



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

October 1, 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
		St. Mary (other Sat.)	8 a.m.
Reconciliation	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 #928 in your Music Book for the readings

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2023

Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

From last Sunday gospel, Jesus concludes his parable with the statement: “Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last” (*Mt 20:16*). What does this conclusion mean to us Christians - the followers of Christ? We have received the sacrament of Baptism to enter the Church and become Catholic/Christians. Yet, what good will the Baptism do for us if we are Christians in name only and not in fact? No matter how long has one been a Catholic; it is not about being a Catholic for many generations or only a newly baptized, what matters is about our faithfulness: “the one who remains to the end will be saved” (*Mt 24:13*).

Jesus gives a warning to those who consider themselves righteous and disdain others: *oh, I am a traditional Catholic for many generations... or I am a long-time parishioner... so I am better than others who are new comers, or newly baptized...* Jesus also reminds those who delay, putting things away for tomorrow with this postponing attitude: *anyway, the last will be first... so, why worries... just enjoy life... eat, and drink, and be merry...* We should not be too confident that the last will be first, and put things away for the last minute, then it will be too late, for the Lord will come at the hour you do not expect.

It seems more tensely to the chief priests and elders of the people as today's parable is obviously addressed to them. From the story, the father asks his two sons to go out and work in the vineyard. The first son says “no” but then regrets and goes to work. The second son says “yes, father” but never works... Which of the two sons does the father's will? We see that it is the first son (representing the tax collectors and prostitutes in the story) who says “no” but eventually goes to work; not the one who nicely says “yes, father!” but never works.

After the chief priests and the elders of the Jews correctly answer Jesus' question, he concludes the parable by telling them: “Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of heaven before you” (*Mt 21:31*). What is the reaction of the chief priest and the elders? Anger. Resentment. No wonder why they always seek the opportunity to kill Jesus.

For us the story in today's gospel contains a warning. Faithful performance of our religious duties is in itself no guarantee of salvation. Such obedience is profitable only if it brings us closer to others, and makes us more loving people, and if it brings us closer to God. And the closer we come to God, the more clearly shall we recognize our remaining sinfulness and unworthiness of all the love he showers on us. Jesus gives the same warning in the sermon on the mount: none of those who cry out, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of God, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Who are those who cry, Lord, Lord? We are the people who cry, Lord, Lord. Day by day, and Sunday by Sunday, we utter the Lord's name: in petitions, intercession, thanksgiving, praise, and penitence. That is right and good. However, the parable warns us that if our piety does not bear fruit in our lives, we are still far from God. The warning is not for outsiders, not for others. It is for us Christians, the declared followers of Jesus Christ. Do not only cry out Lord, Lord, without living God's commandments. What counts, is not what we say, feel, or intend. The only thing that counts is what we actually do.

What Jesus said in today's gospel brings hope and encouragement to us who are sinners. Tax collectors and prostitutes who repent and believe in the Good News, will enter the kingdom of heaven before those who consider themselves righteous, but very hardly believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Let us remember this: “there is no saint without a past, there is no sinner without a future.” Those who humble themselves will be exalted. And those who exalt themselves will be humbled. May God always give us his grace and keep us living in God's holy and tender love!

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, October 1 to Saturday, October 7

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ... Joseph Tran Quang Hoat (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ... Fr. Louis J. Robello (repose)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Tien T. Ho & Nicole Velazco (birthday)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Alfred Cuthbert (health)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Peter Tien & Anna Hinh (repose)
Friday	8 am	SM ... Joseph L. & Agnez M. Phan (repose)
Saturday	8 am	SM ... Dr. Remedios R. Pineda (repose)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **First Friday, Oct. 6:** Mass at St. Mary Church & Adoration until noon
2. **Wednesday Home Visit and Rosary:** 5 pm, this Wednesday 10/4 at the Andruess's home, 12 Country Ln, Novato, CA 94945.
3. **October Counts:** we begin the first count next Sunday, October 8.
4. **St. Cecilia's Annual Parish Rummage Sale – Oct. 21 & 22:** Parish Hall set up for the sale will take place after Mass on Sunday, Oct. 8, your help is needed to set up tables. Donations (from our parishioners and their immediate families) may be brought to the Parish Hall, starting Monday, Oct. 9, on M-W-Fri mornings, 9:30a-11:00a, thru Fri, Oct. 20 (there will be a sign outside the Parish Hall door on those days/times). Please refer to the enclosed handout, as a guide to donations that we can accept! We will also need donations of paper bags, old gift bags, and tissue/newspaper, for our check-out tables. Have question or want to volunteer? Email Robyn Torres wakerobyn425@gmail.com. Thank you!

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia

Offertory \$ 775.00

2nd collect'n \$ 427.00

Maintenance \$ 150.00

Total \$ 1,352.00

St. Mary

Offertory \$ 194.00

2nd collect'n \$ 91.00

Preservat'n \$ 120.00

Total \$ 405.00