, 3/28</u> ... Mass schedule is as usual: <u>9:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia, 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary's</u>. We are unable to organize the Palm Sunday Brunch at the Druids this time yet.
- <u>Holy Thursday: 4/1...</u> no morning Mass... but the <u>Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:15 p.m. at St.</u> <u>Cecilia</u> – with the washing of feet... The Eucharistic Adoration will continue right after the Mass until 11 p.m.
- <u>Good Friday: 4/2</u> ... <u>The Good Friday Liturgy starts at 3 p.m. at St. Mary</u> (the hour Jesus died). The Liturgy includes 3 parts: Veneration of the Cross, Liturgy of the Words, and the Holy Communion... continued with walking the Stations of the Cross... and private prayers...
- Easter Vigil: 4/3 ... Mass starts at 7:15 p.m. at St. Cecilia.
- Easter Sunday: 4/4 ... Mass schedule is as usual: 9:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia, 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary.