

St. Joseph Parish - Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission - Loch Lomond

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown, CA

December 15, 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



**John answered and said
to them all, "As for me,
I baptize you with water**

**but One is coming
who is mightier than
I, and I am not fit to
untie the thong of His
sandals; He will
baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and fire.
Luke 3:16**

Knowing-Jesus.com

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 – Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice in the Lord Always by Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means rejoice and today's Entrance Antiphon clearly proclaims the calling and the sentiment of today's mass: "**Rejoice in the Lord Always**; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near!" Thus, we mark this Sunday by lighting not a purple candle but a pink one on the Advent wreath as a symbol of joy because our salvation is at hand!

In our First Reading (Zephaniah 3:14-18a), Zephaniah speaks in "prophetic past" and says with certainty what is predicted in the future. He tells the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord has removed the judgment against them and has turned away their enemies. They can thus lay their fear aside because the Lord is in their midst. Moreover, it states that the Lord God will rejoice over the people and will dwell in intimate love and fellowship with them.

The Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6) is likewise a joyful exhortation of the Lord's coming. Isaiah describes the future when Israel will rejoice and praise the Lord for bringing them hope and salvation. They will see that He alone is their salvation, and they will proclaim His glory to all nations.

In our Second Reading (Philippians 4:4-7), Paul calls the Philippians to "**Rejoice in the Lord Always**. I shall say it again: rejoice! ... The Lord is near." Yes, these are the very same words from Paul that we hear in our Entrance Antiphon! Paul is advising the Philippians and us, too, to have no anxiety at all. That is, Paul is telling us to bring our anxieties and worries to God, who alone is able to give us peace. Peace that is beyond understanding!

Our Gospel Reading (Luke 3:10-18) continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. It presents the message of John the Baptist that is primarily a call for repentance but also implies a message of joyful expectation of the coming of the Lord!

The crowds ask John the Baptist what they need to do, and he gives them concrete actions like: acts of charity by sharing a cloak and food; honesty by not collecting more than what is required; and social justice by not falsely accusing anyone and being satisfied with one's wages.

When the crowds begin to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John informs them that his ministry of baptism is in preparation for the Messiah. He then announces that One who is mightier than him is coming and that He will baptize them with the Holy Spirit and fire.

We have a lot of reasons to rejoice, indeed! It is not only the joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus ten days from today ... it is also the awareness that Jesus is amidst us and in fact, comes to us repeatedly and always through the Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments. More importantly, the rejoicing we are called to do must be reflected in our way of life ... a life that joyfully demonstrates our readiness for when Jesus might call us Home to be with Him and the Father whenever it might be!

Yes, let us **Rejoice in the Lord Always** that through our example, others may rejoice as well!



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, Kathleen Brune, Michael C, Debbie Cariela, Susan Conley, Cheryl Fua, Cianna Gazperony, Hector Guerra, Monica Guerrero, Alysia Hash, Jasmine Hash, Laura Hilton, Linda Hoogendoorn, John Johnson, Barbara Kaelin, Judy Knight, Helen Kruljac, Coleen McCluskey, Ines Mendoza, Elsa Meyer, Shirley Milner, John Morris, Don Nielsen, Maxine Lair, Andres Ochoa, Joaquina Ortega, Elinor Rich, 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

- *Our sympathy to Dolores Emmenegger, our organist, who suddenly lost her brother Dave this week; and our sympathy to Anne Garner who was a very special and dear friend to Dave.*
- *Join us today for the Annual Christmas Parish Potluck Brunch after the 9:30 a.m. Mass*
- *Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) is scheduled for Monday, December 16 from 5 pm to 7 pm at St. Joseph.*
- *There will be no Mass at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday morning December 18 & 19.*
- *The Servidores de Maria are having a Christmas Raffle. Proceeds will be used to finish the Grotto area. See Laura Rosales for tickets.*
- *There will be no mass on Thursday December 26*



Boxes of Collection Envelopes are now in the back of the two churches for you to use beginning January 1. Please notice this year, you will only receive one box, however, both first and second collection envelopes are in the box along with envelopes for special collections. Contact Sandy in the office if you have any questions.



Saturday, December 14 , 4:00 p.m.

For our parishioners

Sunday, December 15, 9:30 a.m.

Dave Emmenegger+ By: St. Joseph Parish

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 –

Our Lady of the Lake \$917

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$3261

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$546

First Collection \$2130 Second Collection \$2772

Immaculate Conception \$178

Happy 3rd week of Advent!



NOVENA SIMBANG GABI-2025

Everyone is cordially invited to a

JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATION

“Pilgrims of Hope”

Multilingual & Diocesan-Wide

(Night Mass – Misa De Noche)

December 16, Monday at 7:00 PM at

St. Joseph Parish Middletown.

Celebrant: Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

A Filipino potluck follows the celebration provided by the Filipino Parish Hosts.

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*



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