

St. Joseph Parish – Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

March 10, 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)

Spiritual Reflection Fourth Sunday of Lent

By God's Grace, Rejoice! by Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

The 4th Sunday of Lent is also called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* means “rejoice” and in fact, today’s Entrance Antiphon (Isaiah 66:10-11) states: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast! Very reassuring, indeed! Today’s readings speak of **God’s Grace**, a beautiful reason to **Rejoice!**

Our First Reading (2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23) describes the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple and the people’s exile to Babylon. Yet, it also narrates their release from captivity through the gentile king of Persia with the order to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. These verses, encompassing a span of seventy years, demonstrate God’s love for His people. Once again, God graces His people, and us all, with another chance, another covenant. Let us respond to God’s gift of love and be faithful to the renewed relationship covenant, as we learned last Sunday!

Our Second Reading (Ephesians 2: 4-10) describes the ultimate gift of God: a place with Him in heaven. As St. Paul reminds us all, our salvation is not of our own doing but is a gift from God. Infinitely rich in grace, God brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in our sins. Let us respond to the gift and show our acceptance by living faithful lives ... and to always remember that a faithful life is not the reason we are receiving a gift from God! It is our response to God’s ultimate gift of love and salvation!

Our Gospel Reading (John 3: 14-21) echoes St. Paul’s reminder. We hear the well-known Bible verse: God so loved the world that He sent His Only Son ... not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him! Notably, it is God’s grace that begins the process of salvation despite our sinfulness! Thus, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we are invited to rejoice in anticipation of the joyful celebration of Easter!

Reflecting on the word grace, let us check out the various meanings of “grace.” “Grace” originates from the Latin word “gratia” which means not simply “gift” or “favor” or “blessing” ... but that it is undeserved! Grace cannot be earned; it is something that is freely given! Consequently, it has also taken on an added meaning of “gratitude.” The Spanish form of the word, *gracias*, also has the meaning of “thanks.” In all of its meanings, the word “grace” implies not only the benevolence of the giver, but also the proper response of thanks by the receiver! The proper response being that we all live “graceful” and “grateful” lives that others may know the love that God graces us with! **By God’s Grace**, let us **Rejoice** ... not only in this season of Lent but always! A blessed *Laetare* Sunday to all!

¡Por La Gracia De Dios, Alégrate! Por el P. Lawrence Mendoza

El cuarto domingo de Cuaresma también se llama domingo de *Laetare*. *Laetare* significa “regocijarse” y, de hecho, la Entrada del versículo de hoy (Isaías 66:10-11) dice: Regocijarse, Jerusalén y todos los que la aman. ¡Ser alegres, todos los que estaban de luto; regocijense y estén satisfechos con su pecho de consuelo! ¡Muy tranquilizador, de hecho! Las lecturas de hoy hablan de **la Gracia de Dios**, ¡una hermosa razón para **regocijarse!**

Nuestra primera lectura (2 Crónicas 36: 14-16, 19-23) describe la destrucción de Jerusalén y el Templo y el exilio del pueblo a Babilonia. Sin embargo, también narra su liberación del cautiverio a través del rey gentil de Persia con la orden de reconstruir el Templo en Jerusalén. Estos versículos, que abarcan un lapso de setenta años, demuestran el amor de Dios por Su pueblo. Una vez más, Dios honra a Su pueblo y a todos nosotros con otra oportunidad, otro pacto. Respondamos al don de amor de Dios y seamos fieles al pacto de la relación renovada, ¡como aprendimos el domingo pasado!

Nuestra segunda lectura (Efesios 2: 4-10) describe el último don de Dios: un lugar con Él en el cielo. Como San Pablo nos recuerda a todos, que nuestra salvación no es por nuestra propio proceder, sino que es un regalo de Dios. Infinitamente rico en gracia, Dios nos trajo a la vida con Cristo cuando estábamos muertos en nuestros pecados. Respondamos al regalo y mostremos nuestra aceptación viviendo vidas fieles... ¡y recordemos siempre que una vida fiel no es la razón por la que estamos recibiendo un regalo de Dios! ¡Es nuestra respuesta al último regalo de Dios de amor y salvación!

Nuestra lectura del Evangelio (Juan 3: 14-21) se hace eco de San. El recordatorio de Paul. Escuchamos el conocido versículo de la Biblia: Dios amó tanto al mundo que envió a su Hijo Único... ¡no para condenar al mundo, sino para que el mundo pudiera ser salvo a través de Él!

En particular, ¡es la gracia de Dios la que comienza el proceso de salvación a pesar de nuestra pecaminosidad! Por lo tanto, a medida que continuamos nuestra peregrinación de cuaresma, ¡se nos invita a regocijarnos en previsión de la celebración alegre de Pascua!

Reflexionemos sobre la palabra gracia, echemos un vistazo a los diversos significados. “Gracia” se origina de la palabra latina “gratia”, que no significa simplemente “regalo” “favor” o “bendición”... ¡sino que es inmerecida! La gracia no se puede ganar; ¡es algo que se da libremente! En consecuencia, también ha tomado un significado adicional de “gratitud”. La forma española de la palabra, *gracias*, también tiene el significado de “gracias”. En todos sus significados, la palabra “gracia” implica no solo la benevolencia del donante, ¡sino también la respuesta adecuada de agradecimiento por parte del receptor! ¡La respuesta adecuada es que todos vivimos vidas “graciosas” y “agradecidas” para que otros puedan conocer el amor con el que Dios nos agracia! Por la **gracia de Dios**, **regocijémonos**... ¡no solo en esta temporada de Cuaresma, sino siempre! ¡Un bendito domingo de *Laetare* 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, 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.**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

March 23, Saturday

4:00 p.m. mass in English, **Our Lady of the Lake**

March 24, Sunday

9:30 a.m. Mass in English, **St. Joseph**

4:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish, **St. Joseph**

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICES

March 28

5:30 p.m. in English, Mass of the Lord's Supper & Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament, **St. Joseph**

8:00 p.m. in Spanish

Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 12 midnight

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

March 29

12:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross in English

1:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord

Novena to the Divine Mercy

6:00 p.m. in Spanish

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, March 30

4:00 p.m. Mass in English, **Our Lady of the Lake**

7:00 p.m. Mass in English, **St. Joseph**

9:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish, **St. Joseph**

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31

9:30 a.m. Mass in English, **St. Joseph**

4:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish, **St. Joseph**

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

St. Joseph New Roof Fundraising

The St. Joseph Roofing Fund balance is now up to \$7376. Please make out your donation checks to St. Joseph Roof Fund. All Fundraisers, except the banquet, will be deposited into this account until we reach our goal.

Visit our website for a copy of the bulletin.

stjoseph-middletown.com "I am the vine; you are the branches"

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 9, 4:00 p.m.

For the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

Sunday, March 10, 9:30 a.m.

James Clare Franklin+ By: Stefan Ripich

Gloria Gracheff (sp) By: Ned & Sally Munger

Tuesday, March 12, 8:30 a.m.

Adriana Fernande (sp) By: Glynis & Mo

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 – March 9 & 10th

Our Lady of the Lake \$115

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$3906.00

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$430

Totals = First Collection \$1555 Second Collection \$2896

Thank you!



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

Lady of the Lake Guild Easter Bake Sale

The Lady of the Lake Guild will be holding bake sales during Easter weekend. The sales will be in Loch Lomond after the 4:00 pm mass on March 30, and in Middletown after the 9:30 am mass on March 31.

Although there will be a variety of items available (including Rick Macedo's famous Portuguese sweetbread!), we are offering a chance to pre-order some items – we don't want anyone to miss out! The last day to pre-order will be Monday, March 25. Payment can be made at time of pickup. Items for pre-order are:

Sherry bundt cake (limit 2 per order) - \$25

Jumbo molasses crinkle cookies (pkg of 4) (limit 3 per order) - \$10

Morning Gloria muffins (pkg of 4) (limit 2 per order) - \$8

To pre-order, contact Suzanna Macedo at (707) 272-2518 (text or voicemail is fine) or email at suzanna_macedo@hotmail.com The Lady of the Lake Guild welcomes and appreciates any donations for the sale. Please contact Suzanna Macedo.

Proceeds will be used for ongoing maintenance at Our Lady of the Lake and Our Lady of the Pines.

The St. Joseph Banquet Fundraiser will be on June 29 at the Twin Pines Event Center. Bring your donations for the auctions to the office as soon as possible. More details to follow.

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.

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