

St. Joseph Parish - Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission - Loch Lomond

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown, CA

December 8, 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



PREPARE THE WAY
FOR THE LORD,
MAKE STRAIGHT PATHS
FOR HIM.

MATTHEW 3:3



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 – Second Sunday of Advent

Hoping and Longing for the Coming of Jesus by Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

On this 2nd Sunday of Advent, we continue with the theme of the “Coming” of the Lord Jesus.

The Book of the Prophet Baruch may be a bit controversial in the sense that the earliest known manuscripts are in Greek. However, most if not all of Bible scholars believe that there is a Hebrew original yet to be discovered. Also, there are disagreements on when the Book of Baruch was written.

What is a reality is the impact of the beautiful poetry on generations of readers of our First Reading (Baruch 5:1-9). It starts with the very reassuring line, “Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever.” Yes, after the fall of Jerusalem, many longed for the rise of the great city.

Baruch expresses the same and echoes the words and imageries of earlier prophets on the return of the exiles on God’s divine action. In particular, and as earlier similarly prophesied by Isaiah, Baruch states, “For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.” Our First Reading ends with, “For God is leading Israel in joy by the light of His glory, with his mercy and justice for company.”

The reiteration of Baruch of earlier prophecies reinforces the conviction of God’s promises to the people through the ages. It is like having a younger spokesperson emphasizing and renewing the unfailing hope one finds in God. In the **Hoping and Longing for the Coming of Jesus** in “mercy and justice” ... notwithstanding the actual date the Book was written.

The three Synoptic Gospels: Mark, Matthew and Luke all mention John the Baptist and his importance in preparing for the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

In today's Gospel Reading (Luke 3:1-6), we take note of Luke's attention to political and historical detail. He lists the political and religious leaders at the time John appears in the desert baptizing for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God’s salvation. Moreover, Luke shows that salvation is for all!

Clearly, John's proclamation of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent Season. To affirm this, Luke quotes Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3-5), “A voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” Notably, Baruch echoes the same imagery of straightening of paths in our First Reading.

John’s message to prepare the way for Jesus is a call for us all to do our part ... in preparing ourselves, in **Hoping and Longing for the Coming of Jesus**. Let us respond to John’s call by repentance and by living reformed lives that reflect the coming of the Lord that others may recognize and consequently experience the fullness of joy. The joy of salvation that God desires for all!

A blessed 2nd Sunday of Advent 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, Michael C., 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, 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

- *Wine and Christmas Gift items for sale in the classroom after the 9:30 a.m. Mass today.*
- *Procession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. today. Food will be available for purchase after Mass.*
- *Monday, December 9, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*
Mass at 9:30 a.m. English
and at 6:30 p.m. Spanish
(We will have the Commissioning of the Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion during Mass.)
- *Thursday, December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass at 6:30 p.m.*
- *Sunday, December 15, join us for the Annual Christmas Parish Potluck Brunch after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Sign up with Jane Cauley and let her know what you will bring.*
- *The Servidores de Maria are having a Christmas Raffle. Proceeds will be used to finish the Grotto area. See Laura Rosales for tickets.*

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.



Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.

Gloria Frank+ By: Pam Quiroz

Sunday, December 8, 9:30 a.m.

John Lane David+ By: Ned & Sally Munger

Gayle Serventi+ By: Tony & Mary Ann Arnold

Tuesday, December 10, 9:30 a.m.

Debbi Frank(sp) By: Pam Quiroz

John Morris(sp) 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 – 11/24/24

Our Lady of the Lake \$501

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$1938

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$429

First Collection \$1528 Second Collection \$1607

THANKSGIVING \$267

PLATE COLLECTIONS – 12/1/24

Our Lady of the Lake \$295

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$3307

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$413

First Collection \$1390 Second Collection \$2625

Happy 2nd week of Advent!



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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