

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission, Loch Lomond*

21396 Hwy 175, Middletown

November 10, 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](mailto:stjoseph11@att.net)  
Website: [stjoseph-middletown.com](http://stjoseph-middletown.com)  
Fax: 707 987-2792  
Emergency #: 707 513-3991

The Widow's  
Offering



## **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 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time*

### **TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE BY FR. LAWRENCE MENDOZA**

In today's readings, we hear the stories of two widows who are willing to give all that they have ... undoubtedly a testimony to their believing and **Trusting in God's Providence**.

In our First Reading (1 Kings 17:10-16), during a time of drought and famine, the prophet Elijah goes to Zarephath. There he encounters a widow who is out gathering sticks to cook a final bite of food for herself and her son. Elijah asks her for some water and a bit of bread. She explains that she only has enough to prepare for their last meal after which she and her son will die.

Elijah tells her not to be afraid and do as she is told. Elijah also reassures her of the promise of the God of Israel which states, "The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the Lord sends rain upon the earth." Trusting the words of the prophet of God, she obeys and provides for Elijah. As he foretold, the jar of flour did not go empty, and the jug of oil did not run dry. They were able to eat for a year and the three of them survived until the rains came, ending the drought and famine.

What a reassuring story challenging us all to trust in God's words, even when it seems improbable! Indeed, obedience and faith invite God's miraculous provision!

In the first part of our Gospel Reading (Mark 12:38-44), Jesus warns the crowds to be wary of the pompous and deceitful actions of some religious leaders. They go around in long robes accepting greetings in the marketplaces. They take seats of honor in synagogues and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows, reciting lengthy prayers as a pretext.

Jesus then observes how Jewish pilgrims are making contributions to the temple treasury. The Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish worship in the time of Jesus. Practicing Jews would make pilgrimages to the Temple to offer prayers and sacrifices and would make financial contributions to the temple treasury.

Jesus observes that many rich people put in large sums to the treasury. Jesus calls attention, however, to a poor widow who put in two coins of little value. Calling His disciples, Jesus commends the poor widow's offering saying that the poor widow put in more than all the other contributors because they contributed from their surplus wealth while she contributed all she had, her whole livelihood. Like the widow in our First Reading, she was willing to give all she had, trusting in God's protection ... **Trusting in God's Providence**.

To give from our livelihood is not only an act of generosity, but it is also an act of trust in God. We can only give from our need if we trust that God will provide for us. Yes, we all know and believe in God's providence. But are we able to trust as much as the two widows? Don't we have the tendency to hold onto things ... just in case? Hold onto things direly needed by others?

**Trusting in God's Providence** means moving forward and not be stifled by time worrying about what comes next. Trust is not intended to lessen our need to think and act fully, but it lessens our concerns about what lies ahead. If we trust God, we can act with confidence ... a confidence that rests in God's love and care for us all.

***A BLESSED 32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME TO ALL!***



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*

*The lucky winners are DONNA ALVERIO and VERONICA DIAZ*

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

● *Sunday, December 8, during the 9:30 a.m. Mass, we will have the Investitures of the Altar Servers.*

● *December 8, Procession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

● *Monday, December 9, Solemnity of the Annunciation*

*Mass @ 9:30 a.m. English*

*Mass @ 6:30 p.m. Spanish*

*We will have the Commissioning of the Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers during mass.*

● *Thursday, December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass at 6:30 p.m.*



Saturday, November 9, 4:00 p.m.

**For our parishioners:**

Sunday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.

**Tony & Mary Ann Arnold** (In appreciation)

Thursday, November 14, 8:30 a.m.

**Joe McSweeney+** By: Sandy Hood

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 – 11/3/24

Our Lady of the Lake \$777

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$3630

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$500

First Collection \$1523 Second Collection \$3384

All Souls \$\$110 All Saints \$420 Collections



**November 28**

**Thanksgiving Day**

**Mass at 9:00 a.m.**

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





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