

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission*

21396 Hwy 29, Middletown

March 30, 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 - Fourth Sunday of Lent*

*Our Father Always Forgives, Always Loves, and Always Rejoices to Welcome Us*

**Excerpt from A Spiritual Reflection by Pope Francis, Angelus Message, March 27, 2022**

The Gospel for this Sunday's Liturgy recounts the so-called Parable of the Prodigal Son (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It leads us to the heart of God, who always forgives compassionately and tenderly. Always, God always forgives. We are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness, but he always forgives. It [the parable] tells us that God is a Father who not only welcomes us back but rejoices and throws a feast for his son who has returned home after squandering all his possessions. We are that son, and it is moving to think about how much the Father always loves us and waits for us.

But there is also the elder son in the same parable who manifested his resentment in front of this Father. It can put us into crisis as well. In fact, this elder son is also within us, and we are tempted to take his side, at least in part: he had always done his duty, he had not left home, and so he becomes indignant on seeing the Father embracing his [other] son again after having behaved so badly. He protests and says: "I have served you for so many years and never disobeyed your commands." Instead, for "this son of yours," you go so far as to celebrate! (cf. vv. 29-30). "I don't understand you!" This is the indignation of the elder son.

Father goes out to plead with him: "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours" (v. 31). He tries to make him understand that for him, every child is all of his life. Parents know this well and are very close to feeling like God does. Something a father says in a novel is very beautiful: "When I became a father, I understood God" (H. de Balzac, *Le Père Goriot*). At this point in the parable, the Father opens his heart to his elder son and expresses two needs, which are not commands, but essentials for his heart: "It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive" (v. 32). Let us see if we too have in our hearts these two things the Father needs: *to make merry and rejoice*.

First of all, *to make merry*, that is, to demonstrate our closeness to those who repent or who are on the way, to those who are in crisis or who are far away. Why should we do this? Because this helps to overcome the fear and discouragement that can come from remembering one's sins. Those who have made mistakes often feel reproached in their own hearts. Distance, indifference, and harsh words do not help. Therefore, according to the Father, we have to offer them a warm welcome that encourages them to go ahead. "But father, he did so many things": a warm welcome. And we, do we do this? Do we look for those who are far away? Do we want to celebrate with them? How much good an open heart, true listening, and a transparent smile can do; to celebrate, not to make them feel uncomfortable! The Father could have said: "Okay, son, come back home, come back to work, go to your room, establish yourself and your work! And this would have been a good way to forgive. But no! God does not know how to forgive without celebrating! And the Father celebrates because of the joy he has because his son has returned.

And then, like the Father, we have to *rejoice*. When someone whose heart is synchronized with God's sees the repentance of a person, they rejoice, no matter how serious their mistakes may have been. They do not stay focused on errors; they do not point fingers at what they have done wrong but rejoice over the good because another person's good is mine as well! And we, do we know how to look at others like this?

Do we know how to rejoice for others? May the Virgin Mary teach us how to receive God's mercy so that it might become the light by which we see our neighbors.



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.



**PALM SUNDAY**

**APRIL 12, Saturday**

4:00 p.m. mass in English, **Our Lady of the Lake**

**April 13, Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Mass in English, **St. Joseph**

4:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish, **St. Joseph**

**HOLY THURSDAY SERVICES**

**APRIL 17**

5:30 p.m. in English, Mass of the Lord's Supper & Reposition of the Blessed

Sacrament, **St. Joseph**

8:30 p.m. in Spanish

Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 12 midnight

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES**

**APRIL 18**

12:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross in English

1:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord in English

5:00 p.m. (Via Crucis) Passion Play in Spanish

6:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord in Spanish

**EASTER VIGIL**

**Saturday, APRIL 19**

4:00 p.m. Mass in English, **Our Lady of the Lake**

7:00 p.m. Mass in English, **St. Joseph**

9:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish, **St. Joseph**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**APRIL 20**

9:30 a.m. Mass in English, **St. Joseph**

4:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish, **St. Joseph**



**Saturday, March 29, 4:00 p.m.**

**Gene Primevera, HFI+** By: Gloria Huck

**Silas Schneider(sp)** By: The Macedo Family

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

**Antone August+** By: Toni Vecellio

**Garrett Jr. Nelligan+** By: Garrett & Margaret

**James Serventi(HB)** By: His children (Catherine, Jennifer, David, & Stephanie)

**Tuesday, April 1, 8:30 a.m.**

**Kathryn Frank(sp)** By: Pam Quiroz

**Thursday, April 3, 8:30 a.m.**

**Forgotten Souls in Purgatory**

By: Tony & Mary Ann Arnold

**Friday, April 4, 8:30 a.m.**

**Debbie Cariela(sp)** By: Mom

**Debbi Frank(sp)** By: Pam Quiroz

Mass Intention Envelopes are in the back of both churches. Complete the envelope and put in the collection basket on Sunday, or bring to the office.

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Annual St. Joseph Banquet Fundraiser is always our biggest fundraiser of the year as the funds are held to pay the property and liability insurance bills as soon as they arrive in the office. We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to all who supported this event, by attending, donating, buying raffle tickets, and particularly those who have worked so hard to make it happen. More information next week.
- 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.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Our Lady of the Lake \$722

St. Joseph English 9:30 am \$2071

St. Joseph Spanish 4:00 pm \$346

First Collection \$1489 Second Collection \$1650



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"*



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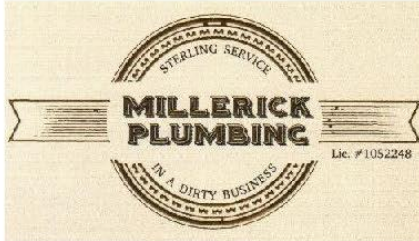
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