

St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

January 26, 2024

707 987-3676



Pastoral Staff

Fr. Lawrence Mendoza, Pastor
Sandy Hood, Office Manager

Patt Giacomini – Rel Ed Director
Debbie Heidary-Newsletter/Website

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

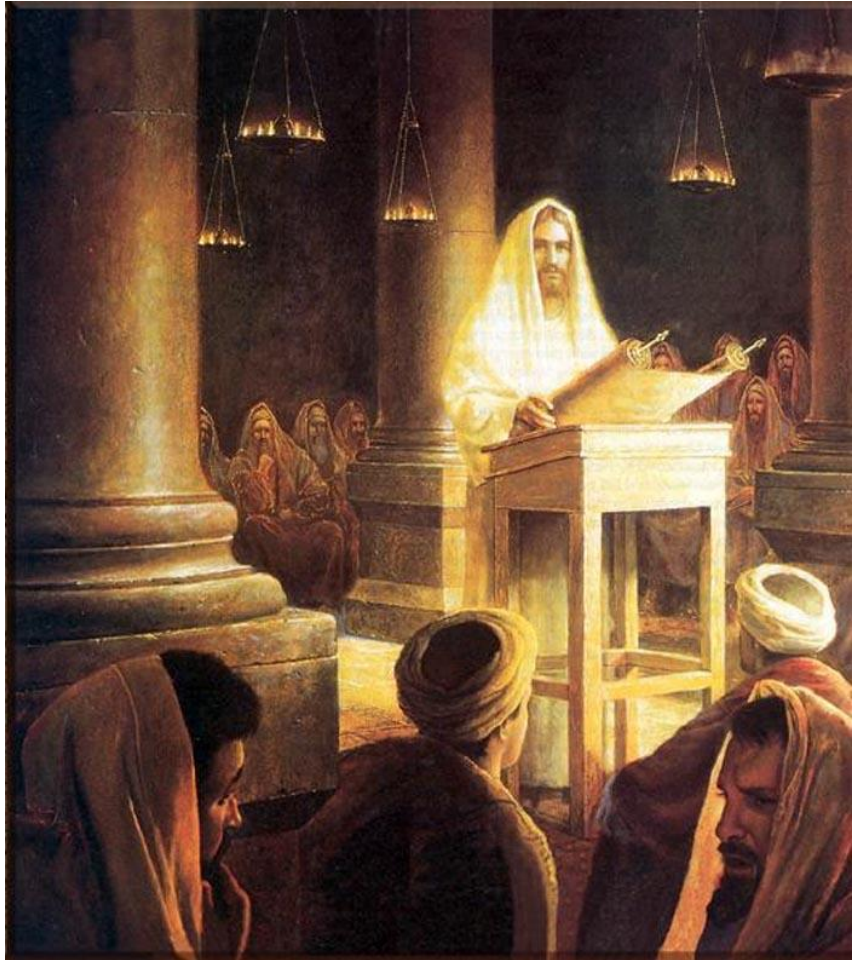
Anointing of the Sick

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 4:00 pm

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 in Ordinary Time

The Power of the Word of God

By: Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

Every Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is declared Sunday of the Word of God. Today's readings aptly narrate the Power of the Word of God. God's Word ... from both the Old and New Testaments ... tell us of the Word of God Incarnate, who is Jesus. Jesus has come to proclaim the Good News that God desires us to be one with Jesus in proclaiming God's glory!

In our First Reading (Nehemiah 8:2-a, 5-6, 8-10), we encounter Nehemiah, a lay civil leader in the time after the Babylonian exile. He was responsible for the restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the city. During his time in office, the Word of God in a Book of the Law was "discovered." Today's passage describes Ezra, the priest-scribe, reading this Book of the Law to the people and interpreting it for all to understand. Hearing the Words of the Law brings tears to the people. The passage ends, "Today is holy to our Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength."

Our Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15) echoes the effect that God's Word has on the people as expressed in our First Reading. Hearing and acting on the Word of God is refreshing, wisdom producing and a cause for rejoicing. And as the refrain states, "Your words, Lord are Spirit and life."

In the short version of our Second Reading (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27) St. Paul compares the Church, Christ's spiritual body, to the human body. Just as the human body is made up of different parts, all with a specific function and purpose, so is the Church is made up of many believers, all connected by the Holy Spirit. St. Paul explains that in one Spirit, we are all baptized into the one body of Christ.

Today's Gospel Reading (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21) combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First, we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. He puts into writing what has been proclaimed by eyewitnesses concerning the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus so that Theophilus may "realize the certainty of the teachings he has received." Yes, Luke is writing to a specific person Theophilus (meaning "lover of God") but the word "Theophilus" may very well be the phrase "Dear Reader" referring to us all ... readers and listeners of the Word of God!

Our Gospel Reading then leaps to Chapter 4 and we next hear that Jesus is in His hometown of Nazareth, in the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be His custom. This is clearly an important clue that Jesus is a faithful Jew. Jesus is handed a scroll that contains the words of the Prophet Isaiah. He reads it aloud ... a description of His mission ... then announces, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Undoubtedly, being a part of a community of believers, a Church headed by Jesus, unites us with the Word of God. In our Liturgical Celebrations, the Word of God is proclaimed, and the priest presider interprets it for us with the exhortation that we put the Word into practice! May we use our respective gifts of the Holy Spirit to do our roles and together share the Word of God (be it in words or deeds) with others ... in proclaiming God's glory!

A blessed Sunday of the Word of God 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, Kathleen Brune, 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, Harry Krall, Pat Lambert, 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, John Thompson, Toni Vecellio, Bobbie Whitely and special intentions for all who suffer from cancer.



SUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER

February 2 last day to participate in this fundraiser. We have more than 31 left, and in order to have a full payout for the winners, all squares will need to be sold before the weekend of the game, February 9th See Jane or Esther at 9:30 mass, Liz at OLOL, and Laura at the 4:00 o'clock Mass. Please call Jane, (707) 355-4398, or Esther (707) 772-6200, or the office if you have questions or would like to purchase a square over the phone. If you would like to be part of a group square, please contact Mary Ann Arnold.



So happy to say there are only a few boxes of envelopes that have not been picked up at St. Joseph. Please pick up your 2025 envelopes.

If you are not registered or have a change of telephone number or email address, please complete a registration form and drop in the collection box.

PLATE COLLECTIONS –

Our Lady of the Lake \$844

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$1478

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$458

First Collection \$1179 Second Collection \$1601

A message from the Director of Communications
Diocese of Santa Rosa

To help us improve communication across the Diocese, we invite you to complete a brief survey. Your feedback will guide us in enhancing our communication strategies to better serve everyone. Please use this link to access the survey. <https://srdiocese.org/>



Saturday, January 25 , 4:00 p.m.

Robert Long+ By: The Macedo Family

Sunday, January 26, 9:30 a.m.

Lynn Illingworth+ By: Tony/Mary Ann Arnold

Mass intentions available for all Masses. Envelopes are in the back of both churches. Complete the envelope and either bring to the office or put in the collection basket on Sunday. .

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Social today after the 9:30 a.m. mass.

See you there!

•This Sunday we welcome Fr. Alvin Villaruel who is saying Mass at 9:30 a.m.

As you know, Fr. Lawrence will be away for a month for Passport-Visa purposes and his home visit from January 13 to February 17. There will be no weekday Masses while he is away. Only one Sunday morning Mass in the future will be changed once again to 9:00 a.m. and that date is Sunday, February 16. Additional reminders will follow.

•Mark your calendar for our St. Joseph Annual Banquet to be held on March 29 this year. As you probably remember, the Blarney Banquet was always in March, thus we are going back to our original schedule for this event. The Banquet will be held at the Twin Pines Hotel and Casino Banquet Room again this year, as last year was extremely successful. As you know, this fundraiser was held in June last year and is our main fundriaser annually. All proceeds will go towards paying our property and liability insurances. Start thinking about auction items as we will be asking for them soon.



Year-end statements for tax purposes are now available. Email or call Sandy in the office if you would like a copy.

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. sjoseph-middletown.com
"I am the vine; you are the branches"



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