

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission*

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

March 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

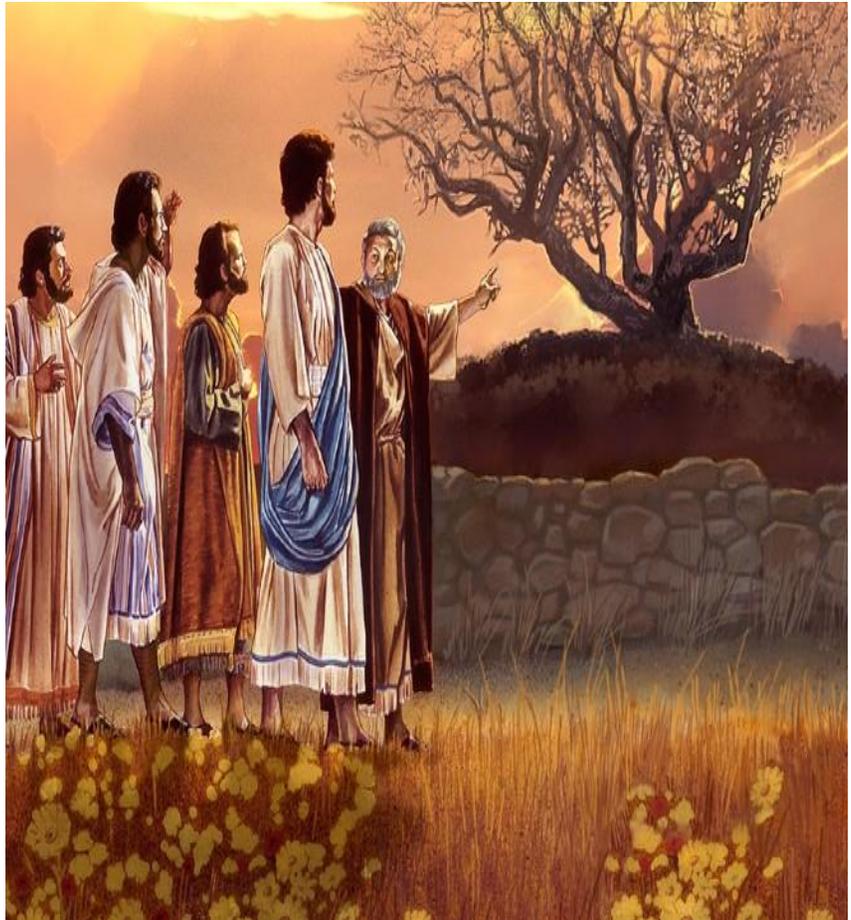
Middletown, CA 95461

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 - Third Sunday of Lent*

*Let Us Repent, for it is Our Sin that Causes Misfortunes, Not the God of Mercy*

**Excerpt from A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, March 20, 2022**

We must be careful: when evil oppresses us, we run the risk of losing our clarity and, in order to find an easy answer to what we are unable to explain, we end up putting the blame on God. And very often the bad habit of using profanities comes from this. How often do we attribute to him our woes and misfortunes in the world, to him who instead leaves us always free and hence never intervenes by imposing himself, but only by proposing himself, he who never uses violence and indeed suffers for us and with us! In fact, Jesus rejects and strongly contests the idea of blaming God for our evils: those persons who were killed by Pilate and those who died beneath the tower were not any more at fault than others, and they were not victims of a ruthless and vindictive God, which does not exist! Evil can never come from God because “He does not deal with us according to our sins” (Ps 103:10), but according to his mercy. This is God’s style. He cannot treat us otherwise. He always treats us with mercy.

But rather than blaming God, Jesus says we need to look within ourselves: it is sin that produces death; it is our selfishness that tears apart relationships; it is our wrong and violent choices that unleash evil. At this point the Lord offers the true solution. What is it? Conversion. He says, “unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Lk 13:5). It is an urgent call, especially during this time of Lent. Let us welcome it with an open heart. Let us convert from evil; let us renounce the sin that seduces us; let us be open to the logic of the Gospel, because where love and fraternity reign, evil no longer has power!

But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy, and he wants to help us here. He knows that we often repeat the same mistakes and the same sins; that we become discouraged; and perhaps it may seem that our commitment to doing good is useless in a world where evil appears to rule. Thus, after his appeal, he encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God. We must keep in mind God’s patience; the patience he has for us. He offers the comforting image of a fig tree that does not bear fruit during the accorded season but is not cut down. More time is given to it, another possibility. I like to think that a nice name for God could be “the God of another possibility”: God always gives us another opportunity, always, always. That is what his mercy is like. This is how the Lord is with us. He does not cut us out of his love. He does not lose heart or tire of offering us his trust again, with tenderness.

Brothers and sisters, God believes in us! God trusts us and accompanies us with patience, the patience of God with us. He does not become discouraged but always instills his hope in us. God is a Father and looks after you like a father. As the best of fathers, he does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past but confidently bets on your future. This is because God is close to us; he is close to us. Let us not forget that the style of God is closeness. He is close with mercy and tenderness. In this way, God accompanies us: with closeness, mercy, and tenderness.

Thus, let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to fill us with hope and courage, and kindle in us the desire for 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.**

## SEE YOU NEXT SATURDAY

**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  
Thank you for the amazing items for  
our auction.!**

### SUNDAY COLLECTION

**Our Lady of the Lake \$828  
St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$2283.20  
St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$444  
First Collection \$1535.30  
Second Collection \$2020.00**



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

**Sara F. Long+ By: Rick & Suzanna Macedo**

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

**Fr. James & all deceased priests**

**who served our parish By: Robert Krause**

**Friday, March 28, 8:30 a.m.**

**Fr. Balaswamy Govindu+**

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 are still selling tickets for the Feast with the Priest Raffle after each mass. \$10 each or 6 for \$50. 2 winners will be selected. Winner does not need to be present to win. Winners will be allowed to invite 2 guests for a magnificent meal with Fr. Lawrence, to be catered by Matt Medcalf, former Chef at the Greenview Restaurant. Tickets will be sold the evening of the event.**

- **Stations of the Cross during the Season of Lent at St. Joseph every Friday at 5 p.m. in English, and 6:00 p.m. in Spanish.**

- **Coffee Social this weekend after the 9:30 a.m. mass. Join your fellow parishioners for coffee, donuts and mingle.**

*.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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