



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

September 24, 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.
		St. Mary (except last Sat.)	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
Confirmation Prep.	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

See #925 in your Music Book for the readings

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2023

Is 55:6-9; Ps 145; Phil 1:20...27; Mt 20:1-16

How different are the Lord's ways from our own! The Lord God reassures us this in the first reading today: "my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways" (Is 55:8). We pray this in today's psalm: "the Lord is gracious and good to all" (Ps 145:8-9). In the same way, the gospel tells us that the Lord is equally generous in compassion and love to those who are quick to respond to his invitation, as well as to those who are slow to hear his call. Blessed be the Lord, our God!

During my years in college, every summer, I worked for my brother as a gardener, doing landscape and cement work, too. The good thing was I got paid generously so I could save money for school.

Once, we prepared to lay a concrete driveway for a customer. That morning, my brother and I left home early to pick up two men on the way to work. Before getting into the truck, the men didn't forget to bargain with my brother about the wage. Arriving at the place, we started working right away: digging the ground, preparing wooden frame and rebars... It was a hot day in August. Time seemed going fast. It's almost noon time, but still a lot of work needed to be done before the concrete truck was coming in the afternoon. We needed more helpers. So, my brother went out again, and quickly brought back two more men, and also some food for our quick lunch break.

After lunch, we continued working hard. The truck arrived at 3 o'clock to pump concrete mix into the prepared place. All six of us worked non-stop. Eventually, we got the driveway done beautifully by the end of the day. Now, it's the time to pay. My brother gave each man \$100 for the day's wage, and an extra \$20 bill, saying: "thank you for working hard!" The two latter men happily said to my brother: "Mucho gracias, Senor!" Whereas the two formers complained: "This is not fair, Senor! You give us just the same as they get. We worked hard, and much earlier than they." My brother calmly said to them: "My friend, do I pay you enough as you bargained this morning? And even more with the bonus. Why are you not happy? Are you not happy because I generously give to these two men? Why don't you thank

me for the bonus? If you think the \$20 bonus is not enough, you could give it back to me." Observing what happening, I thought the way my brother treated the hired men was just like this gospel parable. I quietly said: thank you, Jesus!

Once, I told this parable to some non-Catholic friends of mine, an elderly man disagreed with the story, raising his voice: "They all get the same?" Then, arguing that it seems terribly unfair. It isn't right to pay people who have worked hard all day no more than those who have worked only half day or even an hour. Is Jesus' accounting wrong? Actually, Jesus does it on purpose, as he explains: "Can I not do what I want with what is mine? Or are you jealous because I am generous?"

Jesus ends today's parable with the statement: "Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Mt 20:16). Relying on God's generous love, all believers, no matter how long or how hard they work during this lifetime, will receive the same reward: that is eternal life. Yet, we are reminded to remain faithfully in God's love.

In his reflection on the grace of Baptism, St. Andrew Kim Taegon of Korea says: "We have received baptism, entrance into the Church, and the honor of being called Christians. Yet, what good will this do for us if we are Christians in name only and not in fact?" It is not about being a long-time Catholic or a newly baptized, but about faithfulness, for "the one who remains to the end will be saved" (Mt. 24:13).

To accept the gospel story, we have to realize that it is not about social justice. It is about God's generosity. We are like the late workers in the vineyard, but Jesus treats us equally. Let us now in turn be generous and merciful just as God the Father has been generous and merciful to us all.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, September 24 to Saturday, September 30

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Teresa Dao Thi Men (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ... Don Sinclair (repose/20 th anniversary)
Monday	8 am	SC ... John & Melissa O'Connell (wedding)
Saturday	8 am	SM ... Greg Schultz (repose)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Second collection today, Sunday 9/24:** for Priests Retirement Fund.
- 2. No daily Mass from Wednesday 9/27 to Friday 9/29:** Fr. Phan goes to San Diego for the Ordination of Auxiliary Bishops.
- 3. Annual Parish Rummage Sale at St. Cecilia Oct. 21&22:** Parish Hall set up for the sale will take place after Mass on Sunday, Oct. 8 – your help is needed. Donations (from parishioners and their immediate families) may be brought to the Parish Hall, starting Monday Oct. 9, on M-W-F mornings, 9:30-11 am, through Friday Oct. 20. We will also need donations of paper bags, old gift bags, and tissues/newspaper, for our check out table. Have questions or want to volunteer? Contact Robyn Torres @ wakerobyn425@gmail.com. Thank you!
- 4. Lay Mission Project:** you are called and sent by our Lord Himself. The Lay Mission Project, in coordination with the Archdiocese of San Francisco, will help you fulfill that Mission. In a one-of-a-kind formation and education system, you'll learn from world-class experts on what it means to be a lay Catholic, and how to successfully bring the faith to your friends, family, and coworkers. Sign up today for the Lay Mission Project! Deadline: October 2, 2023.
- 5. Thanks to Barbara Echo** for her dedicated time and work to help the parish. Now we have the 2022-2023 Finance Report for your information.

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 \$ 749.00

Maintenance \$ 400.00

Funeral \$ 300.00

Total \$ 1,449.00

St. Mary

Offertory \$ 389.00

Preservat'n \$ 120.00

AAA \$ 30.00

Total \$ 539.00