



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

December 10, 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 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
Reconciliation	Saturday	St. Cecilia	4 to 4:30 p.m.
		or by appointment call:	(415) 488-9799
Confirmation Prep.	Wednesday	St. Cecilia	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

See #787 in your Music Book for the readings

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

Is 40:1...11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Saint Peter’s Letter from the second reading today encourages us to “await new heavens and a new earth” (2 Pt 3:13) as we continue our Advent journey. And both first reading and the Gospel today also invite us “prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight his paths” (Mk 1:3). Let us reform our life; do not delay, but return to God with repentance of our sins. Let us prepare the way for our Lord to come and dwell among us by being “servants of justice, truth, and peace” (Ps 85).

The main message we learn from the word of God today is the call to reform. Reform your life! Reform your way of life! John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ Jesus, calling us to reform. John repeats the words of Prophet Isaiah to remind us of repentance: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths” (Is 40:3).

Reform means to change our lives to please God – the one who loves us into happiness. Let us fill the valley of our sins. Make low the hill of our anger and hatred. Make the rugged land of our soul a plain of peace. Make the rough country of our heart a broad valley of love.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Create in our home, in our community, a world of love and peace for God’s kingdom to come – a world where God feeds us “like a shepherd feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care” (Is 40:11).

Saint Peter also reminds us to be aware of the day that the Lord will suddenly come to us. So, reform and be ready for the Lord and “conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion” (2 Pt 3:11).

We need to reform our lives. Indeed, we want to reform ourselves from time to time, but Advent should be a suitable time for us to turn to the Lord and ask: Lord, how do we prepare the way for you? What is it that you want me to change in my life?

We might be asked to stop smoking, to cut down on drinking. We might be invited to create a peaceful world in our home, in our community, to welcome and to speak nicely with one another. We

might be reminded to be more attentive in loving God and neighbors by spending more time in daily prayer, and giving generously to the poor.

There might be many things in our lives which need to be reformed. Therefore, we need to turn to the Lord for help and resolve to change – one thing at a time. We may look at how we have been faithful to God in attending Sunday Mass, or how we have shown love to the needy through our service to them.

For us who believe, of course, Mass is central to our lives; everything we do must be rooted in the person of Jesus – the Eucharist. But we don’t merely stop at Mass. We need to go further. We have a desire to make our parish a real community of faith, a family of love – a place where people know each other, care about each other, and work together as fellow Catholics on the journey of life.

In order to help us reform our life, here is a beautiful prayer called the Serenity Prayer, for us to pray, reflect on it, and (if possible) take courage to change our way of life according to God’s will: “Dear Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference” (Reinhold Niebuhr).

Advent is a time when we think about reform – it is the beginning of a new year in Church calendar. New Year’s resolutions are also an example of our desire to change. Let us reform our lives. Get rid of the old ways and put in the newness of Jesus Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, December 10 to Friday, December 15

Sunday	9:30 am	SC ...	Michael de Rutte (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ...	Cecilia Pham Thi Hong (repose)
Monday	8 am	SC ...	Don & Jackie Kerbs (repose)
Tuesday	no Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ...	Al Massucco (repose)
Thursday	8 am	SM ...	Blake Collins (special intention)
Friday	8 am	SC ...	Daphne Massucco & Family (special intention)
Saturday	no Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **2nd Collection today Sunday 12/10:** for Retirement Fund for Religious
2. **Toys & Joys:** ‘Tis the Season of Giving! With generous donations from local folks, Grace Tolson and the good people at Dickson Ranch fulfill the Christmas wishes of children in the San Geronimo and Nicasio Valleys. If you can donate, leave your check or cash in a red envelope and hang it on the tree at the front of the church. Checks should made payable to Toys & Joys. You could also mail a check to Toys & Joys, c/o Dickson Ranch, P.O. Box 496, Woodacre, CA 94973. For more information, ask Cia Donahue – (415) 488-0337.
3. **Thank you:** to Daphne & Ken Massucco, Robyn Torres, Ginny Kerbs, Cia & Pat Donahue, Sue & Marco Torres, and All the Team for your help to organize, and cook, and decorate, and service to our St. Cecilia-St. Mary Parish Family Christmas Party last night. It was beautiful for the community gathering. Especially thank you to those who donate food and financial support to the parish. May God bless you all!

2023 Annual Appeal

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Goal	\$ 7,295.00
Received	\$ 7,295.00
<i>We’ve reached the goal</i>	
<u>THANK YOU!</u>	

<u>St. Mary</u>	
Goal	\$ 6,095.00
Received	\$ 5,902.00
Need	\$ 193.00

Last Week Collections

<u>St. Cecilia</u>	
Offertory	\$ 533.00
Maintenance	\$ 400.00
Total	<u>\$ 933.00</u>

<u>St. Mary</u>	
Offertory	\$ 634.00
Preservat’n	\$ 50.00
Total	<u>\$ 684.00</u>