

March 3, 2024



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

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 #815 in your Music Book for the readings

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

As Catholics, we are probably familiar with the Ten Commandments given by God to his people through Moses, as told in today’s first reading (*Ex 20:1-17*). The Ten Commandments are summed up with two important things: first, love God above everything; second, love others as yourselves. Indeed, we can sum up the Ten Commandments only in one word LOVE.

Love God and love neighbor is the centrality of our faith. As followers of Christ, we are expected to keep and practice this love. Look at the crucifix: the two dimensions of the cross. The vertical tells us about the relationship between God and us – the human race. The horizontal stands for the relationship among ourselves, as we all are fellow human beings. The two dimensions meet at the central point which is the heart of Jesus – the true symbol of love.

Because of God’s love for the world, “he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life” (*Jn 3:16*). Jesus gives us this concrete example of love: “though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God; rather he emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men... and... he humbled himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!” (*Phil 2:6-8*). The meaning of the cross is reassured by St. Paul in the second reading that even though “Christ crucified” is considered a “stumbling block and foolishness” by the world; but for us the followers, “Christ crucified” is the power and wisdom of God (*1 Cor 1:22-25*).

As we reflect on the Ten Commandments, we are challenged to ask ourselves this question: “Do I really love God, or do I put worldly ambitions and pleasures first in my life?”

Materialism teaches people that they can gain power from money and wealth. Money can do everything. See how Jesus’ contemporaries did. They tried to make money anytime, anywhere. They even sold animals in the temple area; and there were money changers sitting there. They turned the “Father’s house” into a marketplace. Zeal for God’s house has consumed Jesus. He spilled the coins of the money changers. He overturned their tables. He drove them out of the temple.

Here is the only place in the Bible we see Jesus really gets angry. Some people have a hard time to accept this reality, arguing that Jesus is a holy man, he shouldn’t have done that. But we can imagine

that Jesus could not keep silence when seeing people make the Temple – supposed to be a holy place – becoming a marketplace. Temple is the place for worship, not a place for doing business or making money... Jesus said in other gospel: “My house is the house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves” (*Mt 21:13*).

This happened more than two thousand years ago, at Jesus’ time, but there is no difference to people in our society today. Fallen human nature always attempts to define the meaning of life with something they can measure like money and gold. But for us Christians may the commandments of the Lord “are more precious than gold” (*Ps 19:10*) and anything else!

Jesus went further in the Gospel to challenge the people: “destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” Jesus is speaking about the temple of his body. The temple of our body too, is a place for God to dwell, if we try to make room for God. Keep holy the temple of our body by deepening our relationship with God, by keeping and practicing his commandments.

We are in the middle of Lenten season. It is the time for us to cleanse our temple, not only the church building itself, but the temple in our hearts and souls, and live our lives of faith accordingly to the commandments God has given us: to love the Lord your God with all your hearts, with all your souls, with all your strengths, and to love your neighbors as yourselves.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, March 3 to Saturday, March 9

Sunday	9:30 am	SC ... Dominic Silvestri (repose)
	11:15 am	SM ... Alfred Cuthbert (health/peace)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Mary Ann Houser (repose)
Tuesday	no Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Julie Isetta (repose)
Thursday	8 am	SM ... Hank Vudice (health)
Friday	8 am	SC ... Kevin Kenneally (repose/birthday)
Saturday	8 am	SC ... Dr. Rem R. Pineda (repose/1 st anniversary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Archdiocesan Annual Appeal of 2024:** As the suggestion and decision of the Parish Council from last meeting, we continue taking the 2nd collections for AAA 2024 every Sunday until we meet the goal. Thank you for understanding and support.
- Our Annual St. Patrick’s Day Party and Potluck Dinner:** will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at St. Cecilia Church, Lagunitas. A traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner will be provided. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, soda, bread, salad or dessert to share. Cocktails at 5:00 pm; dinner at 6:00 pm. Adults: \$15.00; children under 12: \$5.00. No-host bar, drink tickets at the door. RSVP and potluck sign-up sheets are at both churches, or email Robyn Torres at: wakerobyn425@gmail.com.
- Wednesday Home Visit & Rosary:** at Daphne & Ken Massucco’s home: 51 Castle Rock Ave, Woodacre... at 5 pm, Wednesday, March 6.
- Stations of the Cross:** Fri. 3/8 at St. Cecilia, right after 8 am Mass.
- Save the Dates:** *Palm Sunday, March 24 at both churches as usual schedule; *Holy Thursday, March 28 at St. Cecilia Church: 7:15 pm; *Good Friday, March 29 at St. Mary Church – starts at 3 pm; *Easter Vigil: Saturday, March 30 at St. Cecilia Church: 7:15 pm; *Easter Sunday, March 31 at both churches as usual schedule. More details to come.

2024 Annual Appeal

St. Cecilia

Goal	\$ 8,036.00
Received	\$ 3,388.00
Needed	\$ 4,648.00

St. Mary

Goal	\$ 5,533.00
Received	\$ 2,552.00
Needed	\$ 2,981.00

Last Week Collections

St. Cecilia

Offertory	\$ 471.00
Maintenance	\$ 300.00
AAA	\$ 323.00
Total	\$ 1,094.00

St. Mary

Offertory	\$ 375.00
AAA	\$ 220.00
Preservat’n	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ 795.00