

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

## Our Lady of the Lake Mission

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

February 23, 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

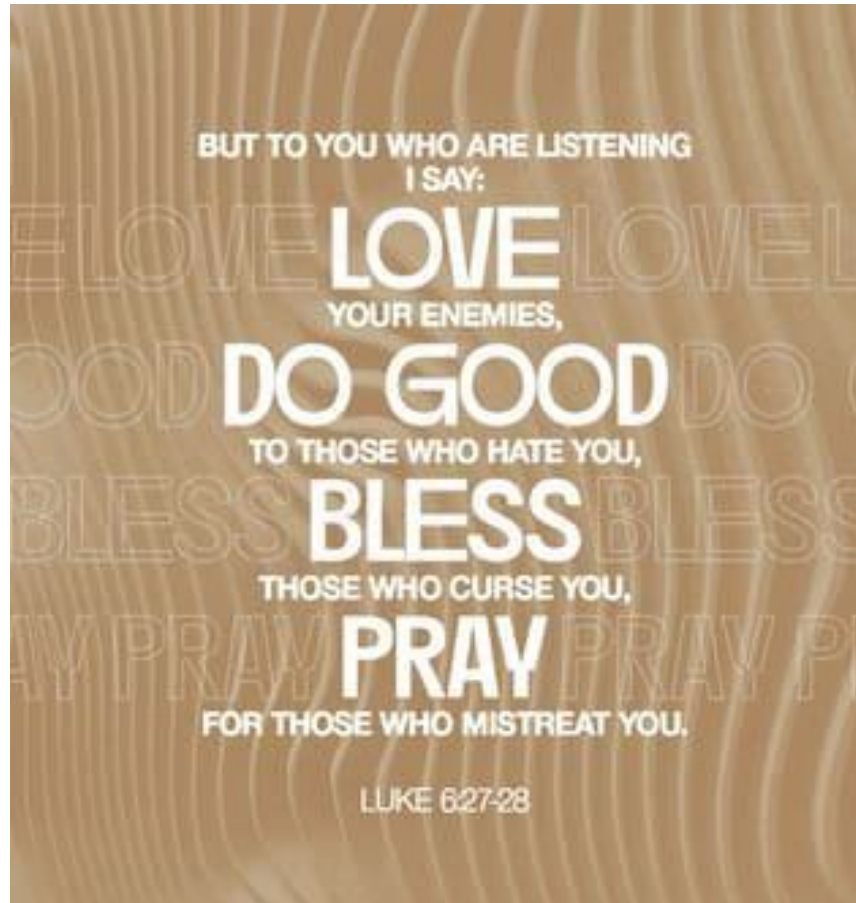
Middletown, CA 95461

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 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time***

***Loving Even Our Enemies by the Power of the Holy Spirit Who has been Given to Us***  
*Excerpt from A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, February 20, 2022*

*In the Gospel of today's Liturgy, Jesus gives some basic life guidance to the disciples. The Lord refers to the most difficult situations, those that constitute the bench test for us, those that confront us with those who are enemies and hostile to us, those who are always trying to do us harm. In such cases, the disciple of Jesus is called not to give in to instinct and hatred, but to go further, much further. To go beyond instinct, to go beyond hatred. Jesus says: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Lk 6:27). And even more concretely: "To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also" (v. 29). When we hear this, it seems that the Lord is asking for the impossible. And then, why love your enemies? If one does not react to bullies, then every abuse of power is given free rein, and this is not fair. But is it really so? Does the Lord really ask for the impossible and indeed even unjust things of us? Is it so?*

*This is not easy, but Jesus did it and he tells us to do likewise. This is turning the other cheek: Jesus' meekness is a stronger response than the slap he received. Turning the other cheek is not the withdrawal of the loser, but the action of one who has a greater inner strength. Turning the other cheek means defeating evil with goodness, which opens up a breach in the heart of the enemy, unmasking the absurdity of his hatred. And this attitude, this turning the other cheek, is dictated not by calculation or by hatred, but by love. Dear brothers and sisters, it is the freely given, undeserved love we receive from Jesus that generates in the heart a way of doing things that is similar to his, that rejects all vengeance. We are accustomed to revenge: "You did this to me, I will do that to you," or to bearing a grudge in our heart, resentment that harms, that destroys the person.*

*Let's get to another objection: is it possible for a person to come to love his or her enemies? If it depended only on us, it would be impossible. But let us recall that, when the Lord asks for something, he wishes to give it. The Lord never asks for something he has not already given us first. When he tells me to love my enemies, he wants to give me the capacity to do so. Without that ability, we would not be able, but he tells you to "love your enemy" and gives you the capacity to love. Saint Augustine prayed in this way — listen to this beautiful prayer:*

*Lord, "give what You command, and command what You will" (Confessions, X, 29.40), because you have already given it to me. What should we ask of him? What is God happy to give us? The strength to love, which is not a thing, but rather the Holy Spirit. The strength to love is the Holy Spirit, and with the Spirit of Jesus, we can respond to evil with good; we can love those who do us harm. This is what Christians do. How sad it is when persons and peoples who are proud to be Christians see others as enemies and think about waging war against each other! It is very sad.*

*And we, do we try to live following Jesus' invitations? Let us think about someone who has wronged us. Each one of you, think of a person. It is common for us to be hurt by someone; think of that person. Perhaps there is some resentment within. So, let us set the image of Jesus alongside this resentment: meek during his trial, after the slap. And then let us ask the Holy Spirit to act in our heart. Finally, let us pray for that person: praying for those who have done us harm (cf. Lk 6:28). When someone has wronged us, we immediately go and tell others, and we feel we are victims. Let us stop, and pray to the Lord for that person, that he might help him or her, and so this feeling of resentment will be dispelled. Praying for those who have wronged us is the first step to transforming evil into good. Prayer.*

*May the Virgin Mary help us be workers of peace towards everyone, especially those who are hostile to us and whom we do not like.*



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**  
AUCTION ITEMS....we only have two auction items as of Thursday. 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.



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

Our Lady of the Lake \$528  
St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$516  
St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$204  
First Collection \$1413 Second Collection \$1248



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](http://stjoseph-middletown.com) "I am the vine; you are the branches"



**Saturday, February 22, 4:00 p.m.**

**Hubert Fernande, Sr+ By: Fernande Family**

**Amber Erickson(sp) By: Macedo Family**

**Sunday, February 23, 9:30 a.m.**

**Barbara Kingsbury+ By Tony/Mary Ann Arnold**

**Ester Ciardella+ By: Peter & Pinky Ventura**

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

•Today we extend a warm "welcome home" to our beloved pastor. We are so happy to see you Fr. Lawrence.

•Coffee Social after the 9:30 mass today. Join us in the classroom for coffee, pastries and to socialize.

•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.

## St. Joseph Catholic Church Annual Banquet Fundraiser

Saturday, March 29, 2025  
Twin Pine Casino & Hotel Event Center  
22223 State Highway 29, Middletown

5:00 p.m. doors open

Silent Auction preview and bidding

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Live Auction immediately following dinner and  
Feast with the Priest Drawing

### MENU

Choice of Pork Loin with blackberry sage glaze,  
Roasted Tuscan Chicken, or Pasta Primavera  
dinner includes Caesar and/or green salad, garlic  
mashed potatoes,

bread, dessert and 2 glasses of wine

(Vegan alternative available if requested in advance)

Proceeds from this event will be used to pay the  
annual insurance premiums

\$70 per person

Tickets available beginning 2/22/25 after mass,  
Or call the office for reservations. 707 987-3676.

~ Advance purchase required ~

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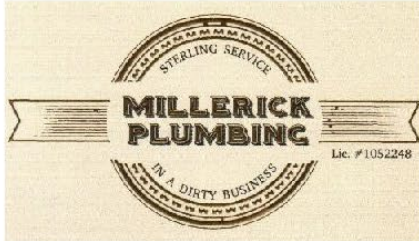
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