

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission, Loch Lomond*

21396 Hwy 175, Middletown

September 22, 2024

707 987-3676



## Pastoral Staff

Fr. Lawrence Mendoza, Pastor  
Sandy Hood, Office Manager

Pat Giacomini – Rel Ed 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

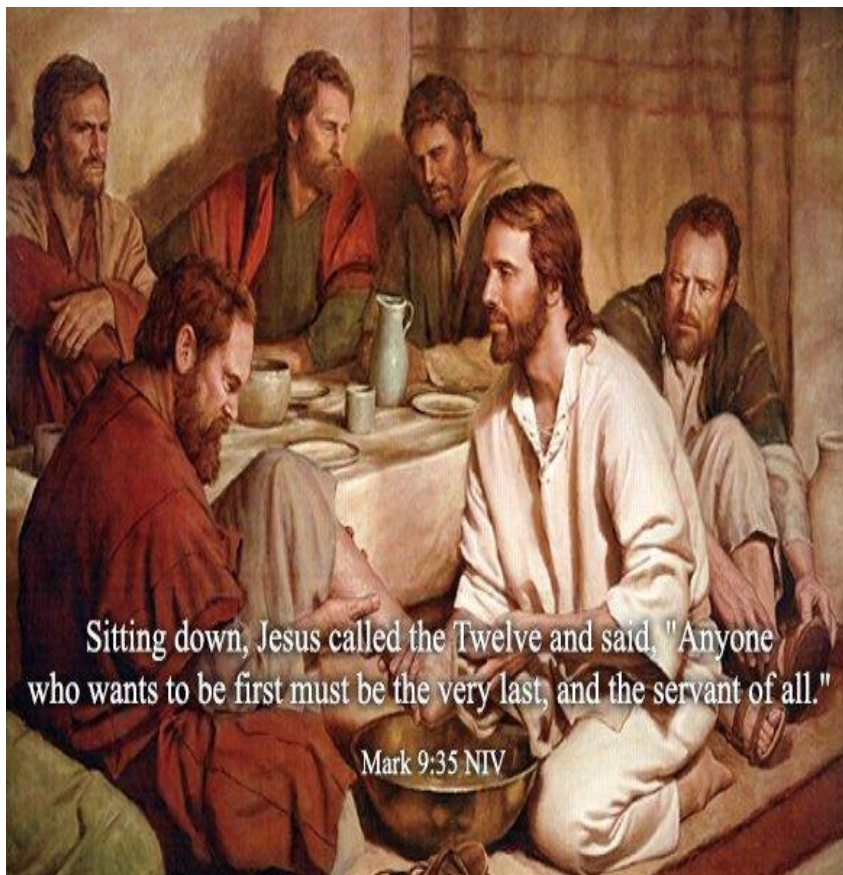
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Emergency #: 707 513-3991



Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone  
who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Mark 9:35 NIV

## MASS SCHEDULE

Our Lady of the Lake Mission – 12836 Hwy 175, Loch Lomond  
Saturday Mass 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday Masses

St. Joseph Church – Middletown, 9:30 a.m. (English)  
Our Lady of the Pines – Whispering Pines, 11:30 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 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

### IN GOD'S EYES, GREATNESS AND SUCCESS ARE MEASURED BY SERVICE

*A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, September 19, 2021*

The Gospel of today's Liturgy (Mk 9:30-37) narrates that, on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus' disciples were discussing "with one another who was the greatest" (v. 34). So, Jesus directed harsh words toward them that are still valid today: "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all" (v. 35). If you want to be first, you need to get in line, be last, and serve everyone. Through this shocking phrase, the Lord inaugurates a reversal: he overturns the criteria about what truly matters. The value of a person does not depend any more on the role they have, the work they do, the money they have in the bank. No, no, no, it does not depend on this. Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: they are measured by *service*. Not on what someone *has*, but on what someone *gives*. Do you want to be first? Serve. This is the way.

Today, the word "service" appears a bit hackneyed, worn out by use. But it has a precise and concrete meaning in the Gospel. To serve is not a courteous expression: it means *to act like Jesus*, who, summing up his life in a few words, said he had come "not to be served, but to serve" (Mk 10:45). This is what the Lord said. Therefore, if we want to follow Jesus, we must follow the path he himself traced out, the path of service. Our fidelity to the Lord depends on our willingness to serve. And we know this often costs, because "it tastes like a cross." But, as our care and availability toward others grows, we become freer inside, more like Jesus. The more we serve, the more we are aware of God's presence. Above all, when we serve those who cannot give anything in return, the poor, embracing their difficulties and needs with tender compassion, there we discover that we in turn are loved and embraced by God.

After having spoken of the *primacy of service*, Jesus does something precisely to illustrate this. We have seen that Jesus' actions are stronger than the words he uses. And what is that action? He takes a child and puts him in the midst of the disciples, at the center, in the most important place (cf. v. 36). In the Gospel, the child does not symbolize innocence so much as littleness. For like children, the little ones depend on others, on adults; they need to receive. Jesus embraces those children and says that those who welcome a little one, a child, welcome him (cf. v. 37). The ones who are to be served above all are those in need of receiving, those who cannot give anything in return.... In welcoming those on the margins, the neglected, we welcome Jesus because *He is there*. And in the little one, in the poor person we serve, we also receive God's tender embrace.

Dear brothers and sisters, challenged by the Gospel, let us ask ourselves: Am I, who follow Jesus, interested in the one who is neglected? Or am I rather seeking personal gratification, like the disciples that day? Do I understand life in terms of competing to make room for myself at others' expense, or do I believe that being first means serving? And concretely: do I dedicate time to a "little one," to a person who has no means to pay me back? Am I concerned about someone who cannot give me anything in return, or only with my relatives and friends? These are the questions we need to ask ourselves.

May the Virgin Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, help us understand that to serve does not belittle us, but helps us grow, and that there is more joy in giving than in receiving (cf. Acts 20:35).

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#### 25ª Semana en Tiempo Ordinario

#### A LOS OJOS DE DIOS, LA GRANDEZA Y EL ÉXITO SE MIDEN POR EL SERVICIO

Una reflexión espiritual del Papa Francisco, Mensaje de Ángelus, 19 de septiembre de 2021

El Evangelio de la Liturgia de hoy (Mc 9:30-37) narra que en el camino a Jerusalén, los discípulos de Jesús estaban discutiendo "entre los demás quién era el más grande" (v. 34). Entonces, Jesús dirigió palabras duras hacia ellos que aún son válidas hoy en día: "Si alguien fuera el primero, debería ser el último de todos y siervo de todos" (v. 35). Si quieres ser el primero, tienes que ir al final de la fila, ser el último y servir a todos. A través de esta frase impactante, el Señor inaugura un cambio: revoca los criterios sobre lo que realmente importa. El valor de una persona ya no depende del papel que tenga, del trabajo que haga, del dinero que tenga en el banco. No, no, no, no depende de esto. La grandeza y el éxito a los ojos de Dios se miden de manera diferente: se miden por el servicio. No en lo que alguien tiene, sino en lo que alguien da. ¿Quieres ser el primero? Sirve. Este es el camino.

Hoy en día, la palabra "servicio" parece un poco desgastada, desgastada por el uso. Pero tiene un significado preciso y concreto en el Evangelio. Servir no es una expresión cortés: significa actuar como Jesús, quien, resumiendo su vida en pocas palabras, dijo que había venido "no para ser servido, sino para servir" (Mc 10:45). Esto es lo que dijo el Señor. Por lo tanto, si queremos seguir a Jesús, debemos seguir el camino que él mismo trazó, el camino del servicio. Nuestra fidelidad al Señor depende de nuestra voluntad de servir. Y sabemos que esto a menudo cuesta, porque "sabe a cruz". Pero, a medida que crece nuestro cuidado y disponibilidad hacia los demás, nos volvemos más libres por dentro, más como Jesús. Cuanto más servimos, más conscientes somos de la presencia de Dios. Sobre todo, cuando servimos a aquellos que no pueden dar nada a cambio, a los pobres, abrazando sus dificultades y necesidades con tierna compasión, allí descubrimos que a su vez somos amados y abrazados por Dios.

Después de haber hablado de la primacía del servicio, Jesús hace algo precisamente para ilustrar esto. Hemos visto que las acciones de Jesús son más fuertes que las palabras que usa. ¿Y qué es esa acción? Toma a un niño y lo pone en medio de los discípulos, en el centro, en el lugar más importante (cf. v. 36). En el Evangelio, el niño no simboliza la inocencia tanto como la pequeñez. Para los niños, los pequeños dependen de los demás, dependen de los adultos; necesitan recibir. Jesús abraza a esos niños y dice que aquellos que dan la bienvenida a un pequeño, un niño, le dan la bienvenida a él (cf. v. 37). Los que deben ser atendidos por encima de todo son los que necesitan recibir, los que no pueden dar nada a cambio... Al dar la bienvenida a los que están al margen, a los descuidados, damos la bienvenida a Jesús porque Él está allí. Y en el pequeño, en la pobre persona a la que servimos, también recibimos el tierno abrazo de Dios.

Queridos hermanos y hermanas, desafiados por el Evangelio, preguntémosnos: ¿Estoy yo, que sigo a Jesús, interesado en el que es descuidado? ¿O prefiero buscar gratificación personal, como los discípulos ese día? ¿Entiendo la vida en términos de competir para hacer espacio para mí mismo a expensas de los demás, o creo que ser el primero significa servir? Y, concretamente: ¿dedico tiempo a un "pequeño", a una persona que no tiene medios para pagarme? ¿Me preocupa alguien que no puede darme nada a cambio, o solo con mis familiares y amigos? Estas son las preguntas que necesitamos hacernos.

Que la Virgen María, la humilde sierva del Señor, nos ayude a entender que servir no nos menosprecia, sino que nos ayuda a crecer, y que hay más alegría en dar que en recibir (cf. Hechos 20:35).



Please pray for the sick in our parish, our family & friends, and those who care for them...Fr. Andre, Charlotte Baker, Charlie Bigelow, Larry Boll, Lourdes Borzoni, Debbie Cariela, Susan Conley, Cheryl Fua, Cianna Gazperony, Hector Guerra, Monica Gerrero, Alysia Hash, Jasmine Hash, Laura Hilton, Linda Hoogendoorn, John Johnson, Judy Knight, Helen Kruljac, Coleen McCluskey, Joe McSweeney, Ines Mendoza, Elsa Meyer, Shirley Milner, Don Nielsen, Andres Ochoa, Joaquina Ortega, Kirt Smartt, Judith Spears, Debbie Spicart, Rebeca Marie Stanley, Leslie Thomas, Toni Vecellio, Matt Woodard and special intentions for all who suffer from cancer.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next month we will be processing our Annual October 2024 Mass Count. You will notice certain individuals counting the numbers of adults and children who attend our masses.
- Sunday is the last day to view the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit/Display of Blessed Carlos Acutis. I am encouraging you all to see this spiritually enriching exhibit!
- Coffee Social next Sunday, September 29 after the 9:30 a.m. mass.
- Please note that Sandy will be on vacation next week. Remember, the office hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.
- There will be no Mass at Our Lady of the Lake on Saturday, October 12 at 4:00 p.m. so everyone can attend the Feast in the Vineyard. The mass at Our Lady of the Lake will be scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 13 that weekend.
- OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, classes will begin soon. Contact Esther Oertel at 707 772-6200. The Adult Confirmation Class will also begin soon. Contact Tom Scalfaro 707 657-9059.

### PLATE COLLECTIONS – 9/14 & 9/15

Our Lady of the Lake \$376

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$3770

Our Lady of the Pines 11:30 am \$91

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$322

First Collection \$4559

Special Second Collection for the Gonzalez Family \$2060

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, September 21, 5:00 p.m.

**Fr. Lawrence – Happy Birthday**

By: Tambornini & Fernande Families

Sunday, September 22, 9:30 a.m.

**Rick John Podesta+** By: Elaine & Tiffany Podesta

**Lynn Schindler – Happy Birthday**

Sunday, September 22, 11:30 a.m.

For our parishioners

Thursday, September 26, 8:30 a.m.

**Ruth Schindler+** By: Diedra Lagle

Friday, September 27, 8:30 a.m.

**Fr. Thomas (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.

### St. Joseph Catholic Church

presents

the Third Annual

“Feast in the Vineyard”

Father Lawrence Birthday and Ordination Celebration

Saturday, October 12, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Social Hour 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.

At Bantry Vineyard, formerly owned by Father James  
12102 Hwy 29 (directly across from C Street, Lower Lake)

Serving American food by Pat & Lisa Lambert,  
Mexican food by Old Mill Restaurant, Asian Food by Fr. Lawrence & company

Featuring entertainment provided by the Eureka Dance Troupe  
Music provided by Juvenal and JJ Campos, including Karaoke

Silent Dessert Auction

ADULT TICKETS \$50

CHILDREN \$10 ages 4-12 (3 and under free)

Auction tickets available for the

“Priest Prepares the Feast”

Purchase your tickets for a gourmet feast  
prepared by our own Father Lawrence.

Two winners, each winner allowed 3 additional guests,  
tickets to be drawn the night of the event.

\$10 each or 6 for \$50

Tickets are available after Mass until Sunday, October 6,  
also available at Rosales Market or the rectory

For additional information contact the office 707 987-3676

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR



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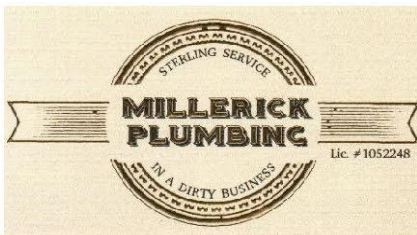
John Higgins  
Manager

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**COOPERTIRES**



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