

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

## Our Lady of the Lake Mission

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

February 9, 2025

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

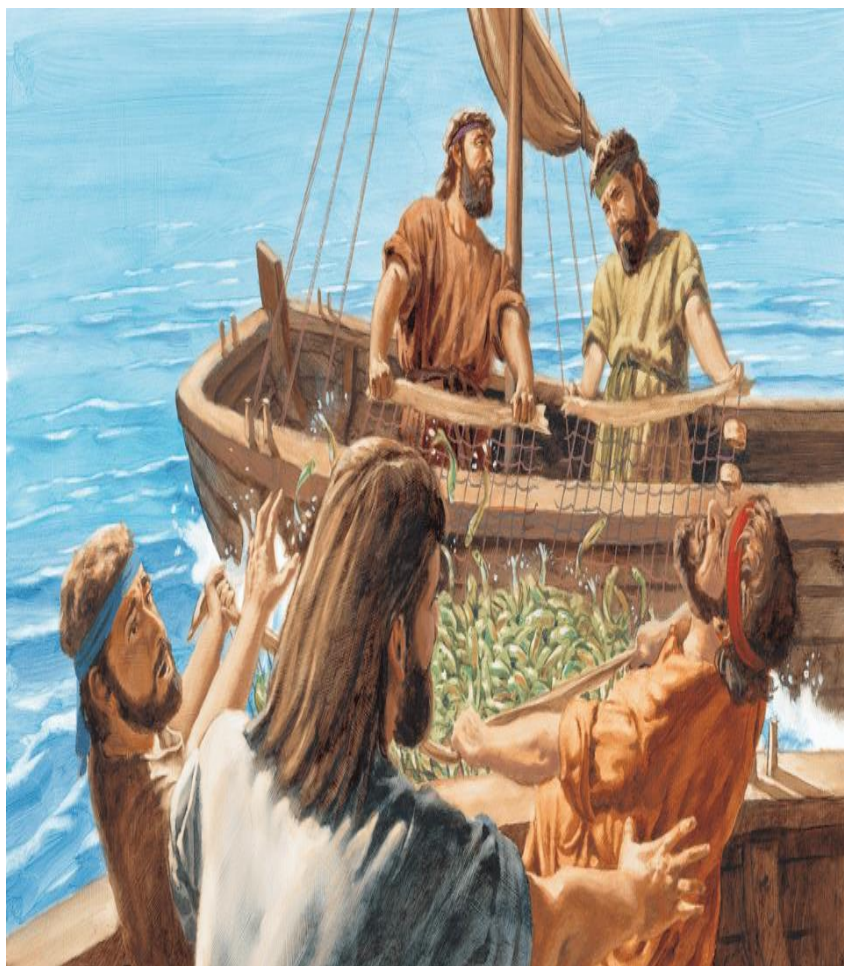
### Anointing of the Sick

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](mailto:stjoseph11@att.net)  
Website: [stjoseph-middletown.com](http://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 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Let Us Allow Jesus to Enter the Boat of Our Lives and Put Out into the Deep with Him*  
**A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, February 6, 2022**

The Gospel of today's Liturgy takes us to the banks of the Sea of Galilee. The crowd is gathering around Jesus, while some disappointed fishermen, among them, Simon Peter, are washing their nets after a night of fishing that had gone badly. And so it is that Jesus climbs into Simon's boat; then he invites him to go out to sea and cast his nets again (cf. Lk 5:1-4). Let us pause on these two actions of Jesus: first he climbs into the boat and then, the second one, he invites him to put out to sea. It was a night that had gone badly, without fish, but Peter is trusting and puts out to sea.

First of all, Jesus gets into Simon's boat. To do what? To teach. He asks for that very boat, which is not full of fish but rather has returned to the shore empty, after a night of toil and disillusionment. It is a beautiful image for us too. Every day the boat of our life leaves the shores of our home to sail out into the sea of daily activities; every day we try to "fish in the open sea," to cultivate dreams, to pursue projects, to experience love in our relationships. But often, like Peter, we experience the "night of empty nets" – the night of empty nets – the disappointment of trying very hard and not seeing the desired results: "We toiled all night and took nothing" (v. 5), says Simon. How often, we too are left with a sense of defeat while disappointment and bitterness arise in our hearts. Two very dangerous seeds.

So what does the Lord do? He chooses to climb into our boat. He wants to proclaim the Gospel from there. It is precisely that empty boat, the symbol of our incapacity, that becomes Jesus' "*cathedra*," the pulpit from which he proclaims the Word. And this is what the Lord loves to do – the Lord is the Lord of surprises, of miracles in surprises – to climb into the boat of our lives when we have nothing to offer him; to enter our emptiness and fill it with his presence; to make use of our poverty to proclaim his richness, of our miseries to proclaim his mercy. Let us remember this: God does not want a cruise ship; a poor "ramshackle" boat is enough for him, as long as we welcome him.... it does not matter on which boat, but to welcome him. But, I wonder, do we let him into the boat of our lives? Do we make available to him the little we have? Sometimes we feel unworthy of him because we are sinners. But this is an excuse that the Lord does not like, because it distances him from us! He is the God of closeness, of compassion, of tenderness, and he does not seek perfectionism: he seeks our welcome. He says to you too: "Let me get into the boat of your life." "But Lord, look..." – "Like that, let me in, just as it is." Let us think about this.

In this way, the Lord rebuilds Peter's trust. When he climbs into the boat, after preaching, he says: "Put out into the deep" (v. 4). It was not a good time of the day for fishing, in broad daylight, but Peter trusts in Jesus. He does not base his trust on the strategies of fishermen, which he knows well, but rather he bases it on the newness of Jesus – that wonder that moved him to do what Jesus told him. It is the same for us too: if we welcome the Lord into our boat, we can put out to sea. With Jesus, we sail the sea of life without fear, without giving in to disappointment when one catches nothing, and without giving up and saying, "there is nothing more that can be done." Always, in personal life as well as in the life of the Church and society, there is something beautiful and courageous that can be done, always. We can always start over – the Lord always invites us to get back on our feet because he opens up new possibilities. So let us accept the invitation: let us chase away pessimism and mistrust and *put out to sea* with Jesus! Our little empty boat, too, will witness a miraculous catch.

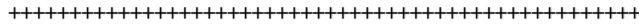
Let us pray to Mary, who like no other, welcomed the Lord into the boat of her life. May she encourage us and intercede for us.



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, Jim Coddington, Susan Conley, Barbara Farkas, Cheryl Fua, Cianna Gazperony, Hector Guerra, Monica Gerrero, Alysia Hash, Jasmine Hash, Laura Hilton, Linda Hoogendoorn, John Johnson, Barbara Kaelin, Joe & Mary Ann Kenny, 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 Whately and special intentions for all who suffer from cancer.



*This is what we have been waiting for!*  
**Superbowl Sunday! Score sheets available at all Masses!**



Those who have not picked up boxes of envelopes by the end of the month will be inactivated in our PDS system. Thank you to those who have completed registration forms by either registering with our parish, adding email addresses, or making corrections.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION 2/2/25**

Our Lady of the Lake \$980  
St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$3129  
St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$434  
First Collection \$1436 Second Collection \$4543



Year-end statements for tax purposes will be available until April 15. Email or call Sandy in the office if you would like a copy.



**Saturday, February 8, 4:00 p.m.**

**Susan+** By: Didi Manarang

**Sunday, February 9, 9:30 a.m.**

**Pam Giacomini+** By: Dan & Pat Giacomini

**Esther Oertel(BD)** 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**

•We again welcome Fr. Rowell Gumulay who will be saying all the masses at St. Joseph Parish this weekend. Thank you, Fr. Rowell.

•Fr. Lawrence is enjoying his time away and is very appreciative of the best wishes sent to him while he is gone. **Please remember, next Sunday, February 16, the Mass will change once again to 9:00 a.m.**

•The Church Auxiliary at St. Joseph is looking for two parishioners to help clean the church. Cleaning is scheduled twice a month, alternating Thursdays, and takes about an hour and a half. Call Judy Knight at 707 533-5461 to volunteer.

•Mark your calendar for our St. Joseph Annual Banquet to be held on March 29 at the Twin Pines Banquet Room again this year, as last year was extremely successful. As you know, this event was held in June last year and is our main fundraiser annually. All proceeds will go towards paying our property and liability insurances. We are accepting auction items in the rectory. Please remember, office open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 10-2. Forms to accompany your donation available at the churches.

*.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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