

# St. Joseph Parish, Middletown

*Our Lady of the Lake Mission, Loch Lomond*

21396 Hwy 175, Middletown

September 27, 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

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

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not,'

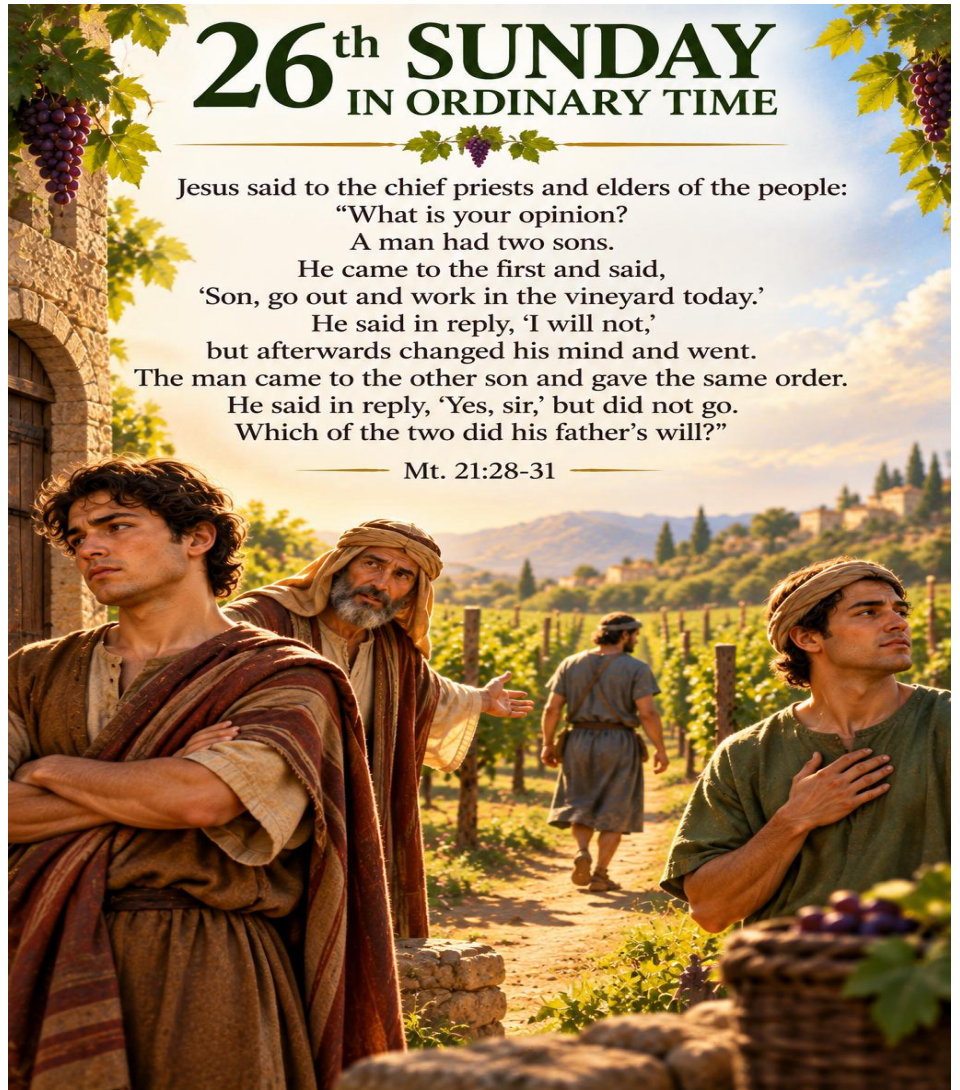
but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

— Mt. 21:28-31 —



## 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)

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

### Doing Our Father's Will by Fr. Lawrence Mendoza

On this 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time we sense the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. The chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of His authority. Jesus refuses to respond and instead, He questions them through our parable today. In our Gospel Reading (Matthew 21:28-32), we read the Parable of the Two Sons. As many are familiar with, the first son initially refuses his father's request to work in the vineyard but later changes his mind and goes. The second son readily agrees but never follows through. And Jesus poses this question to the chief priests and elders, "Which of the two did his father's will?" They answer, "The first." Yes, all would agree that "actions speak louder than words" so that even if he disobeyed in words, the son who did the work ordered by the father did the father's will. Right answer, but Jesus convicts them for their failure to respond to John the Baptist's "way of righteousness." They fail to heed John's call of repentance while the tax collectors, prostitutes and other sinners heed John's call. Thus, Jesus tells them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." Such is another demonstration of Jesus' statement, "Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." A deeper reflection of the parable, however, also leads us to say that neither son actually did the father's will. For what really is the "Father's" will? For both sons to say yes and agree to go and work in the vineyard. The parable posed by Jesus was to present the two types of sons then ... the first son representing the tax collectors and sinners who said no but later had a change of heart and the second son representing the chief priests and elders who said yes but did not act accordingly. But there is actually a third son, that is Jesus, who shows us that doing the Father's will is doing so both in words and in action! And by virtue of our baptism, we are expected to live out our new life in Christ, follow the teachings of Jesus and the Church ... by doing the will of our Heavenly Father and growing in holiness! Let us all joyfully thank God for giving us a third son ... who never said no to God, never failed to follow through! And let us all learn from Jesus that our words and actions be reflective of doing our Father's will!

### **SCHEDULE OF OCTOBER MASSES**

**October 3 (Saturday)- OLOL 4:00pm- Fr. Marlon Atendido**

**October 4 ( Sunday) – SJ 9:30am-Fr. Thomas Reeves (Carmelite)**

**October 4 (Sunday)- SJ 11:30am-Fr. Fr. Thomas Reeves (Carmelite)**

**October 4 (Sunday)-SJ Spanish Mass- Fr. Rowell Gumalay**

**October 10 (Saturday) OLOL 4:00pm\_Fr. Rowell Gumalay**

**October 11 (Sunday) SJ 9:30am-Fr. Rowell Gumalay**

**October 11 (Sunday) SJ 11:30am- Fr. Rowell Gumalay**

**October 11 ( Sunday) SJ 4:00pm- Fr. Rowell Gumalay**

**October 17 (Saturday) OLOL 4:00pm- Fr. Alvin Villaruel**

**October 18 (Sunday) SJ 9:30am-Fr. Alvin Villaruel**

**October 18 (Sunday) SJ 11:30- Fr. Alvin Villaruel**

**October 18 (Sunday) SJ 4:00pm- Fr. Alvin Villaruel**

**October 24 (Saturday) OLOL 4:00pm**

**October 25 (Sunday) SJ 9:30am-Fr. Rowell Gumalay**

**October 25 (Sunday) SJ 11:30am- Fr. Rowell Gumalay**

**October 25 ( Sunday) SJ 4:00pm- Fr. Rowell Gumalay**

**The Church will be open on Tuesday and Thursday for Prayer and Rosary at 9:00am.**

**On Friday's at 8:30am for Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Deacon Ruben Delos Santos**  
**On Friday at 6:30pm- (Spanish) Prayers and Rosary**

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**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, Middletown.

**\$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!*

*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

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\*\*\* 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 26, 4:00 p.m.**

**Justino & Lolita Tidas++ Requested by Glenda Keplinger**

**Sunday, September 27, 9:30 a.m.**

**Jeannine Weber++ Requested By Hal Weber**

**Sunday, September 27, 11:30 a.m.**

**Arturo Hermogeno++ Requested by Deacon Ruben and Almia De los Santos**

**Sunday, September 27, 4:00 p.m.**

**Jonathan Tidas++ Requested By Glenda Keplinger**

**Tuesday, September 29, 8:30 a.m.**

**Alma & Antone August++ Requested by Toni Vecellio**

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

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

**Thursday, October 1, 8:30 a.m.**

**Diane Jean Stacey++ Requested by John and Mary Jo Gawley**

**Friday, October 2 8:30 a.m.**

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

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

Submit your intentions early.

**Announcements continued...**

\*\*\*Coffee Social today after 9:30am and 11:30am Masses.

\*\*\*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.

\*\*\***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 19 & 20**  
**Our Lady of the Lake 5:00 p.m. - \$807**

**St. Joseph 9:30 a.m. - \$1,581**

**St. Joseph 11:30 a.m. - \$573**

**St. Joseph 4:00 p.m. - \$318**

**Total Collection \$3,279**

*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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