

St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission, Loch Lomond

21396 Hwy 175, Middletown

October 6, 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

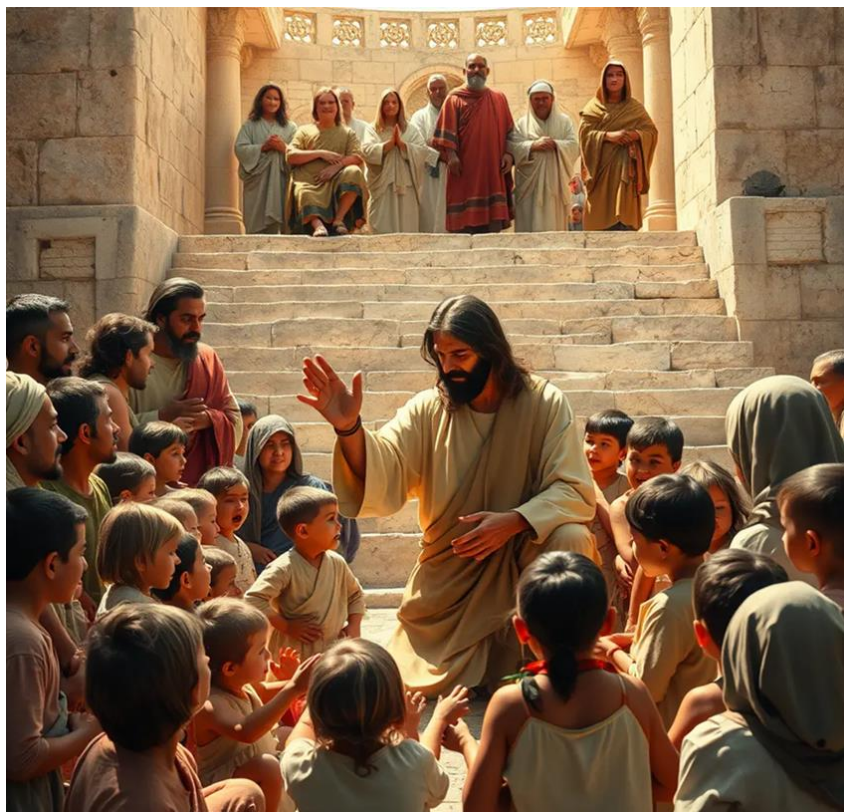
Middletown, CA 95461

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 5:00 p.m.

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 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, October 3, 2021

LET US EMBRACE OUR FRAILITY TO BECOME MORE CHRISTLIKE AND CHILDLIKE

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy, we see Jesus react somewhat unusually: He is indignant. And what is most surprising is that his indignation is not caused by the Pharisees who put him to the test with questions about the lawfulness of divorce, but by his disciples who, to protect him from the crowd of people, rebuke some children who had been brought to Jesus. In other words, the Lord is not angry with those who argue with him, but with those who, in order to relieve him of his burden, distance the children from him. Why? It is a good question: why does the Lord do this?

Let us remember — it was the Gospel reading of two Sundays ago — that while performing the gesture of embracing a child, Jesus had identified himself with the little ones: he had taught that it is indeed the little ones, namely, those who depend on others, who are in need and cannot reciprocate, that should be served first (cf. *Mk* 9:35-37). Those who seek God find him there, in the little ones, in those in need: in need not only of material goods, but of care and comfort, such as the sick, the humiliated, prisoners, immigrants, the incarcerated. He is there: in the little ones. This is why Jesus is indignant: any affront to a little one, a poor person, a child, a defenseless person, is done to him.

Today the Lord picks up this teaching again and completes it. In fact, he adds: “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it” (*Mk* 10:15). Here is what is new: the disciple must not only serve the little ones, but also *acknowledge himself as a little one*. And does each of us recognize ourselves as being little before God? Let us think about this; it will help us. Awareness of being little, awareness of being in need of salvation, is indispensable in welcoming the Lord. It is the first step in opening ourselves up to him. Often, however, we forget about this. In prosperity, in well-being, we have the illusion of being self-sufficient, that we suffice to ourselves, that we do not need God. Brothers and sisters, this is a deception, because each one of us is a person in need, a little one. We must seek out our own smallness and recognize it. And there, we will find Jesus.

In life, recognizing oneself as little is a starting point for growing. If we think about it, we grow, not so much on the basis of our successes and the things we have, but above all in difficult and fragile moments. There, in our need, we mature; there we open our hearts to God, to others, to the meaning of life. Let us open our eyes to others. Let us open our eyes, when we are little, to the true meaning of life. When we feel small in the face of a problem, small in front of a cross, an illness, when we experience fatigue and loneliness, let us not be discouraged. The mask of superficiality is falling away, and our radical fragility is reemerging. It is our common ground, our treasure, because *with God frailty is not an obstacle but an opportunity*. This would be a beautiful prayer: “Lord, look at my frailties...” and list them before him. This is a good attitude before God.

Indeed, it is precisely in our frailty that we discover how much God takes care of us. The Gospel today says that Jesus is very tender with the little ones: “he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them” (v. 16). The difficulties and situations that reveal our frailties are privileged opportunities to experience his love. Those who pray with perseverance know this well: in dark or lonely moments, God's tenderness towards us makes itself, so to speak, even more present. When we are little, we feel God's tenderness more. This tenderness gives us peace; this tenderness makes us grow, because God draws close to us in his way, which is nearness, compassion, and tenderness. And, when we feel we are little, small, for whatever reason, the Lord comes closer; we feel he is closer. He gives us peace; he makes us grow. In prayer the Lord draws us close to him, like a father with his child. This is how we grow: not in the illusory pretense of our self-sufficiency — this makes no one grow — but in the strength of placing all our hope in the Father, just like the little ones do; they do this.

Today let us ask the Virgin Mary for a huge grace, that of littleness: to be children who trust the Father, certain that he will not fail to take care of us.



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

- ***This is the last weekend to buy tickets for the Feast in the Vineyard celebrating Fr. Lawrence Birthday and Ordination. Tickets available after mass.***
- ***Annual October Mass Count will continue throughout the month.***
- ***Join Fr. Lawrence on his Thanksgiving Mass for his 12th Sacerdotal Ordination Anniversary on Saturday, October 12 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Joseph.***
- ***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 moved to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 13 that weekend.***
- ***There will be no Weekday Masses October 14th to 18th as Fr. Lawrence will be attending the Diocesan Annual Priest Retreat at Vallombrosa***
- ***There will be no Weekday Masses from October 21st to the 25th as Fr. Lawrence will be away for his one-week Break.***
- ***On Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27 Fr. Sudhakar Mannam will be conducting a Mission Appeal at all the Masses. He is the representative of the Diocese of Guntur, Andra Pradesh India. Please put your blue envelopes in the first collection as the second collection will be for his Diocese.***

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, October 5, 5:00 p.m.

Cariela Family(sp) By: Mom

Sunday, October 6, 9:30 a.m.

James Clare Franklin+ By: Stefan Ripich

Nancy Lawton+ By: Tony & Mary Ann Arnold

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 – 9/22/24

Our Lady of the Lake \$216

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$1834

Our Lady of the Pines 11:30 am \$178

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$722

First Collection \$1396 Second Collection \$1554

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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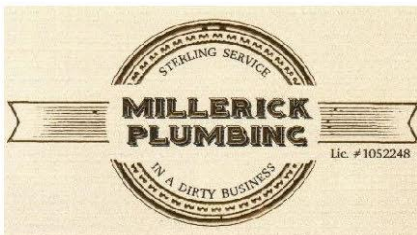
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