

St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

Our Lady of the Lake Mission

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

February 16, 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

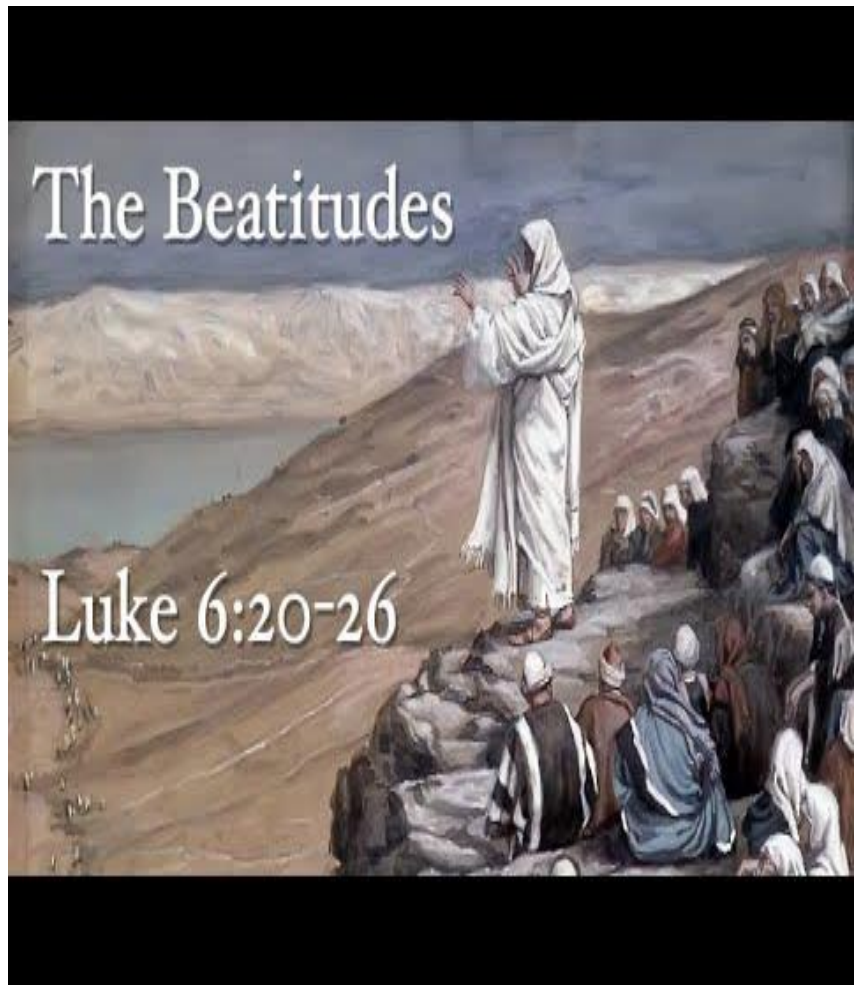
Anointing of the Sick

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
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)

Blessed are the Poor; They Have True Joy in their Hearts

Excerpt from A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, February 13, 2022

At the center of the Gospel of today's Liturgy are the Beatitudes (cf. Lk 6:20-23). It is interesting to note that despite being surrounded by a great crowd, Jesus proclaims them by addressing "his disciples" (v. 20). He speaks to the disciples. Indeed, the Beatitudes define the identity of the disciple of Jesus. They may sound strange, almost incomprehensible to those who are not disciples; whereas, if we ask ourselves what a disciple of Jesus is like, the answer is precisely the Beatitudes. Let us take a look at the first one, which is the basis for all the other ones: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God" (v. 20). Blessed are you poor. Jesus says two things about his people: that they are blessed and that they are poor; indeed, that they are blessed because they are poor.

In what sense? In the sense that Jesus' disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods, but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life. His disciples are content to share even the goods they possess, because they live according to the logic of God. And what is the logic of God? Gratuitousness. The disciple has learned to live in gratuitousness. This poverty is also an attitude towards the meaning of life, because Jesus' disciples do not think they possess it, that they already know everything, but rather they know they must learn every day. And this is poverty: the awareness of having to learn every day. Because they have this attitude, Jesus' disciples are humble, open people, far from prejudice and inflexibility.

In other words, the disciple accepts the paradox of the Beatitudes: they declare that those who are poor, who lack many things and recognize this, are blessed, that is, happy. Humanly speaking, we are inclined to think in another way: happy are those who are rich, with many goods, who receive plaudits and are the envy of many, who have all the certainties. But this is a worldly mindset, it is not the way of thinking of the Beatitudes! Jesus, on the contrary, declares worldly success to be a failure, since it is based on a selfishness that inflates and then leaves the heart empty. Faced with the paradox of the Beatitudes, disciples allow themselves to be challenged, aware that it is not God who must enter into our mindset, but we into his. This requires a journey, sometimes wearisome, but always accompanied by joy. Because the disciple of Jesus is joyful, with the joy that comes from Jesus. Because, let us remember, the first word Jesus says is: blessed, hence the name of the Beatitudes. This is the synonym of being disciples of Jesus. By freeing us from the slavery of self-centeredness, the Lord breaks our closures, dissolves our hardness, and opens up to us true happiness, which is often found where we do not expect it to be. It is he who guides our life, not us, with our preconceptions and our demands. Disciples, in the end, are those who let themselves be led by Jesus, who open their heart to Jesus, who listen to him and follow his path.

We might then ask ourselves: do I — each one of us — have the disciple's readiness? Or do I behave with the rigidity of one who believes him or herself to be right, who feels decent, who feels they have already arrived? Do I allow myself to be "inwardly unhinged" by the paradox of the Beatitudes, or do I stay within the confines of my own ideas? And then, with the logic of the Beatitudes, setting aside the hardships and difficulties, do I feel the joy of following Jesus? This is the decisive trait of the disciple: the joy of the heart. Let us not forget the joy of the heart. This is the touchstone for knowing if a person is a disciple: does he or she have joy in their heart? Do I have joy in my heart? This is the point.

May Our Lady, the first disciple of the Lord, help us live as open and joyful disciples.



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, Kathryn 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.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Annual Banquet Fundraiser
Saturday, March 29, 2025
See bulletin insert for details

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.

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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 2/9/25
Our Lady of the Lake \$635
St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$1897.30
St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$464
First Collection \$1442.30 Second Collection \$1554



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.

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"



Saturday, February 15, 4:00 p.m.

Nieves & Doning++ By: Didi Manarang

Sunday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.

Audrey O'Keeffe+ By: Spike & Joan O'Keeffe

Lynn Thacher(HB) 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 extend a warm welcome to Fr. Marlon again this weekend who is saying Masses at Our Lady of the Lake on Saturday and at St. Joseph on Sunday. We also extend a warm welcome to Fr. Rowell who will be saying Mass in Spanish on Sunday. Thank you Fr. Marlon, Fr. Rowell, Fr. Alvin and Fr. Sudakar for covering while Fr. Lawrence has been away.

● Our beloved pastor Fr. Lawrence will be returning on February 17. There will be NO weekday Masses February 18th through the 20th. Mass will resume on Friday the 21st at 8:30am and 6:30pm.

●Congratulations to the winners of our Super Bowl Fundraiser. Half time winner is Tom Boll. Final score winner is Tim Stegelik. Thank you all for your amazing participation again this year!

●The church Altar Society is looking for volunteers to help clean the church every other Thursday at 10:30 in the morning. The cleaning takes about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. If interested, please call Judy Knight (707) 533-5461.

●The Religious Education Program is looking for two additional part time teacher's aides. Please contact Pat Giacomini, or the office, if you are interested.

●The next Coffee Social at St. Joseph will be on Sunday, February 23 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.



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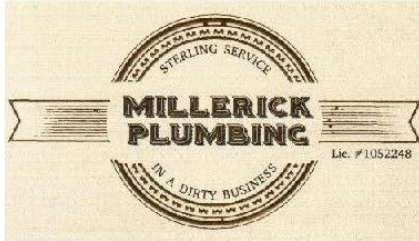
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