



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

February 18, 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 #809 in your Music Book for the readings

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

There is a joke about temptation stories. A young student tells his science teacher that: cars and airplanes were invented long time ago – back to Jesus’ time, and even the time of Adam and Eve. The teacher totally disagrees, saying: that is not true. Who taught you that? Where did you get this idea? With confidence, the student answers: I learn this from the Bible. It says in the book of Genesis that: God was driving Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. So, there must be cars in Adam and Eve’s time. Even more, in Jesus’ time, there was an official named Pontius [the Pilot]. And here according to Mark’s gospel, I think there must be cars, so the Spirit could drive Jesus out into the desert... and dropped him off there, to be tempted by Satan...

Just a joke, but every year, we begin the First Sunday of Lent with the story of temptation. Even Jesus has to endure temptations. We normally think of temptations as being something evil in itself. A temptation leaves us with an impression of dirty feeling, defilement, spiritual regression. However, we should know that with the help of God’s grace, we would progress in our spiritual journey if we overcome temptations.

For us temptations are kinds of spiritual tests to strengthen our virtues; and if we survive temptations, we are assured of eternal redemption promised by the Lord. We will hear this assurance in the final blessing at Mass today: “May bountiful blessings, O Lord, we pray, come down upon your people, that hope may grow in tribulation, virtue be strengthened in temptation, and eternal redemption be assured.”

Indeed, as we learn from today’s gospel, even Jesus was tempted. Temptations are merely tests for the soul. No one can progress without temptations. Temptations, as Saint James said, make us strong like “fire-tried gold” (James 1:2-18).

All of us are tempted. Even Jesus himself was tempted. The difference is how Jesus and we respond to the temptation: to resist the temptation or to yield to it.

Lent is a season of penance, during which we look into our hearts, and see our weaknesses; and having seen our weaknesses, try to resist temptations, to turn away from sin and to do penance, and return to God with our whole heart.

We always begin the season of Lent with Jesus in the desert. It is a time to reflect and pray. We all need to go into the desert from time to time. The desert here is not only a solitude place like the wilderness, but also the innermost and quiet space in our heart and soul, so we can talk with God, and pray with Jesus.

We pray that God our Father, through Jesus Christ, and in the love of the Holy Spirit, grant us grace to heed this time of fulfillment, to resist temptations, that we may repent and believe in the Gospel! Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, February 18 to Friday, February 23

Sunday	9:30 am	SC ... Faithful Departed (esp. from our parish/families)
	11:15 am	SM ... Faithful Departed (esp. from our parish/families)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Fr. Piers Lahey (repose)
Tuesday	no Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Phung D. Phan (birthday)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Mr. & Mrs. John Sach (repose)
Friday	8 am	SC ... Joseph Hien & Peter Hoa (repose)
Saturday	no Mass

2024 Annual Appeal

St. Cecilia	
Goal	\$ 8,036.00
Received	\$ 2,623.00
Needed	\$ 5,413.00

St. Mary	
Goal	\$ 5,533.00
Received	\$ 743.00
Needed	\$ 4,790.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Archdiocesan Annual Appeal of 2024:** We continue taking the 2nd collections for AAA 2024 every Sunday until the Sunday of March 24. Thank you for your support.
- Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary:** on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays only. Please continue to sign up to host a gathering at your home. Next prayer gathering will be at Ginny & George Kerbs’ home: 8 Castle Rock Ave, Woodacre, on Wednesday, February 21, at 5 pm.
- Stations of the Cross:** During Lent, we pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday, at St. Cecilia Church, right after the Mass.
- Parish Council Meeting:** come and join us for the parish council meeting at St. Cecilia Church, on Thursday, February 22, at 5 pm. We will have discussions for: Lent and Easter preparations, possible St. Patrick’s Day party, maintenance, finances, Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, and any current Parish Business that needs to discuss.

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia	
Offertory	\$ 596.00
Maintenance	\$ 100.00
AAA	\$ 1,921.00
Total	\$ 2,617.00

St. Mary	
Offertory	\$ 287.00
AAA	\$ 114.00
Preservat’n	\$.00
Total	\$ 401.00