

St. Joseph Parish - Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission - Loch Lomond

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown, CA

December 23, 2023

707 987-3676



Pastoral Staff

Fr. Lawrence Mendoza, Pastor
Sandy Hood, Office Manager

Roger Mattu - RCIA Director
Debbie Heidary-Newsletter/Website

Schedule of Services:

Reconciliation

Friday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. English
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Spanish
or by Appointment

Baptisms

Preparation for parents required:
See Pastor after Mass

Marriages

By appointment at least six months
in advance

Anointing of the Sick

For those who are elderly, seriously
ill, or scheduled for surgery, please
call the parish office.

Parish Office Hours:

Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

P.O. Box 1350
Middletown, CA 95461
Email: stjoseph11@att.net
Website: stjoseph-middletown.com
Fax: 707 987-2792
Emergency #: 707 513-3991



MASS SCHEDULE

Our Lady of the Lake Mission – 12836 Hwy 175, Loch Lomond
Saturday Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday Masses

St. Joseph Church – Middletown, 9:30 a.m. (English)
St. Joseph Church - 4:00 p.m. (Spanish)

St. Joseph Church Weekday Schedule

Mass Tuesday through Friday 8:30 a.m. (English)
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 6:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish)
7:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday only

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Excerpt from A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, December 20, 2020

MAY OUR "YES" BE IN IMITATION OF THE "YES" OF MARY

On this Fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the Gospel proposes to us once again the account of the Annunciation. "Rejoice," says the angel to Mary, "you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus" (Lk 1:28, 31). It seems to be an announcement of pure joy, destined to make the Virgin happy. Who among the women of that time did not dream of becoming the mother of the Messiah? But along with joy, those words foretell a great trial to Mary. Why? Because at that time she was "betrothed" (v. 27). In such cases, the Law of Moses stated that there should be no relations or cohabitation. Therefore, by having a son, Mary would have transgressed the Law, and the punishment for women was terrible: stoning (cf. Dt 22:20-21). Certainly, the divine message would have filled Mary's heart with light and strength; nevertheless, she found herself faced with a crucial decision: to say "yes" to God, risking everything, even her life, or to decline the invitation and continue along her ordinary journey.

What does she do? She responds thus: "Let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). "*Let it be*" ("*Fiat*"). But in the language in which the Gospel is written, it is not simply "let it be." She is a woman in love prepared to serve her Lord completely and immediately. She could have asked for a little time to think it over, or even for more explanations about what would happen; perhaps she could have set some conditions Instead, she does not take her time, she does not keep God waiting, she does not delay.

How often — let us think of ourselves now — how often our life is made up of postponements, even the spiritual life! For example, I know it is good for me to pray, but today I do not have time . . . "tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow." We postpone things: "I will do it tomorrow. I know it is important to help someone — yes, I must do it; I will do it tomorrow." It is the same chain of tomorrows . . . postponing things. Today, on the threshold of Christmas, Mary invites us not to postpone, to say "yes": "Do I have to pray?" — "Yes" — and I pray. "Do I have to help others?" — "Yes." "How shall I do it?" — I do it. Without putting it off. Every "yes" costs something; every "yes" has its cost, but it still costs less than what that courageous "yes" cost her, that prompt "yes," that "*let it be [done] to me according to your word,*" which brought us salvation.

"*Let it be [done] to me according to your word.*" This is the Virgin's last word on this last Sunday of Advent, and it is the invitation to take a genuine step towards Christmas. For if the birth of Jesus does not touch our lives — mine, yours, everyone's — if it does not touch our lives, it slips past us in vain. In the *Angelus* now, we too will say "*let your word be fulfilled in me.*" May Our Lady help us to say it with our lives, with our approach to these last days, to prepare ourselves well for Christmas.

CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Extracto de Una reflexión espiritual del Papa Francisco, Mensaje de Ángelus, 20 de Diciembre de 2020

QUE NUESTRO "SÍ" SEA EN IMITACIÓN DEL "SÍ" DE MARÍA

En este cuarto y último domingo de Adviento, el Evangelio nos propone una vez más el relato de la Anunciación. "Alégrate", dice el ángel a María, "concecerás en tu vientre y darás a luz a un hijo, y lo llamarás Jesús" (Lc 1:28, 31). Parece ser un anuncio de pura alegría, destinado a hacer feliz a la Virgen. ¿Quién de las mujeres de esa época no soñaba con convertirse en la madre del Mesías? Pero junto con la alegría, esas palabras predicen una gran prueba para María. ¿Por qué? Porque en ese momento estaba "comprometido" (v. 27). En tales casos, la Ley de Moisés establecía que no debería haber relaciones ni convivencia. Por lo tanto, al tener un hijo, María habría transgredido la Ley, y el castigo para las mujeres era terrible: la lapidación (cf. Dt 22:20-21). Ciertamente, el mensaje divino habría llenado el corazón de María de luz y fuerza; sin embargo, se enfrentó a una decisión crucial: decir "sí" a Dios, arriesgando todo, incluso su vida, o rechazar la invitación y continuar su viaje ordinario. ¿Qué hace ella? Ella responde así: "Que sea para mí de acuerdo con tu palabra" (Lc 1:38). "Que así sea" ("*Fiat*"). Pero en el lenguaje en el que está escrito el Evangelio, no es simplemente "que sea". Ella es una mujer enamorada preparada para servir a su Señor de forma completa e inmediata. Podría haber pedido un poco de tiempo para pensarlo, o incluso más explicaciones sobre lo que pasaría; tal vez podría haber establecido algunas condiciones... En cambio, no se toma su tiempo, no hace esperar a Dios, no se retrasa. Con qué frecuencia, pensemos en nosotros mismos ahora, ¿con qué frecuencia nuestra vida está hecha de aplazamientos, incluso la vida espiritual! Por ejemplo, sé que es bueno para mí rezar, pero hoy no tengo tiempo... "mañana, mañana, mañana, mañana". Posponemos las cosas: "Lo haré mañana. Sé que es importante ayudar a alguien, sí, debo hacerlo; lo haré mañana". Es la misma cadena de mañanas... posponiendo las cosas. Hoy, en el umbral de la Navidad, María nos invita a no posponer, a decir "sí": "¿Tengo que rezar?" - "Sí" - y yo rezo. "¿Tengo que ayudar a los demás?" - "Sí". "¿Cómo lo haré?" - Lo hago. Sin posponerlo. Cada "sí" cuesta algo; cada "sí" tiene su costo, pero aún así cuesta menos de lo que le costó ese valiente "sí", ese rápido "sí", que "que se haga [se hace] de acuerdo con tu palabra", lo que nos trajo la salvación. "Que así sea [hecho] de acuerdo con tu palabra". Esta es la última palabra de la Virgen en este último domingo de Adviento, y es la invitación a dar un paso genuino hacia la Navidad. Porque si el nacimiento de Jesús no toca nuestras vidas, las mías, las tuyas, las de todos, si no toca nuestras vidas, se nos escapa en vano. En el Ángelus ahora, nosotros también diremos "deja que tu palabra se cumpla en mí". Que Nuestra Señora nos ayude a decirlo con nuestras vidas, con nuestro enfoque de estos últimos días, para prepararnos bien para la Navidad.



Please pray for the sick in our parish and those who care for them... Charlie Bigelow, Larry Boll, Lourdes Borzoni Susan Conley, Cheryl Elliehausen, Hector Guerra, Alysia Hash, Jasmine Hash, Linda Hoogendoorn, John Johnson, Andre Kelley, Judy Knight, Helen Kruljac, Coleen McCluskey, Elsa Meyer, Shirley Milner, Karen Ness, Don Nielsen, Andres Ochoa, Joaquina Ortega, Tyrone Rivera, Melody Royvel, Kirt Smartt, Judith Spears, Debbie Spicart, Leslie Thomas, Toni Vecellio, and **special intentions for all who suffer from cancer.**



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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *If you are new to our parish, have moved, changed your phone number, or particularly have an email address, please contact the office, or complete a registration form in the back of the church. **Registration forms have been updated, green for English, yellow for Spanish.** We have some parishioners without email addresses in our database. Be sure to keep your information current with the office.*
- *The boxes of collection envelopes are in the entrance to the church. Please pick up your envelopes for 2024. If you do not find your envelopes, please contact Sandy asap.*

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

December 31, Sunday, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 9:30 a.m. Mass in English, St. Joseph
 4:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish, St. Joseph
 December 31, Sunday, New Year's Eve
 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Mass (Bilingual), St. Joseph
 January 1, Monday, New Year's Day/ Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
 9:30 a.m. Mass in English, St. Joseph
 11:30 a.m. Mass in English Our Lady of the Lake
 4:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish, St. Joseph

Mass Intentions 

Saturday, December 23, 4:00 p.m.

Julia Conley+ By: Jennifer Rockwell

Sunday, December 24, 9:30 a.m.

Kristin Noel David+ By: Ned & Sally Munger

Christmas Eve, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Louis Marengo+ By: Sandy Hood

Christmas Day, December 25, 9:30 a.m.

Alma August+ By: Toni Vecellio

Christmas Day, December 25, 11:30 a.m.

Ben Coyne+ By: Sarah Dunn

Mass intentions available for all masses, envelopes in the back of both churches. Complete the information and put in the collection basket or bring to the church.



PLATE COLLECTIONS - December 16th & 17th

Our Lady of the Lake \$833

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$2032

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$372

Totals = First Collection \$1097 Second Collection \$2140

Thank you, your generosity is appreciated.



Plan to join us for Christmas Caroling on Christmas Eve at St. Joseph beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Sign-up sheets available in the back of St. Joseph for Eucharistic Adoration scheduled every first Friday of the month. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit our website for a copy of the bulletin.
 stjoseph-middletown.com "I am the vine; you are the branches."

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