



st. cecilia church
lagunitas

March 17, 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 #821 in your Music Book for the readings

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb. 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Today’s Gospel begins with the incident that some Greeks “would like to see Jesus” (Jn 12:21). We may wonder why Jesus related to the image of “a grain of wheat must die in order to produce fruit” (Jn 12:24) when someone make a request to see him?

Actually, many of those people had already heard about Jesus and seen him in everyday events. He taught in the synagogue. He performed many miracles. He walked from village to village teaching people and healing the sick... But people still tried to put Jesus to the test; they challenged to see more heavenly sign from him, to see his glory. That’s why Jesus gave this example to help the people, the disciples and all of us too, to understand how his death would lead to our salvation.

Jesus describes in today’s gospel how life functions: life must come from death. This statement seems contradictory, but it is so true. Just like the seed must die first, in order to produce a new growth and bear fruit, so through Jesus’ death, resurrection and return to the Father, new life would come forth in those who faithfully follow him, as Jesus promised: “where I am, there also will my servants be” (Jn 12:26).

Jesus wants to tell us that: “seeing” him means to be ready to accept the fact that the Son of Man, before being glorified, must suffer and die, just as the grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die, in order to grow up again and produce new fruit.

A Greek proverb says: “the beautiful things are always difficult.” This is similar with the saying: “there is no rose without thorn,” or “no pain, no gain.” Achievements in life are always the results of hard work, sacrifice, and even suffering. “Those who love their life lose it, and those who sacrifice their life in this world will preserve it for eternal life” (Jn 12:25).

During my years in the seminary, I learn some touching stories from some seminarian friends of mine. They used to be a rich and successful businessman, a lawyer, a doctor, or an engineer, but material richness never satisfied them. They used to have lots of money, but they still felt something missing in

their lives: no wife, no children, no love, no friendship, no fellowship, no sharing, no giving, and God seemed to be absent in their lives.

One day, they heard the voice of Jesus speaking to them as he said to the rich young man in a gospel story: “go, sell what you have and give alms to the poor, then come and follow me, and you will have eternal life” (Lk 18:22). So, they did as Jesus commanded them. That’s why they became priests.

Usually, people with a generous heart can say: to give is more blessing than to receive. I think it’s true. Try it. In life things work that way. In other words, if you live for yourself, you will never satisfy, you will never be happy. But if you can sacrifice yourself and live for others, then you may find life more meaningful, and that may bring you more happiness. Jesus himself gives us this life model to follow: “Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation” (Heb 5:8-9).

The final Sundays of Lent draw us closer to the compassionate Christ who willingly suffered, died, and rose again for us. It will remind us more vividly about this when we enter the Holy Week with the Passion of Christ. Through his death and resurrection Jesus has brought us the forgiveness of our sins, healed us from our sickness, and restored our relationship with God. Let us learn from Jesus to obey God’s will and to endure whatsoever hardship we face in this life, with hope that on the final day we will receive the reward of eternal life as Jesus has promised us.

MASS INTENTIONS: from Sunday, March 17 to Saturday, March 23

Sunday	9:30 am	SC ... Adam Sheldon Watchorn (repose/anniversary)
	11:15 am	SM ... Agnes & Joseph Lee Phan (repose/anniversary)
Monday	8 am	SC ... Grandma Ana & Maria Khuyen (repose)
Tuesday	no Mass
Wednesday	8 am	SC ... Serina Greer (health)
		... Sharon & Al Cuthbert (repose/anniversary)
Thursday	8 am	SM... Joseph Tien & Ana Nguyen (repose)
Friday	8 am	SC ... Yordanos Stefanos (birthday)
Saturday		private Mass: ... Matthew Sasan (health)

2024 Annual Appeal

	St. Cecilia
Goal	\$ 8,036.00
Received	\$ 6,301.00
Needed	\$ 1,735.00

	St. Mary
Goal	\$ 5,533.00
Received	\$ 2,695.00
Needed	\$ 2,838.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Second Collection:** today, Sunday March 17, for AAA.
- Next Home Visit & Rosary:** at Kate & Wes Andruess’ home: 12 Country Ln, Novato, CA... at 5 pm, Wednesday, March 20.
- Chrism Mass:** at St. Mary Cathedral. 5 pm, Thursday, March 21, 2024. The Chrism Mass is a sign of unity in the Archdiocese and holds two important roles. The first is the blessing of oils that are distributed to each parish, and the second part is the renewal of priestly promises by the priests of the Archdiocese.
- Stations of the Cross:** Fri. March 22, 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 in your Easter Letter.

Last Week Collections

	St. Cecilia
Offertory	\$ 568.00
Maintenance	\$ 250.00
2 nd Collect’n	\$ 153.00
Total	\$ 971.00

	St. Mary
Offertory	\$ 291.00
AAA	\$ 50.00
Preservat’n	\$ 60.00
2 nd Collect’n	\$ 70.00
Total	\$ 471.00

St. Pat Party \$ 1039.00