



st. cecilia church  
lagunitas

**December 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 #793 in your Music Book for the readings](#)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B**

*2 Sam 7:1...16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38*

Today, we enter the Fourth Sunday, also the last Sunday, of Advent. It seems to me that Christmas comes early this year. It's hard to believe, but only a few more hours away, we will celebrate the great feast of our faith, the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ, the king of peace, justice, and love. We have been preparing during this Advent season. Let us see how ready are we to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

Christmas is a perfect time to give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received. Indeed, I give thanks to God in my daily prayers, when I think of you, my dear people of St. Cecilia and St. Mary Parish Community.

It is hard to believe that it has already been four and a half years since I have come to live among you in our parish community. I still remember when I got the phone call from the Archbishop's office, asking me if I would like to be pastor of St. Cecilia and St. Mary Parish, my first thought was fear and uncertainty, since I would have to move out of my comfort zone and go to a new place where I didn't know what would happen ahead... Fear and uncertainty, but I didn't dare to say no to the Archbishop, since I understood that this was both an invitation and an order from the boss. So, I'd better exercise my virtue of obedience to the Archbishop, and say the words of Mary in today's gospel: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word!"

As you can imagine, at first, Mary, a thirteen-year-old girl, did not understand what the words of the angel mean; she questioned: "How can I conceive in my womb and bear a son, if I have no relation with a man?" But with the grace of God, Mary said yes: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word!" Mary's attitude and her response to God's invitation should be our attitude and response to love and to serve God and the Church and all people.

During this Advent season, we have been responding to God's invitation through the voice of Prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist calling us to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

Make low every mountain of hatred, violence and conflict; and fill in every valley of sinfulness with love, peace, and justice.

By this time, we see more beautiful decoration, more joyful music. Perhaps most of us decorate our homes, to make them look more beautiful. How about the home of our inner selves, or our spiritual home? Do we really prepare in ourselves a dwelling place for God? Do we really make room in our hearts and souls worthy for Jesus to come?

We hear from the first reading today that King David luxuriously lives in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent. David knows this is not right; he examines his conscience and he knows his place in relation to God – he knows things are out of balance. The Ark of God, where the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments are kept, deserves to be housed in a worthier and more respectful place. David's concern is to build a temple – a worthy place for God to dwell. Do we the people of God have this same concern? We pray that we always have this same concern to preserve and maintain our St. Cecilia Church and St. Mary Church – our spiritual house of worship - a beautiful and respectful place?

As we prepare to celebrate the Birthday of Jesus, we are called to build a dwelling place for the Lord – not only a physical house but a true home in our hearts and souls for God to dwell. Like Mary who generously accept God's invitation, may we generously open our hearts and souls to welcome Jesus, the Holy Son of God, to enter and stay!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU & FAMILY!**

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, December 24 to Friday, December 29

Sunday	9:30 am	SC ...	June di Grazia (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ...	Joseph Tien & Ana Nguyen (repose)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>SM ...</b>	<b>Christmas Eve (pray for All Parishioners)</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>SC ...</b>	<b>Christmas Day (pray for All Parishioners)</b>
Tuesday	.....	no Mass	.....
Wednesday	.....	no Mass	.....
Thursday	8 am	SM ...	Tanner Family (special intention)
Friday	8 am	SC ...	Andrues Family (special intention)
Saturday	.....	no Mass	.....

2023 Annual Appeal

	St. Cecilia
Goal	\$ 7,295.00
Received	\$ 7,295.00

	St. Mary
Goal	\$ 6,095.00
Received	\$ 6,095.00

We've reached the goal  
**THANK YOU!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary:** after our busy time for Advent and Christmas, we will resume the Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary, beginning at Teresa & Corey Dallara's home, on the first Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Please continue to sign up for the prayer at your home.
- 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

Last Week Collections

	St. Cecilia
Offertory	\$ 861.00
Maintenance	\$ 100.00
Total	<u>\$ 961.00</u>

	St. Mary
Offertory	\$ 436.00
Preservat'n	\$ 50.00
Total	<u>\$ 486.00</u>