

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission*

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

March 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 – First Sunday of Lent***

***Let Us Always Be Vigilant and Avoid Any Dialogue with the Devil***

**Excerpt from A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, March 6, 2022**

The Gospel of today's Liturgy, the First Sunday of Lent, takes us into the desert, where Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit, for forty days, to be tempted by the devil (cf. Lk 4:1-13). Jesus too was tempted by the devil, and he accompanies us, every one of us, in our temptations. The desert symbolizes the fight against the seductions of evil, in order to learn to choose true freedom. Indeed, Jesus lives the experience of the desert just before beginning his public mission. It is precisely through this spiritual struggle that he decisively affirms what type of Messiah he intends to be. Not this type of Messiah, but that one: I would say that this is indeed the declaration of Jesus' messianic identity, of the messianic way of Jesus: "I am the Messiah, but on this path." Let us then look closely at the temptations he is battling.

Brothers and sisters, these temptations also accompany us on the journey of life. We must be vigilant – not be afraid, it happens to everyone – and be vigilant, because they often present themselves under an apparent form of good. In fact, the devil, who is cunning, always uses deception. He wanted to make Jesus believe that his proposals were useful to prove that he was really the Son of God.

And I would like to emphasize something. Jesus does not converse with the devil: Jesus *never* converses with the devil. He either banishes him, when he healed the possessed, or in this case, when he has to respond, he does so with the Word of God, never with his own word. Brothers and sisters, never enter into dialogue with the devil; he is more cunning than we are. Never! Cling to the Word of God like Jesus, and at most answer always with the Word of God. And on this path, we will never go wrong.

The devil does this with us: he often comes "with gentle eyes," "with an angelic face"; he even knows how to disguise himself with sacred, apparently religious motives! If we give in to his flattery, we end up justifying our falsehood by disguising it with good intentions. For instance, how often have we heard this: "I have done odd deals, but I have helped the poor"; "I have taken advantage of my role – as a politician, a governor, a priest, a bishop – but also for doing good"; "I have given in to my instincts, but in the end, I did no harm to anyone"; these justifications, and so on, one after the other. Please: no compromises with evil! No dialogue with the devil! We must not enter into dialogue with temptation; we must not fall into that slumber of the conscience that makes us say: "But after all, it's not serious, everyone does it"! Let us look at Jesus, who does not seek compromises; he does not make agreements with evil. He opposes the devil with the Word of God, which is stronger than the devil, and thus overcomes temptation.

May this time of Lent also be a *time of the desert* for us. Let us take time for silence and prayer – just a little, it will do us good – in these spaces let us stop and look at what is stirring in our hearts, our inner truth, what we know cannot be justified. Let us find inner clarity, placing ourselves before the Word of God in prayer, so that a positive fight against the evil that enslaves us, a fight for freedom, may take place within us.

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin to accompany us in the Lenten desert and to help us on our way of conversion.



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

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 & butter, 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 now after Mass

Or call the office for reservations. 707 987-3676.

~ Advance purchase required ~

**MARCH 16 IS THE DEADLINE FOR  
TICKET SALES**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION 3/2/25**

**Our Lady of the Lake \$893**

**St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$2825**

**St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$404**

**First Collection \$1331 Second Collection \$2791**

**Ash Wednesday \$1041**



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, March 8, 4:00 p.m.

**Marion & Cecil Normandin+ and**

**Frank & Celestina Hume+ By: Joan & Bob Hume**

Sunday, March 9, 9:30 a.m.

**Efren Mendoza+ (Fr. Lawrence Father)**

**Rickie+ (my son) By: Mom**

**Ellisa Speckmann+ By: Tony & Mary Ann Arnold**

**Pat Stone+ By: Garrett & Margaret**

**Lloyd Schindler+ By: Diedra Lagle**

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

- As of Thursday, March 6, we only have 53 tickets sold to the banquet. We need 100 to attend. Please buy your tickets now. Tickets sold after every mass.
- Stations of the Cross will be held during the Season of Lent at St. Joseph every Friday at 5 p.m. in English, and 6:00 p.m. in Spanish.
- Beginning the week of March 10-19, there will be a Nine Day Novena Prayer to Saint Joseph, the Patron Saint of Our Parish, weekdays at 8:30 a.m. in English and 6:30 p.m. in Spanish.

### Annual Banquet St. Joseph Catholic Church Fundraiser

AUCTION ITEMS.....we now have about a dozen items for our auction . 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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