



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

December 17, 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 #790 in your Music Book for the readings

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

Is 61:1...11; Ps (Lk) 1:46...54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6...28

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday – Gaudete means rejoice. We hear joyful messages throughout the readings today. Acknowledging the Spirit of the Lord God granted upon him, Prophet Isaiah exclaims, “I rejoice heartily in the Lord” (*Is 61:10*).

The responsorial psalm today is the echo of the joyful song *Magnificat*, sung by the Blessed Virgin Mary and Elizabeth, “my soul rejoices in my God” for he has done great things for us; the Holy Son of God is given to us.

Saint John the Baptist quotes the words of Prophet Isaiah, reminding us again and again: “make straight the way of the Lord” (*Jn 1:23*), to get our hearts and souls ready for Jesus to come and dwell in us.

Saint Paul’s message in the second reading also urges us to make room in our hearts and souls for the Lord: “brothers and sisters, rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks... Retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil... May you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (*1 Thes 5:16...24*). By encouraging us to rejoice in the spirit of the Lord, Saint Paul urges us to show kindness to one another.

We see more beautiful decorations at home, in our neighborhood and public places, and especially around the churches. We light the rose candle today that signifies the joyful spirit resounding throughout the Scripture readings today. But what is joy? Is it true joy – authentic joy? Or is it merely counterfeit joy?

Counterfeit joy is the result of external things like eating, or drinking, or shopping, or more material possessions. There are people who rarely go to church, but they can’t wait to see the coming of Christmas season, to go shopping, to decorate the home, to have party.

On the other hand, true joy is an interior state, a way of living and loving and giving, in which our hearts open to welcome others, to share our gifts. It is the joy that Prophet Isaiah witnesses: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor” (*Is 61:1*). It is

the joy of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Lord, who calls us to prepare the way for the Lord and make straight his paths.

We wait to see the coming of the Lord Jesus who is the true light for those who live in darkness. We long for the Lord’s coming to bring us true joy, true happiness. What should we do to have this true joy? Let us follow the example of the Lord to bring glad tidings to the poor, healing to the brokenhearted, liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners... Let us practice the basic obligation of mutual sharing and helping, as Saint John the Baptist advises us: “whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise” (*Lk 3:11*)

Most people like Christmas even though they don’t know much about Jesus. People really enjoy this season of shopping and gifts; probably, shopping malls now are more crowded. But for us, Christmas is a perfect time to give thanks to God for many wonderful gifts. Christmas gives us a true sense of love and giving. We don’t merely focus on shopping, or trimming, or decorating, but we should exercise our love by sharing and giving.

As the followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to joyfully exercise our love by sharing what we have with the poor and the needy. Especially in this Holy Season, let us not forget our unfortunate brothers and sisters, but remember to share with them our gifts, our blessings.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK: *“He who carries God in his heart bears heaven with him wherever he goes.”* (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, December 17 to Friday, December 22

Sunday	9:30 am	SC ...	Tony Dallara (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ...	Theresa Aye Pyone (birthday)
Monday	8 am	SC ...	Carol Mori-Prange (birthday)
Tuesday	no Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ...	Enos & Bobbie Foster (repose)
Thursday	8 am	SM ...	Gail de Rutte (repose)
Friday	8 am	SC ...	Neil Osmer (repose)
Saturday	no Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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 be 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.
- Special Schedule for Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas:**
 - * 9:30 am, Dec. 24, at St. Cecilia’s: Mass of Fourth Sunday of Advent
 - * 11:15 am, Dec. 24, at St. Mary’s: Mass of Fourth Sunday of Advent
 - * 5:30 pm, Dec. 24, at St. Mary’s: Christmas Eve Mass
 - * 9:30 am, Dec. 25, at St. Cecilia’s: Christmas Day Mass

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 \$ 6,095.00
We’ve reached the goal
THANK YOU!

Last Week Collections

X’mas Party \$ 800.00

St. Cecilia
Offertory \$ 804.00
Maintenance \$ 200.00
2nd collect’n \$ 152.00
Total **\$ 1,156.00**

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 3,541.00
2nd collect’n \$ 136.00
AAA \$ 43.00
Preservat’n \$ 50.00
Total **\$ 3,770.00**