



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

October 22, 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
Reconciliation		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.
	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
		St. Mary (except last Sat.)	8:30 to 9:15 a.m.
	Confirmation Prep.	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

See #937 in your Music Book for the readings

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Is 45:1...6; Ps 96; 1 Thes 1:1-5; Mt 22:15-21

“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God” (Mt 22:21). This saying of Jesus has become a well-known wisdom of all times. It is popular to all peoples. We all know this saying, but do we really comprehend what Jesus wants to tell us?

We know that nobody likes taxes. That is definitely not a new thing. In Palestine during Jesus’ time, Jewish people resented the Romans – the foreigners – who ruled their country. They claimed that the Roman government was unlawful and should not be obeyed at all. The Pharisees looked at paying Roman taxes as an evil task. They hated to pay annual head tax imposed by the Roman government.

The Pharisees also hated Jesus since he often condemned them as hypocrites. Now they took advantage of the conflicting situation between the Jews and the Romans, and they tried to put Jesus in the between. By asking Jesus his view about paying tax, they tried to “entrap Jesus in his answer.” Jesus’ answers, yes or no, would fall in the trap. If he said: yes, it is lawful to pay the Roman tax, the Pharisees would condemn him as betrayal to his Jewish people. If he said: no, the tax is unlawful and should not be paid, he could be denounced to the Roman authorities for inciting people to break the law.

Knowing their malice, Jesus asked them: “why are you testing me?” He did not give either of the answers. Instead, he asked the Pharisees to show him a Roman coin in their own pockets. With this, Jesus proved them the fact that they kept the Romans’ money; it means they obviously accepted the rule of the Romans; then “repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.” These words of Jesus really rejected the position of the Pharisees. Nevertheless, all the emphasis was on the second part of the answer which Jesus demanded the Jews as well as all of us today: “repay to God what belongs to God.” Jesus spoke not of paying but repaying.

What belong to God? Everything! From God we received all that we have. God has given us the gift of life. God has given us our time and our talents. God has given us our possessions and our

money. Perhaps people might say: wait a minute, I’ve worked for what I have. But how long would you retain your possessions and earning power if you lost your health, or if God takes away the breath of your life...

In fact, everything we have is gift from God – the Giver of all. “Repay to God what belongs to God” means putting God first in our lives. We may ask ourselves: do I put God first in my life? Or do I only give God the leftovers, or some of my spare time? Or do I only give God the gifts and talents which are left over when I have finished doing the things I want to do? Or do I only give God the loose change that remains after I have satisfied all my needs and as many luxuries as I think I can afford?

God has given us many blessings in our everyday life. God wants the first fruits of our hands in return, with genuine love from us, as he received the first fruits of Abel. You and I are also encouraged to give the first fruits, not just to fulfill our obligation, but to show our gratitude to God, the source of our life. Let us never forget “giving God what belongs to God.”

This week, let us take a look at our lives. In your prayer, ask the Lord to move in you and give you the strength and grace to return to him with your whole being. May the Lord renew our faith, and take Lordship over our lives! How much do we give back to God in return? Let us seriously reflect on the saying of Jesus in our daily prayer, or at least during this week, by asking ourselves: “Do I really repay to God what belongs to God?”

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, October 22 to Saturday, October 28

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	SC ...	Ryan Dallara (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ...	Joseph Du N. Nguyen (repose)
Monday	8 am	SC ...	Philip Week (78 th birthday)
Tuesday	No Mass	
Wednesday	8 am	SC ...	Tien Thi Ho (healing)
Thursday	8 am	SM ...	Sarah Pedroli (special intention)
Friday	8 am	SC ...	Kenny Massucco (special intention)
Saturday	10 am	SC ...	Bonnie de Rutte (repose/anniversary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Second Collection:** today, October 22, for World Mission Sunday.
2. **From Fr. Phan:** Dear Parishioners, please consider to become a member of the Parish Council to help me and the parish with your advices regarding finance, community life, and other business. I earnestly need your help. Meeting date will be Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6 pm, in the Parish Hall. Thank you!
3. **October Counts:** continue today, Sun 10/22 and next Sun 10/29.
4. **Padre Pio Mass & Devotion:** at 10 am, Sat 10/28, St. Cecilia Church.
5. **Our Annual Rummage Sale:** continues today, until 4 pm. Come and shop the Sale for some great buys, and check out Father’s Plant Sale! Grab a cup of coffee and purchase a treat from our Parish Youth Group’s Bake Sale! Volunteers needed for cleanup at 4:00 pm today, and for taking left-over items to the Goodwill. Thanks for your support!
6. **All Saints - All Souls:** traditionally, we the Church pray specially for the Faithful Departed in November. If you want to have Mass for your loved ones, please submit your Mass intentions soon as you can, to help Fr. Phan schedule the Masses for your beloved during November.

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 \$ 1,480.00
Maintenance \$ 300.00
Total \$ 1,780.00

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 288.00
AAA \$ 30.00
Preservat’n \$ 131.00
Total \$ 449.00