

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission, Loch Lomond*

21396 Hwy 175, Middletown

September 20, 2026

707 987-3676



## **Pastoral Staff**

Fr. Lawrence Mendoza - Pastor  
Sandy Hood - Office Manager

Pam Quiroz - Rel Ed Director  
Debbie Heidary-Newsletter/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.

Office 707 987-3676

### **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

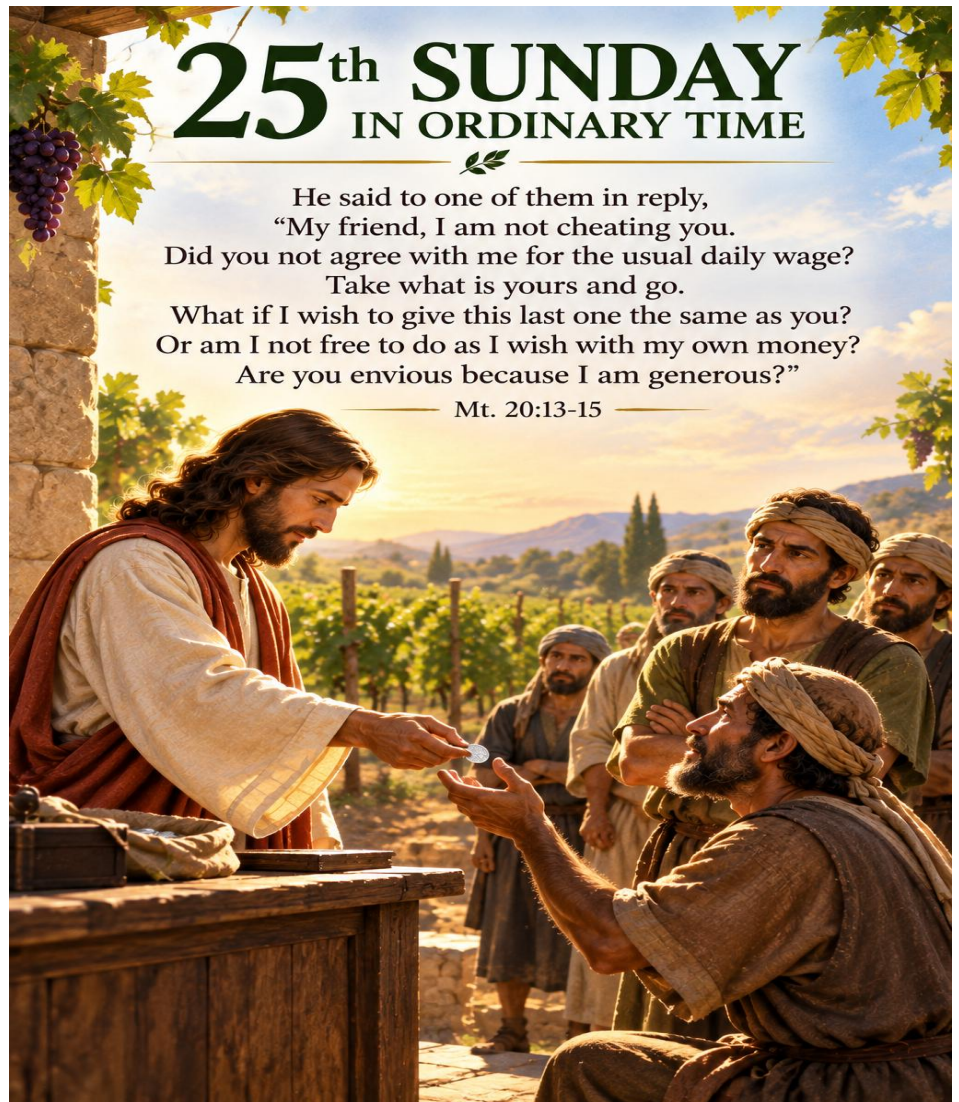
Middletown, CA 95461

Email: [stjoseph11@att.net](mailto:stjoseph11@att.net)

Website: [stjoseph-middletown.com](http://stjoseph-middletown.com)

Fax: 707 987-2792

Emergency # 707 513-3991



## 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to one of them in reply,  
“My friend, I am not cheating you.  
Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?  
Take what is yours and go.  
What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?  
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?  
Are you envious because I am generous?”

— Mt. 20:13-15 —

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

### **Saturday Mass 4:00 p.m.**

Our Lady of the Lake Mission – 12836 Hwy 175, Loch Lomond

### **Sunday Masses**

St. Joseph Church - Middletown 9:30 a.m. (English)

St. Joseph Church - Middletown 11:30 a.m. (English)

St. Joseph Church - Middletown 4:00 p.m. (Spanish)

### **St. Joseph Church Weekday Mass Schedule**

Tuesday through Friday 8:30 a.m. (English)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Every Friday)

Friday 6:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

7:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Every Friday)

## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### God's Radical Justice and Generosity by Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

On this 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, we read the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. Uniquely found in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 20:1-16), the parable tells the story of a landowner who hires laborers at different times of the day, some early in the morning at the start of a workday, others at different times later in the day and still others just one hour before the end of a workday. When evening came, the landowner tells his foreman to summon all of the laborers and to give them their pay, beginning with the last laborers hired and ending with the first. Those who worked only an hour are given a full day's pay. Those who worked all day see how generous the owner was with the workers who labored only an hour, so they thought that they would receive more. But they receive the same full day's pay. They complain to the owner saying, "These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat." The landowner responds, "I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ... Are you envious because I am generous?" On the surface, the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard appears to be an insult to common sense. Surely, those who work longer hours should be paid more than those who work shorter hours. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. A deeper read shows us that the landowner did pay on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner definitely acted justly. Reflecting on the parable, we realize that the parable goes beyond that. We see a landowner who is not simply just. We see one who is exceptionally and radically just. He gives those who labor in the field for a full day their due pay. But he also gives a full day's wage to those who work only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous to us ... as we also receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due us! God owes us nothing, yet he offers abundantly. May we not be tempted to think that our own actions deserve more of God's reward or abundant mercy than the actions of others. God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. God's radical generosity reminds us that the Kingdom of Heaven is a gift, not a strict reward earned by human effort! Moreover, we learn from the parable that God's call goes out all day long ... and it is never too late for us to heed the call, turn to God and experience His love and mercy! Jesus follows the parable with the statement, "Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." We have heard many interpretations of this statement but one, in the context of the parable, could very well be that all believers, no matter how long or hard they work during this lifetime, will receive the same reward ... the Kingdom of Heaven!



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**Paul Senz    Fr. Thomas Aquinas  
Pickett, O.P.**

## SCHEDULE

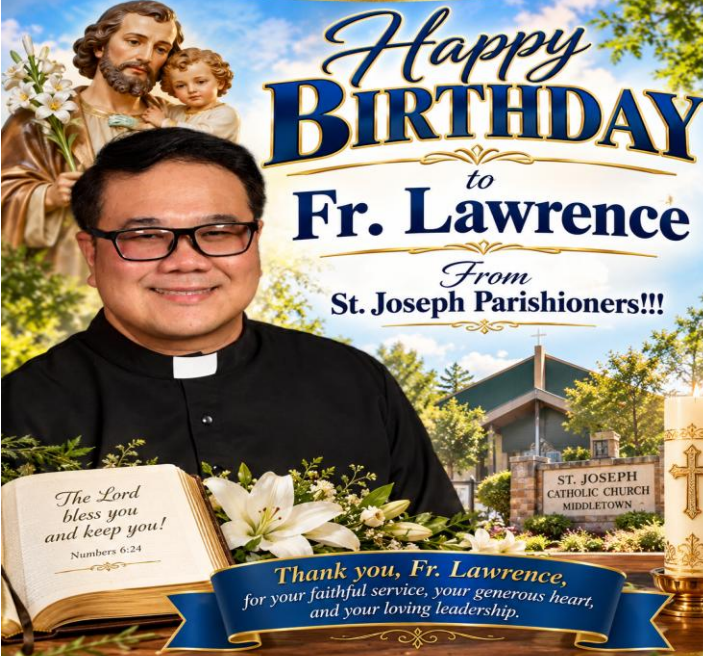
|          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am  | On Site Registration / Check In      |
| 9:00 am  | Holy Mass                            |
| 10:15 am | Session 1: Fr. Thomas Aquinas, O.P.  |
| 11:30 am | Session 2: Mary Ann Wiesinger-Puig   |
| 12:30 pm | Lunch / Visit Exhibits               |
| 1:30 pm  | Session 3: Paul Senz                 |
| 2:45 pm  | Session 4: Fr. Robert McTeigue, S.J. |
| 4:00 pm  | Conference Ends                      |

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[srdiocese.org/recongress](http://srdiocese.org/recongress)



# Happy BIRTHDAY

to  
**Fr. Lawrence**

From  
**St. Joseph Parishioners!!!**

*The Lord  
bless you  
and keep you!  
Numbers 6:24*

**Thank you, Fr. Lawrence,**  
for your faithful service, your generous heart,  
and your loving leadership.

### Feast in the Vineyard Gratitude Message- Fr. Lawrence

With a truly grateful heart, I want to thank everyone who helped make our Feast in the Vineyard, Dining Delights Raffle, Dessert Silent Auction, my Birthday Celebration, and my Ordination Anniversary such beautiful and memorable occasions. Thank you to everyone who attended, supported, volunteered, donated, and simply came to celebrate with us. A special thank you to our food providers and chefs—Lisa Lambert and Family, Laura Rosales, Cherry Walls, Delia Neilson, Yvette Scalese, and Joan and Bob Hume—and to Hardester and Rosales Market for your generous support. We are also very grateful to all the local restaurants who donated gift certificates for our Dining Delights Raffle. Special thanks to Pat Giacomini, Jane Cauley, Joan O'Keeffe, and Toni Vecellio for reaching out to the restaurants, securing the generous donations, and coordinating the raffle.

My sincere appreciation goes to Jane Cauley, our chairperson, and the entire Feast in the Vineyard Committee for your countless hours of planning and hard work. And a very special thank you to Jose and Sonia Ramirez and family of Bantry Vineyard for preparing, graciously welcoming us and providing such a beautiful setting. Most of all, thank you to our wonderful St. Joseph Parish family and our mission communities. Celebrating my birthday and ordination anniversary surrounded by all of you was a blessing I will always treasure.

Thank you for making these celebrations so beautiful and unforgettable!

*please  
pray for  
the sick*

**Please pray for the sick in our parish, our families & friends, and those who care for them...** Charlotte Baker, Larry Boll, Kathleen Brune, Rick Freeman, Michael C, Corkey Cauley, Debbie Cariela, Marjean Evans, Barbara Farkas, Steve Foster, Cheryl Fua, Cianna Gazperony, Hector Guerra, Alysia Hash, Lou Horvath Jasmine Hash, Laura Hilton, Barbara Kaelin, Doug Kloppenburg, Joe & Mary Ann Kenny, Helen Kruljac, Pat Lambert, Ines Mendoza, Elsa Meyer, Shirley Milner, John Morris, Don Nielsen, Kathryn Nielsen, Maxine Lair, Joseph Nelligan, Andres Ochoa, Joaquina Ortega, Kate Pavelchik, Cindy Perez, Nancy Ray, Elinor Rich, Grace Q, Stefan Ripich, Maureen Rixen, Silas Schneider, Jim Serventi, Kirt Smartt, Judith Spears, Debbie Spicart, Rebeca Marie Stanley, Naomi Tambornini, Leslie Thomas, Rachel Torez, Toni Vecellio, and **special intentions for all who suffer from cancer.**

For the St. Joseph Parishioners, sign up to **FORMED.ORG**



by Scanning the QR Code

**How to Register** (1) Visit [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) (2) Click "Sign Up" (or "Sign In" if you already have an account) (3) Search for our parish by name (4) Enter our parish zip code (5) Provide your email address

Once registered, you can begin exploring a wide variety of faith-enriching programs right away. Take advantage of this wonderful gift and deepen your Catholic faith.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* We are pleased to announce that **Sandra "Sandy" Hood** has been nominated by Fr. Lawrence as **St. Joseph Parish, Middletown's nominee for the Santa Rosa Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Women of the Year 2026 Award**. The celebration and awards ceremony will take place on **Saturday, October 17, 2026, at St. Francis Solano Catholic Church in Sonoma**.

The schedule will begin with:

**9:30 a.m.** – Registration and Continental Breakfast

**10:30am-** Rosary in the Church

**11:00 a.m.** – Holy Mass celebrated by **Bishop Robert Vasa Luncheon, Presentation of the Women of the Year Awards and Prize Drawings**

The cost of the luncheon is **\$35.00 per person**.

We invite the women of our parish and anyone who would like to support Sandy to join us for this special celebration.

**Reservation forms are available at the back of the church.** Please complete your form and return it to **Fr. Lawrence no later than October 1.**

Let us come together as a parish family to celebrate and support Sandy and give thanks for her many years of faithful service and dedication to our parish and the Church.



**Saturday, September 19, 4:00 p.m.**

**Terencia Villegas++** Requested by Jon and Joy Blackwell

**Sunday, September 20, 9:30 a.m.**

**Fr. Lawrence Mendoza (Birthday)** Requested By Fernande Family

**Sunday, September 20, 11:30 a.m.**

**Fr. Lawrence Mendoza (Birthday)** Requested by Didi Manarang

**Tuesday, September 22, 8:30 a.m.**

**Terencia Villegas++** Requested by Jon and Joy Blackwell

**Wednesday, September 23, 8:30 a.m.**

**Terencia Villegas++** Requested by Jon and Joy Blackwell

**Thursday, September 24, 8:30 a.m.**

**Ruth Schindler++** Requested by Diedra Lagle

**Friday, September 25 8:30 a.m.**

**Menrado Delgado+** Requested by Deacon Ruben & Almia De los Santos

**Note:** There will only be one Mass Intention per Mass.

Submit your intentions early.

### **Announcements continued...**

\*\*\*Please be informed that Fr. Lawrence will be out of the country for approximately one month to complete the necessary process for his H-1B visa stamping. Fr. Lawrence will leave on Friday, October 2, 2026, and God willing, plans to return on Saturday, October 31, 2026. Please keep him in your prayers during his travels and visa process. We pray for a safe journey and a successful completion of all the necessary requirements. Fr. Lawrence is grateful for your understanding, prayers, and continued support during his absence.

\*\*\*Coffee Social on September 27, Sunday after 9:30am Mass..

\*\*\*🍕 **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIZZA SOCIAL!** 🍕

Join us for a fun and delicious Pizza Social hosted by the Knights of Columbus on Sunday, October 11, Columbus Day Weekend, following the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses at St. Joseph.

🍕 \$6.00 includes:

- One slice of pizza
- One cup of soda or one bottle of water

Come enjoy some food and fellowship with your fellow parishioners! A portion of the proceeds will go toward the completion of the Grotto at St. Joseph Church. Come hungry, support our parish, and enjoy the fellowship!

\*\*\***OCTOBER MASS COUNT**

The Diocese of Santa Rosa has asked all parishes to conduct a Mass Count throughout the entire month of October. During this time, we will be counting the number of adults and children who attend Mass at our parish and mission communities. We need your help! Please make every effort to attend Mass faithfully throughout the month of October and invite your family members and friends to join us! Your presence matters, and every person who comes to worship with us is an important part of our parish family.

### **COLLECTION – September 12 & 13**

**Our Lady of the Lake 5:00 p.m. - \$1,006**

**St. Joseph 9:30 a.m. - \$2,154**

**St. Joseph 11:30 a.m. - \$375**

**St. Joseph 4:00 p.m. - \$491**

**Total Collection \$4,026**

*Visit our website for a copy of the bulletin*

*[stjoseph-middletown.com](http://stjoseph-middletown.com)*

*"I am the vine; you are the branches"*

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