

# St. Joseph Parish – Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission*

21396 Hwy 175, Middletown

April 14, 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 Easter*

### **TO LOOK, TO TOUCH, TO EAT: THE JOY OF A TRUE ENCOUNTER WITH THE RISEN LORD JESUS**

#### **A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Regina Caeli, April 18, 2021**

On this Third Sunday of Easter, we return to Jerusalem, in the Upper Room, as though guided by the two disciples of Emmaus, who had listened with great emotion to Jesus' words along the way and then had recognized him "in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24:35). Now, in the Upper Room, the Risen Christ presents himself in the midst of the group of disciples and greets them: "Peace be with you!" (v. 36). But they are frightened and believe "that they were seeing a ghost" (v. 37), the Gospel says. Jesus then shows them the wounds on his body and says: "See my hands and my feet" — the wounds — "that it is I myself; touch me" (v. 39). And to convince them, he asks for food and eats it before their astonished eyes (cf. vv. 41-42).

There is a detail here, in this description. The Gospel says that the Apostles "still disbelieved for joy." The joy they felt was such that they could not believe that this was true. And a second detail: they were bewildered, astonished; astonished because the encounter with God always leads you to astonishment: it goes beyond enthusiasm, beyond joy; it is another experience. And they were joyful, but a joy that made them think no, this cannot be true!... It is the astonishment of God's presence. Do not forget this frame of mind, which is so beautiful.

Three very concrete verbs characterize this Gospel passage. In a certain sense, they reflect our individual and community life: to look, to touch, and to eat. Three actions that can give joy from a true encounter with the living Jesus.

To look. "See my hands and my feet," Jesus says. To look is not only to see, it is more; it also involves intention, will. For this reason, it is one of the verbs of love. A mother and father look at their child; lovers gaze at each other; a good doctor looks at the patient carefully... Looking is a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others. To look. Do I see or look at Jesus?

The second verb is to touch. By inviting the disciples to touch him, to verify that he is not a ghost — touch me! — Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain "at a distance." Christianity does not exist at a distance; Christianity does not exist only at the level of looking. Love requires looking and it also requires closeness; it requires contact, the sharing of life. The Good Samaritan did not limit himself to looking at that man whom he found half dead along the road: he stopped, he bent down, he treated his wounds, he touched him, he loaded him onto his mount and took him to the inn. And it is the same with Jesus himself: loving him means entering into a communion of life, a communion with him.

And thus, we come to the third verb, to eat, which clearly expresses our humanity in its most natural poverty, that is, our need to nourish ourselves in order to live. But eating, when we do so together, among family or friends, also becomes an expression of love, an expression of communion, of celebration... How often the Gospels present us with Jesus experiencing this convivial dimension! Even as the Risen One, with his disciples. To the point that the Eucharistic Banquet has become the emblematic sign of the Christian community. Eating together the Body of Christ: this is the core of Christian life.

Brothers and sisters, this Gospel passage tells us that Jesus is not a "ghost," but a living Person; that when Jesus draws near to us he fills us with joy, to the point of disbelief, and he leaves us bewildered, with that astonishment that only God's presence gives, because Jesus is a living Person.

Being Christian is not first of all a doctrine or a moral ideal; it is a living relationship with him, with the Risen Lord: we look at him, we touch him, we are nourished by him and, transformed by his Love, we look at, touch, and nourish others as brothers and sisters. May the Virgin Mary help us to live this experience of grace.

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### **MIRAR, TOCAR, COMER: LA ALEGRÍA DE UN VERDADERO ENCUENTRO CON EL SEÑOR JESÚS RESUCITADO**

#### **Una reflexión espiritual del Papa Francisco, Regina Caeli, 18 de Abril de 2021**

En este tercer domingo de Pascua, regresamos a Jerusalén, en la Sala Alta, como si estuviéramos guiados por los dos discípulos de Emaús, que habían escuchado con gran emoción las palabras de Jesús en el camino y luego lo habían reconocido "en la ruptura del pan" (Lc 24:35). Ahora, en la Sala Superior, el Cristo Resucitado se presenta en medio del grupo de discípulos y los saluda: "¡La paz este con ustedes!" (V. 36). Pero están asustados y creen "que estaban viendo un fantasma" (v. 37), dice el Evangelio. Jesús entonces les muestra las heridas de su cuerpo y les dice: "Miren las heridas en mis manos y mis pies"

"soy yo mismo; tóquenme" (v. 39). Y para convencerlos, pidió comida y la comió ante sus ojos asombrados (cf. vv. 41-42).

Hay un detalle aquí, en esta descripción. El Evangelio dice que los Apóstoles "todavía no creían por la alegría". La alegría que sentían era tal que no podían creer que esto fuera cierto. Y un segundo detalle: estaban desconcertados y asombrados; asombrados porque el encuentro con Dios siempre te lleva al asombro: va más allá del entusiasmo, más allá de la alegría; es otra experiencia. Y estaban alegres, pero una alegría que les hizo pensar: ¡no, esto no puede ser cierto!... Es el asombro de la presencia de Dios. No olvides este estado de ánimo, que es tan hermoso.

Tres verbos muy concretos caracterizan este pasaje del Evangelio. En cierto sentido, reflejan nuestra vida individual y comunitaria: mirar, tocar y comer. Tres acciones que pueden dar alegría a partir de un verdadero encuentro con el Jesús vivo. Para mirar. "Mira mis manos y mis pies", dice Jesús. Mirar no es solo ver, es más; también implica intención y voluntad. Por esta razón, es uno de los verbos del amor. Una madre y un padre miran a su hijo; los amantes se miran el uno al otro; un buen médico mira al paciente cuidadosamente... Mirar es un primer paso contra la indiferencia, contra la tentación de mirar hacia otro lado ante las dificultades y el sufrimiento de los demás. Para mirar. ¿Veo o miro a Jesús?

El segundo verbo es tocar. Al invitar a los discípulos a tocarlo, a verificar que no es un fantasma, ¡tócame! Jesús les indicó a ellos y a nosotros que la relación con él y con nuestros hermanos y hermanas no puede permanecer "a distancia". El cristianismo no existe a distancia; el cristianismo no existe solo a nivel de mirar. El amor requiere mirar y también requiere cercanía; requiere contacto y compartir la vida. El Buen Samaritano no se limitó a mirar a ese hombre a quien encontró medio muerto a lo largo del camino: se detuvo, se inclinó, trató sus heridas, lo tocó, lo cargó en su montura y lo llevó a la posada. Y es lo mismo con Jesús mismo: amar lo significa entrar en una comunión de vida, una comunión con Él.

Y así, llegamos al tercer verbo, comer, que expresa claramente nuestra humanidad en su pobreza más natural, es decir, nuestra necesidad de nutrirnos para vivir. Pero comer, cuando lo hacemos juntos, entre la familia o los amigos, también se convierte en una expresión de amor, una expresión de comunión, y de celebración... ¡Con qué frecuencia los Evangelios nos presentan con Jesús experimentando esta dimensión de convivencia! Incluso como el Resucitado, con sus discípulos. Hasta el punto de que el Banquete Eucarístico se ha convertido en el signo emblemático de la comunidad cristiana. Comer juntos el Cuerpo de Cristo: este es el núcleo de la vida cristiana.

Hermanos y hermanas, este pasaje del Evangelio nos dice que Jesús no es un "fantasma", sino una Persona viva; que cuando Jesús se acerca a nosotros, nos llena de alegría, hasta el punto de la incredulidad, y nos deja desconcertados, con ese asombro que solo la presencia de Dios da, porque Jesús es una Persona viva.

Ser cristiano no es, ante todo, una doctrina o un ideal moral; es una relación viva con él, con el Señor Resucitado: lo miramos, lo tocamos, somos nutridos por él y, transformados por su Amor, miramos, tocamos y nutrimos a los demás como hermanos y hermanas. Que la Virgen María nos ayude a vivir esta experiencia de gracia.



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, 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.**

St. Joseph Catholic Church

## Annual Banquet Fundraiser

Saturday, June 29, 2024

Twin Pine Casino & Hotel

Event Center

22223 State Highway 29, Middletown

5:00 p.m. Doors Open

Silent Auction preview and bidding

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Live Auction immediately following dinner and Feast with the Priest Drawing

Choice of Roast Beef or Vegetarian Pasta plus mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls, & dessert.

(Vegan alternative available if requested in advance)

Proceeds from this event will be used to pay the annual insurance premiums for 2024-2025 for the three churches in our Parish.

\$65 per person (includes 2 glasses of wine)

Tickets available after mass or call the office 707 987-3676.

~~ Advance purchase required ~~

**TICKETS FOR DINNER AND FEAST with the PRIEST ON SALE TODAY AFTER MASS 9:30 AM**

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, April 13, 4:00 p.m.

**Bobby Hood +** By: Sandy Hood

Sunday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.

**Capt Elissa Speckmann USN Ret+**

By: Tony & Mary Ann Arnold

**Janna Neiling (sp)** By: Kate Royer Higgins Family

Tuesday, April 16, 8:30 p.m.

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

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 – April 6 & 7

Our Lady of the Lake \$1301

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$3999.30

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$488

Easter Late \$215

Totals = First Collection \$2606.30 Second Collection \$3397

## ST JOSEPH ROOFING FUND

The balance in our Roofing Account is now \$17,284

Please make checks to St. Joseph Roofing Fund.

Do not put in the collection basket without identifying that it is for the Roof.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

● **Bake Sale at St. Joseph on April 28.** See Jane if you have any questions, otherwise, bring your favorite cake, cookies, bread, etc. to the classroom no later than 9 a.m. for us to have time to price the items.

● We continue to accept auction items for our Banquet Fundraiser. Bring your donations to the office and be prepared to complete the donation form.

● Our Lady of the Lake Guild wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the bake sale on Easter, those who purchased, donated, or both.

● AMA 2024 latest report shows pledges equaling \$9,125 towards our goal of \$12,500. We are looking at an additional \$3375 to meet our goal. If you have not sent in your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Last year our return from the Diocese of \$1414.

● Lake County Passion Play May 18 & 19 this year.



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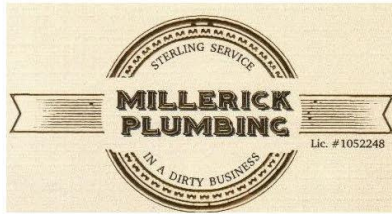
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