

St. Joseph Parish - Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission - Loch Lomond

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown, CA

January 7, 2024

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)

"A Shining Upon!" By Fr. Lawrence Mendoza On this First Sunday of the year 2024, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany is translated as revelation or manifestation, that is the "appearance" of Jesus, the Son of God, to the world! We may also reflect on another meaning of Epiphany in the light of what it does for us ... **"A Shining Upon!"**

Today's First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6) speaks about the Light of the Lord. Out of the darkness, we hear of a New Light Shining Upon not only on Jerusalem but also upon all nations. It also speaks of people from afar bringing gifts and "proclaiming the praises of the Lord." Our Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13) echoes the theme in our First Reading. The response states, "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." That is, it also speaks of foreigners bringing gifts and paying homage to the Lord. In our Second Reading, St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6) reminds us all that the Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ. This tells us that the Good News of salvation is not exclusive to the Jews but is also for the Gentiles. God's Light, as we hear from our First Reading, is undoubtedly Shining Upon all peoples!

Today's Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:1-12), is the story of the Magi, meaning wise men, who see a star **Shining Upon** them. Recognizing that the star is a sign of the birth of a newborn King, they follow the star which leads them to Jerusalem. As the Magi represent the Gentiles' search for a Savior, they also represent our search for Jesus! Waylaid to the palace of a cruel and selfish king, the Magi "set out again" and continued the search. And behold they again see the same star **Shining Upon** them, follow it until it stops over the place where the Child is. May we have the Magi's faith to believe and their perseverance to search for the true King, the Messiah and to pay homage to Him. With the same faith and perseverance, let us use the Word of God ... to be our star ... to **Shine Upon** us ... to guide and lead us to Jesus. And like the Magi, let us offer our "treasures" to Our Lord: a repentant and humble heart to live a life that Jesus wants us to live; a generous and a cheerful heart to be of service to others; an open and a receptive heart to allow the Holy Spirit to continue teaching and enlightening us ... and a kind and giving heart to be an epiphany, a light **Shining Upon** others that they may know of God's love and gift of salvation through us!

A blessed Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord to all!

"¡Un Brillo En Lo Alto!" Por el Padre Lawrence Mendoza En este primer domingo del año 2024, celebramos la Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor. ¡La Epifanía se traduce como revelación o manifestación, es decir, la "aparición" de Jesús, el Hijo de Dios, al mundo! También podemos reflexionar sobre otro significado de la Epifanía a la luz de lo que hace por nosotros... **"¡Un Brillo En Lo Alto!"**

La primera lectura de hoy (Isaías 60:1-6) habla de la Luz del Señor. Fuera de la oscuridad, oímos hablar de una Nueva Luz que brilla no solo sobre Jerusalén, sino también sobre todas las naciones. También habla de personas de lejos que traen regalos y "proclaman las alabanzas del Señor". Nuestro Salmo Responsorial (Salmo 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13) hace eco del tema de nuestra Primera Lectura. La respuesta dice: "Señor, todas las naciones de la tierra te adorarán". Es decir, que también habla de extranjeros que traen regalos y rinden homenaje al Señor. En nuestra Segunda Lectura, San Pablo en su carta a los Efesios (Efesios 3:2-3a,5-6) nos recuerda a todos, que los gentiles son coherederos en la promesa de Cristo. Esto nos dice que la Buena Noticia de la salvación no es exclusiva de los judíos, sino que también es de los gentiles. ¡La Luz de Dios, como escuchamos en nuestra Primera Lectura, sin duda **brilla** sobre todos los pueblos!

La lectura del Evangelio de hoy (Mateo 2:1-12), es la historia de los Reyes Magos, es decir, hombres sabios que ven una estrella brillando sobre ellos. Reconociendo que la estrella es un signo del nacimiento de un rey recién nacido, siguen la estrella que los lleva a Jerusalén. Como los Reyes Magos representan la búsqueda de un Salvador por parte de los gentiles, ¡también representan nuestra búsqueda de Jesús! Al ir al palacio de un rey cruel y egoísta, los Reyes Magos "se marchan de nuevo" y continúan la búsqueda. Y he aquí que vuelven a ver la misma estrella brillando sobre ellos, una voz les dijo, siganla hasta que se detenga sobre el lugar donde está el Niño. Que tengamos la fe de los Reyes Magos para creer y su perseverancia para buscar al verdadero Rey, el Mesías, y rendirle homenaje. Con la misma fe y perseverancia, usemos la Palabra de Dios... para ser nuestra estrella... para **brillar** sobre nosotros... para guiarnos y guiarnos hacia Jesús.

Y como los Reyes Magos, ofrezcamos nuestros "tesoros" a Nuestro Señor: un corazón arrepentido y humilde para vivir una vida que Jesús quiere que vivamos; un corazón generoso y alegre para servir a los demás; un corazón abierto y receptivo para permitir que el Espíritu Santo continúe enseñándonos e iluminándonos... ¡y un corazón amable y generoso para ser una epifanía, una luz que **brilla sobre los demás** que puedan conocer el amor de Dios y el don de la salvación a través de nosotros!

¡Que tengan una bendita solemnidad de la Epifanía de Nuestro Señor para todos!



Please pray for the sick in our parish and those who care for them.... Charlotte Baker, 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.**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There will be **no weekday masses January 8 through January 12** as Father will be away attending the Priests' Winter Workshop.
- Thank you to those who have completed a registration form requesting envelopes. If you haven't done so, please complete a registration form that will update your information in our database and/or register as a new member of our parish. Please consider using Offertory Envelopes every Sunday.
- 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.



- Year-end donation statements for tax purposes will be available beginning January 13. Contact the office for your statement.
- Congratulations to the lucky winners of the Servidores de Maria Christmas raffle. **VANESSA GONZALEZ** won first prize; 2nd prize to **PAM QUIROZ**; 3rd prize to **VERONICA CRUZ** and 4th to **GUADALUPE PIMENTEL**. The raffle raised \$1,560. Thank you everyone who participated.

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."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6, 4:00 p.m.

Doning & Nieves++

By: Didi

Sunday, January 7, 9:30 a.m.

John Johnson (sp) By: Tony & Mary Ann Arnold

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 30 & 31

Our Lady of the Lake \$632

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$1410

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$267

Christmas late - \$100

Totals = First Collection \$1151 Second Collection \$1258

Solemnity of Mother Mary \$972

December Friday Spanish Masses \$251



Our Super Bowl Fundraiser will begin on January 7th. The Super Bowl is February 11th and squares will be sold after Sunday Mass from January 7th through February 4th. Each square is \$50 and if all squares are sold, winners will receive \$1,000 (halftime) and \$1,500 (final score). If all squares are sold, \$2500 will go to the parish. Please tell your neighbors and friends who might be interested in participating. Any questions, or for squares, call Jane at (707) 355-4398 or Esther at (707) 772-6200.

WE NEED A NEW ROOF.....All fundraisers in 2024 will be dedicated to raising money for a new roof for the church, and also our utility building that houses a classroom, storage, and garage. Proceeds, however, from the banquet will be an exception, as those funds are dedicated, as always, to the insurance. We know we can do it, just like we raised funds to pave our parking lot, remember???? More later....

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