



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

January 7, 2024

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 #803 in your Music Book for the readings

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2...6; Mt 2:1-12

On the coming home after a space exploration, an astronaut firmly admits that: "I couldn't help believing in God, the Creator of heaven and earth. I was in awe of the Almighty God. The whole wonderful universe lay open before my eyes: the solar system, the moon, the stars, all was beautiful, awesome, and perfect. I firmly believe in God." Another astronaut, however, said: "I tried to search all over the sky, but I did not see any god up there."

As you can see, the grace of God rains equally upon every one of us, but it is truly grace for those who open their entire being to catch and receive it. Those who refuse it will never experience this grace.

The astronauts derive two opposite views from the same exploration: one firmly believes in God; the other keeps denying God. Just as two opposite reactions are derived from the same star appearing in the sky of Bethlehem, as we learn from the Gospel reading today. For the magi – or the wise men from the east – the star is an invitation to adoration and worship; but for King Herod, the star becomes the cause of hatred and hostility.

The wise men see the star and they believe that the heavenly wonder symbolizes the birth of a heavenly person. They believe that God is showering his love on the world. For them, the bright guiding star is a sign of joy, hope, and love pouring down from heaven. They see the star which serves as their guide in finding the Messiah. The gospel tells us that: "They saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." They are filled with the desire to lay at the feet of Jesus Christ the noblest gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

King Herod, however, is greatly upset when he hears about the star and the arrival of strangers from the East. Herod is afraid that this little child is going to interfere with his life, his place, his power, his influence, and he is filled with hatred and hostility; therefore, his first reaction is to destroy the Baby Jesus.

The world today is unjustly threatened by war and poverty, by terrorism and even religious persecution. There are still those, like the evil king Herod, who would gladly destroy Jesus Christ because they see in him the one who interferes with their lives. They wish to do what they like, and Christ will not let them do what they like; and so, they would kill him.

What do we learn from this feast of the Epiphany? The Epiphany is all about the Lord's revelation – the manifestation of the Son of God to the world – as we hear from the first reading: "the glory of the Lord shines upon you." Nations shall no longer walk in darkness, but in the Light... and every nation on earth will adore the Lord, our God, our Savior, our Light, and our Hope.

This is a blessed and memorable day for us, on which the mercy of the Redeemer called us in the person of the Magi, from the darkness of unbelief, to the knowledge of the true faith.

Saint Paul also tells us today through his Letter to the Ephesians: "Now it has been revealed that the Gentiles are coheirs of the promise." Through the Magi, God revealed himself to the gentiles, to all the nations on earth, to all of us – the people did not have chance to know God and to see God, but now we become "coheirs of the promise." So, the Gentiles, who were the last, become the first.

This is the good news for us: "God became man so that man might become God. The Magi are our forefathers and our models in faith. Happy are we if we imitate the Magi, and follow in their footsteps, to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ, the Bright Star, the New Born King, in the world we live.

May God, who has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light, pour out in kindness his blessings upon us! May we perceive the Lord with clear sight, so to bring the light of Christ to our brothers and sisters! May God make our hearts firm in faith, hope and charity!

Let's ask ourselves: how open am I to the grace of God?
Reflecting on the grace of the Blessed Sacrament for us,
St. Andre Bessette said: **"If you ate only one meal a week would you survive? It is the same for your soul. Nourish it with the Blessed Sacrament."**

MASS INTENTIONS: for Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024 only. No weekday Mass this week.

Sunday 9:30 am SC ... Ryan Dallara (repose)
11:15 am SM ... Martha McNeil (repose)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No weekday Mass this week:** Fr. Phan takes a week off. He spends a week with his family visiting from Houston.
- Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary:** on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please sign up to host the prayer gathering at your home.
- Walk-for-Life West Coast:** on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Mass with Archbishop Cordileone at the Cathedral at 9:30 am, and the Walk-for-Life rally and walk at 12:30 pm, beginning at Civic Center Plaza. Visit the website walkforlifewc.com for an update list of events.
- Pray for little girl Paisley and family:** Paisley (not yet 2 years old) from St. Mary's Church was diagnosed a form of Leukemia. She is now at Oakland's Children Hospital for Chemotherapy. Let us continue praying for healing miracle for Paisley.

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!

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia
Offertory \$ 605.00
Maintenance \$ 150.00
X'mas \$ 100.00
Total \$ 855.00

St. Mary
Offertory \$ 437.00
Preservat'n \$ 4,463.73
Total \$ 4,900.73