

St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission, Loch Lomond

21396 Hwy 175, Middletown

November 3, 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



Jesus replied: "Love the Lord
your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with
all your mind.' This is the first
and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it: 'Love
your neighbor as yourself.'
Matthew 22:37-39

MASS SCHEDULE

Our Lady of the Lake Mission – 12836 Hwy 175, Loch Lomond
Saturday Mass 4:00 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 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Take the “Shema, Israel” to Heart by Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

In our First Reading (Deuteronomy 6:2-6), Moses addresses the people he had been traveling with for forty years. It is near the end of his life and shortly before the people ... without Moses ... enter the Promised Land. As a final plea, Moses reminds them of the “**Shema, Israel**” prayer which states, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

The “**Shema, Israel**” is one of the most famous prayers in the Bible. It is a call for the Shema, which means not only to simply hear, but to also obey and to act on.

Moses adds, “Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today!”

Knowing what Shema means, this is not to say that Moses’ words be kept hidden in their hearts, it is meant to be proclaimed and shared with others. Like most observing Jews, there is no doubt that Jesus also prayed the Shema and took it to heart. He heard, obeyed and acted on it.

This brings us to our Gospel Reading.

We continue to read from Mark’s Gospel. For the past four Sundays, we had been reading Mark’s Chapter 10. To put today’s Gospel Reading (Mark 12:28-34) in its proper context, there is a need to know what the skipped Chapter 11 and parts of Chapter 12 narrate. The skipped verses include Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, His cleansing of the Temple and the testing and questioning of Jesus’ authority by the chief priests, scribes, and elders ... which are indicative of Jesus’ growing exposure to the Jewish authorities.

But today, the question Jesus gets seems to come from a scribe who admires Jesus and is not testing Him. The scribe’s question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists not only of the Ten Commandments that we are familiar with, but also hundreds of other commandments covering many aspects of daily life including family, personal hygiene and diet. For a devout Jew, adherence to the Mosaic Law is an expression of faithfulness to God’s covenant with Israel.

The scribe asks Jesus which is the first among all the commandments. Jesus answers, “The first is this: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Such is Jesus’ affirmation of the “**Shema, Israel.**” That God alone is one, there is no other. Thus, one must love God with one’s whole being ... with all his heart, soul, *mind* and strength. (Notably, Jesus adds *mind* to the Shema. Perhaps it is to complete the thrust of the verse asking one to devote the entirety of one’s being to love God.) Jesus then connects this to the need to love others as one loves oneself.

The scribe agrees saying, “Well said, teacher.” The scribe then continues that the commandments to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself are worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. Jesus, seeing that the scribe answered with understanding says, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

The dialogue between Jesus and the scribe ends the debate with the Jewish authorities as Mark reports that no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

Evidently, Jesus was not the only Jewish religious teacher who connected these two commandments, love of God and love of neighbor. Both commandments were central elements of the religious tradition that Jesus learned from the Jewish community. Many believe, however, that the connection of the two greatest commandments was heard in a new and fresh way when spoken by Jesus!

Yes, Jesus spoke the “**Shema, Israel**” as part of the greatest commandment, making it relevant to us, too! It is a beautiful prayer, indeed! As Moses said, may we also **Take It to Heart!**



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, Barbara Kaelin, Judy Knight, Helen Kruljac, Coleen McCluskey, Joe McSweeney, Ines Mendoza, Elsa Meyer, Shirley Milner, Don Nielsen, Andres Ochoa, Joaquina Ortega, Elinor Rich, Gayle Serventi, 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

● ***Priest Prepares the Feast winning tickets to be drawn after the 9:30 am and the 4:00 p.m. masses today!***

● ***Training for Sacristans and Acolytes will be held every Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. mass during the month of November.***

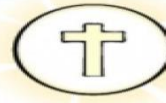
● ***Training for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers will be held on Saturday, November 16 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Church.***

● ***On Sunday, December 8, during the 9:30 a.m. Mass, we will have the Investitures of the Acolytes and Commissioning of the Lectors.***

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, November 2, 12:00 noon

Kathy Boll+ By: Tony/Mary Ann Arnold

Saturday, November 2, 4:00 p.m.

Debbie Cariela(sp) By: Sandy Hood

Sunday, November 3, 9:30 p.m.

Mathew DaRosa+ By: Noel DaRosa

James Clare Franklin+

By: Stefan Ripich

Kathy Boll+ By: Tom Boll

Cecila Nelson(sp) By: Skylar Rodella

Axle Nelson(sp) By: Skylar Rodella

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 – 10/27/24

Our Lady of the Lake \$619

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$1758.30

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$287

Total First Collection \$2664.50

Diocese of Guntur Total Collection \$1489.00



Eternal rest grant
unto them,
O Lord,
and let perpetual
light shine upon them,
with your Saints
for ever,
for you are merciful.



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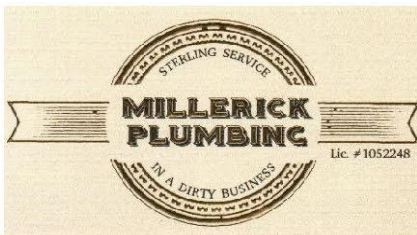
John Higgins
Manager

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office 707-987-2291
Hours 8:00-5:00 Monday thru Friday



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