

# St. Joseph Parish – Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission*

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

March 3, 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

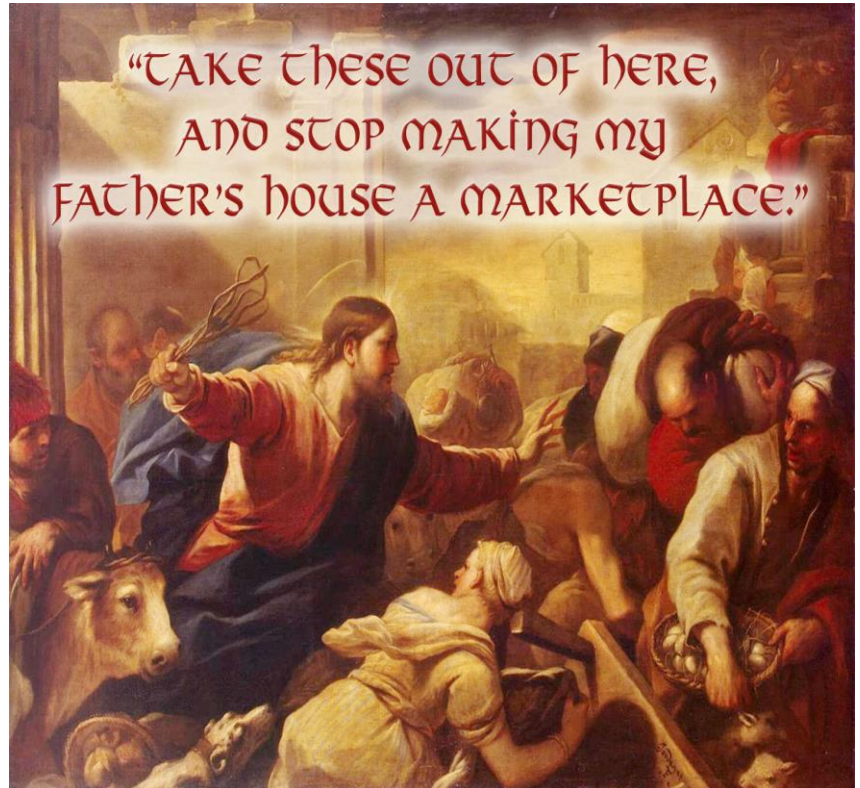
Middletown, CA 95461

Email: [stjoseph11@att.net](mailto:stjoseph11@att.net)

Website: [stjoseph-middletown.com](http://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)

## *Spiritual Reflection Third Sunday of Lent*

### Covenant Relationship with God

#### Reflection by Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

A blessed 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent to all! Today's readings invite us to reflect on our **Covenant Relationship with God** and remind us what it is that God wants for us and from us!

In our First Reading, God reveals the covenant relationship in the Ten Commandments. The first few commandments deal with how we are to relate with God, the last ones on how to relate with others. These are not to enslave us but to free us to be in closer covenant relationship not only with God but also with other people. The Responsorial Psalm praises the value of God's laws and commandments. The psalmist describes the results of those who keep their end of the covenant relationship and these are: revived souls, wisdom to the simple, rejoiced hearts and enlightened eyes. Moreover, doing the will of God is more desired than gold and sweeter than honey. Our Second Reading narrates the wisdom and strength of God's plan of salvation in and through the crucified Christ. St. Paul states that the message of Jesus is hard to accept by many, that this aspect of God's covenant relationship is beyond human comprehension. Thus, we are enjoined to understand it through our faith in Jesus and His death on the cross!

In today's Gospel, we hear of Jesus' cleansing of the temple, an account that is recorded in all four Gospels. During Jesus' time, worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice. As such, there were merchants selling animals to worshipers and moneychangers exchanging Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

Jesus' act clearly shows His unflinching determination ... to keep the house of God holy. It is not to be a house of trade, much less dishonest trade. Being in relationship with His Father, Jesus shows His love for the sanctity of God's presence among the people and His disgust for those who put restrictions on experiencing God's presence.

After clearing the Temple, the people ask for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an act. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Instead, Jesus answers, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." Not understood by the people then, Jesus is predicting His death and resurrection. And when it happened, Jesus' disciples remembered what Jesus had said. May we do the same ... and believe the scripture and the words of Jesus.

Yes, the ultimate sign people ask for is none other than Jesus' death and resurrection! On this season of Lent, let us reflect on the meaning of this sign for us and for our world ... and seek to deepen our **Covenant Relationship with God!**

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### Relación De Pacto Con Dios

#### Por el padre Lawrence Mendoza

¡Un bendito tercer domingo de cuaresma para todos! ¡Las lecturas de hoy nos invitan a reflexionar sobre nuestra **relación de pacto con Dios** y a recordarnos qué es lo que Dios quiere para nosotros y de nosotros!

En nuestra Primera Lectura, Dios revela la relación del pacto en los Diez Mandamientos. Los primeros mandamientos tratan de cómo vamos a relacionarnos con Dios, los últimos sobrecómo debemos relacionarnos con los demás. Estos no son para esclavizarnos, sino para liberarnos, para estar en una relación de pacto más estrecha, no solo con Dios, sino también con otras personas. El Salmo Responsorial alaba el valor de las leyes y los mandamientos de Dios. El salmista describe los resultados de aquellos que mantienen su final de la relación del pacto y estos son: almas revividas, sabiduría para los corazones simples y alegres y ojos iluminados. Además, hacer la voluntad de Dios es más deseado que el oro y más dulce que la miel. Nuestra Segunda Lectura narra la sabiduría y la fuerza del plan de salvación de Dios en y a través del Cristo crucificado. San Pablo afirma que el mensaje de Jesús es difícil de aceptar por muchos, que este aspecto de la relación del pacto de Dios está más allá de la comprensión humana. ¡Por lo tanto, se nos ordena entenderlo a través de nuestra fe en Jesús y su muerte en la cruz!

En el Evangelio de hoy, escuchamos de la limpieza del templo por parte de Jesús, un relato que se registra en los cuatro Evangelios. Durante la época de Jesús, el culto en el Templo de Jerusalén incluía el sacrificio de animales. Como tal, había comerciantes que vendían animales a fieles y cambiadores de dinero que intercambiaban monedas romanas, que llevaban la imagen del emperador romano, por las monedas del templo que se necesitaban para pagar el impuesto del templo.

El acto de Jesús muestra claramente su inquebrantable determinación... de santificar la casa de Dios. No es para ser una casa de comercio, y mucho menos un comercio deshonesto. Al estar en relación con Su Padre, Jesús muestra su amor por la santidad de la presencia de Dios entre la gente y su disgusto por aquellos que ponen restricciones a experimentar la presencia de Dios.

Después de despejar el Templo, la gente pide una señal de la autoridad de Jesús para hacer tal acto. Los milagros de Jesús son signos, y la gente mira a estos signos como prueba de su autoridad. Sin embargo Jesús respondió de una forma diferente, El les dice : "Destruiré este santuario, y en tres días lo levantaré". la gente no lo entendió entonces, Jesús estaba prediciendo su muerte y resurrección. Y cuando sucedió, los discípulos de Jesús recordaron lo que Jesús les había dicho. Hagamos lo mismo... y creamos en las Escrituras y en las palabras de Jesús.



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, Ines Mendoza, Elsa Meyer, Shirley Milner, Karen Ness, Don Nielsen, Andres Ochoa, Joaquina Ortega, Tyrone Rivera, Melody Royvel, Jim Serventi, Kirt Smartt, Judith Spears, Debbie Spicart, Leslie Thomas, Toni Vecellio, and **special intentions for all who suffer from cancer.**

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *We are looking for volunteers to participate in the “Washing of the Feet” at Holy Thursday Services. We want 12 parishioners for the 5:30 p.m. mass in English, and 12 for the Spanish mass at 8:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets available at the back of the church.*
- *During the Lenten season, we will not be using flowers for our Altar decorations. You may bring some green plants and leafy branches instead. We have sign-up sheets at the back of the church for those who want to donate.*
- *Year-end donation statements for tax purposes will be available during tax season. Contact the office for your statement.*
- *Annual Banquet Fundraiser plans are still in progress, more details at a later date.*

Novenary Mass of St. Joseph at St. Joseph,  
March 10-18

8:30 a.m. in English - 6:30 p.m. in Spanish daily

**St. Joseph Feast Day, March 19**

9:30 a.m. Mass in English – 6:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

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, March 2, 4:00 p.m.

**Karen Thomas(sp)** By: Monica Huck

Sunday, March 3, 9:30 a.m.

**Joan Bermeitinger+** By: Tony & Mary Ann Arnold

**Helen Mondavi Ventura &**

**Cesare Mondavi++** By: Peter Ventura

Sunday, March 3, 4:00 p.m.

**Josefina Munoz Espiridion Ortega+**

By Mary Rincon

Friday, March 8, 8:30 a.m.

**Lloyd Schindler+** By: Diedra Lagle

*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 – February 24 & 25

Our Lady of the Lake \$607

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$1064

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$471

Totals = First Collection \$1189 Second Collection \$953

**Thank you for your generosity!**



**Stations of the Cross**

**at St. Joseph During Lent**

**5:00 p.m. every Friday in English**

**6:00 p.m. every Friday in Spanish**

**St. Joseph “Roof Special Project”**

*We have started to receive checks for the Roof Fundraiser. Please make out your donation checks to St. Joseph Roof Fund. All donations towards the roof will go into this account, not the parish primary checking account. The total to date in our Roofing Account is \$3,844.*



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**COOPERTIRES**

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