

# St. Joseph Parish – Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission*

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

March 17, 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 Fifth Sunday of Lent***

### **New Covenant by Fr. Lawrence Mendoza**

A blessed Fifth Sunday of Lent to all! We are a week away from the start of the Holy Week. More than ever, we are called to reflect on the importance of the history of salvation ... a prophecy that became a reality in Jesus Christ during His earthly life, passion, death and resurrection!

Two Sundays ago, we heard God reveal His covenant relationship with the Chosen People in the Ten Commandments. Today, Jeremiah, in our First Reading (Jeremiah 31: 31-34), tells the people that God will establish a **New Covenant** relationship with them based not on laws written on stone, but one written on their hearts ... and on our hearts, too. A **New Covenant** that is the Good News which says, "I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more." May this challenge us all to desire a renewal of heart and a closer relationship with God!

Today's Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51: 3-4, 12-13, 14-15) is also a cry for a renewal of heart, a pure heart. Like the psalmist, let us ask God for His mercy and forgiveness of our sins and pray, "Give me back the joy of Your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me." And with gratitude, may the joy of the gift of cleansing inspire us to teach others to also return to God's ways!

Our Second Reading (Hebrews 5: 7-9) describes the relationship Jesus has with His Father! Here, Jesus teaches us two important aspects of our own relationship with God ... prayer and obedience. Reverently praying yet humbly submitting to God's will, Jesus exhibits confidence that God hears and is with Him in the midst of His agony. Such enabled Him to become the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him. As God heard Jesus, so are we assured that God hears our prayers, too! Yes, in the midst of rough times, we can confidently turn to God in prayer knowing that God is and will always be with us.

Today's Gospel (John 12: 20-33) follows the raising of Lazarus from the dead, an important event which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. It also marks a turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. Jesus realizes that His Ultimate Hour of Glory is imminent. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat falling to the earth and dying so that a more abundant harvest might be produced, Jesus presents the idea that His dying would be beneficial. God will transform Jesus' death into new life not only for Himself, but also for others that they might live a rich and fruitful life.

Our Gospel ends with Jesus' confident response to the question He raises when asking God to save Him from His impending death. After announcing His conviction that it is for this purpose that He came, a voice from heaven, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration, affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. Jesus adds that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in Him.

As we approach the holiest of all weeks, let us all endeavor to reflect and understand Jesus' passion, death and resurrection ... and the salvation brought to the world, our **"heartfelt"** gift of the **New Covenant!**

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### **Nuevo Pacto Por el padre Lawrence Mendoza**

¡Un bendito Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma para todos! Estamos a una semana del comienzo de la Semana Santa. Más que nunca, estamos llamados a reflexionar sobre la importancia de la historia de la salvación... ¡una profecía que se hizo realidad en Jesucristo durante su vida terrenal, pasión, muerte y resurrección!

Hace dos domingos, escuchamos en las lecturas de que Dios revelo su relación de pacto con el Pueblo Elegido en los Diez Mandamientos. Hoy, en nuestra primera lectura de Jeremías;(Jeremías 31: 31-34), le dice a la gente que Dios establecerá una relación de **Nuevo Pacto** con ellos basada no en leyes escritas en piedra, sino en una escrita en sus corazones... y en nuestros corazones también. Un **Nuevo Pacto** que es la Buena Noticia que dice: "Perdonaré su maldad y no recordaré más su pecado". ¡Que esto nos desafíe a todos a desear una renovación del corazón y una relación más cercana con Dios!

El Salmo Responsorial de hoy (Salmo 51: 3-4, 12-13, 14-15) también es un grito por una renovación de corazón, un corazón puro. Como el salmista, pidamos a Dios su misericordia y el perdón de nuestros pecados y oremos: "Devuélveme la alegría de tu salvación, y un espíritu dispuesto a sostener en mí". ¡Y con gratitud, que la alegría del regalo de la limpieza nos inspire a enseñar a los demás a volver también a los caminos de Dios!

¡Nuestra Segunda Lectura (Hebreos 5: 7-9) describe la relación que Jesús tiene con Su Padre! Aquí, Jesús nos enseña dos aspectos importantes de nuestra propia relación con Dios... la oración y la obediencia. Orando con reverencia pero sometándose humildemente a la voluntad de Dios, Jesús exhibe confianza en que Dios escucha y está con Él en medio de su agonía. Esto le permitió convertirse en la fuente de la salvación eterna para todos los que le obedecen. ¡Como Dios escuchó a Jesús, también estamos seguros de que Dios también escucha nuestras oraciones! Sí, en medio de tiempos difíciles, podemos recurrir con confianza a Dios en oración sabiendo que Dios está y siempre estará con nosotros.

El Evangelio de hoy (Juan 12: 20-33) sigue la resucitación de Lázaro de entre los muertos, un evento importante que inspiró a muchas personas a creer en Jesús. También marca un punto de inflexión en el conflicto de Jesús con las autoridades judías. Jesús se da cuenta de que Su última Hora de Gloria es inminente. Usando la metáfora del grano de trigo que cae a la tierra y muere para que se pueda producir una cosecha más abundante, Jesús presenta la idea de que su muerte sería beneficiosa. Dios transformará la muerte de Jesús en una nueva vida, no solo para sí mismo, sino también para los demás, para que puedan vivir una vida rica y fructífera.

Nuestro Evangelio termina con la respuesta segura a la pregunta de Jesús que plantea al pedirle a Dios que lo salve de su inminente muerte. Después de anunciar de que es para este propósito que Él vino, una voz del cielo, como la que se escuchó en el bautismo de Jesús y en la Transfiguración de Jesús, afirma que Dios da la bienvenida al sacrificio que Jesús hará en nombre de los demás. Jesús añade que esta voz fue enviada por el bien de aquellos que creerían en Él.

A medida que nos acercamos a la más santa de todas las semanas, esforcémonos todos por reflexionar y entender la pasión, la muerte y la resurrección de Jesús... ¡y la salvación traída al mundo, nuestro **"sincero"** regalo del Nuevo Pacto!



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 St. Joseph**

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**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- *The St. Joseph Banquet Fundraiser has been scheduled for June 29 at the Twin Pines Event Center. Now is the time to bring your donations for the auctions to the office. Please be prepared to complete the donation form*
- *Flower donations for Easter Lillies will be accepted now through Wednesday, March 27.*
- *There will be no mass on March 21 and 22 as Fr. Lawrence will be in Santa Rosa for the Chrism Mass.*
- *The next Coffee Social will be held on Sunday March 24 after the 9:30 mass.*
- *Are you receiving email from St. Joseph? If not please contact Sandy in the office.*
- *There will be no weekday masses from April 1 through April 12 as Father will be on vacation.*
- *The balance in the St. Joseph Roofing Fund to date is \$8639. Please make checks to St. Joseph Roofing Fund. Do not put in the collection basket without identifying that it is for the Roof.*

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, March 16, 4:00 p.m.**

**Margaret Magni+** By: OLOL Guild  
**Jeanna Thompson(sp)** By: Martha O'Brien

**Sunday, March 17, 9:30 a.m.**

**Jim Serventi(sp)** By: Tony & Maryann Arnold  
**Georgina E. Lehne+** By: Noel DaRosa

**Sunday, March 27, 4:00 p.m.**

**Jaime Melgoza+** By: Daisy Melgoza

*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 \$1437 St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$1143**  
**St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$455**  
**Totals = First Collection \$1433 Second Collection \$1602**

**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](mailto: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.

**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"

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**







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