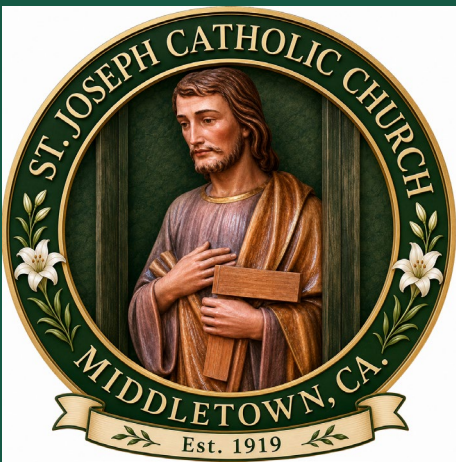




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St. Joseph Catholic Church

Newsletter – August 2026

Dear Parishioners,

Blessings and Peace!

August was a beautiful month of grace and celebration as we reflected on the Glory of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. We began with the Transfiguration of the Lord which inspired us to also reflect on the glory revealed in the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, an assurance of our own sharing in the Glory of Christ! Her Assumption reminded us to persevere in deep faith and humility, and obedience to God! A week later, we celebrated the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, recognizing Mary's continuing role in heaven as our Mother and Queen. United with her Son, she remains close to us and our tried-and-true intercessor! May we continue our devotions to her and emulate her virtues as we journey to the glory of heaven.

Our Parish Directory photo sessions were wonderful opportunities to come together as a Parish family. Thank you to everyone who participated. These photographs will become part of the lasting memory and history of our Parish community.

This month we also held our first retreats for youth and couples. I am deeply grateful to Sr. Teresa Malave and the Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity for leading these retreats. I thank everyone who participated, and I am especially grateful for the beautiful feedback about how spiritually enriching the experience was. My sincere thanks also go to the Servidores de Maria for the support and to Pat and Lisa Lambert for generously opening their beautiful property, which provided such a peaceful environment for prayer, silence, reflection and encounter with the Lord.

My heartfelt gratitude for the completion of the beautiful garden at the Grottos of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Joseph. The initial cost of materials of \$10,000 was reduced by Alex Moya of Rancho Supply to only \$4,000. Truly grateful for his generous discount on the materials. My special thanks to Jose and Sonia Ramirez of RGW Groundskeeping for leading the work by bringing their tractor and for donating \$1,000 and to the Servidores de Maria for donating \$1,000 and to all who donated anonymously. The same gratitude goes to all volunteers who helped with cleaning and gardening, especially Laura Rosales and Bernardo, Filemon Sanchez, Lourdes Cervantes, Aram and Angelita Thuesen and Ruben Cruz. May this beautiful space become a special place for prayer and devotion for our Parish.

I also thank everyone who participated in the training for Lectors and Altar Servers. These ministries are not simply tasks to be performed at Mass but are also sacred services to the Lord and His Church. The Lector is entrusted with proclaiming the Word of God clearly and reverently so that God may speak to the hearts of His people while the Altar Servers are entrusted to competently assist the priest with practical and ceremonial tasks before, during and after the Mass. Thank you to all who generously offered their times and gifts in service to our Parish.

As we begin a new academic year, we welcome our students back to Religious Education. We are especially grateful to our dedicated teachers, aides and our Director of Religious Education, Pam Quiroz, for preparing lessons, materials and schedules, and for supporting our catechists. For this year's classes, following are the teachers and their aides: confirmation; the teacher will be Martha O'Brien aided by Lynn Lohner and Monica Huck; first-year reconciliation, teacher will be Gena Obaza aided by Zoi Brasico, Connie Gehring and Cathie Loomis; and for first communion, the teachers will be Olivia Campus and Veronica Diaz aided by Jasmin Blancas. I thank the teachers for their dedication and welcome our new teacher's aides, Connie Gehring, Cathie Loomis, Lynn Lohner, Monica Huck and Jazmin Blancas. Special thanks to Pat Giacomini for her continuous help. The classes for first communion will commence on September 6, Friday and for confirmation is on September 8, Sunday

MASS TIMES

Saturday

Anticipated Mass

Our Lady of the Lake, Loch Lomond

5:00 p.m. English

Sunday

St. Joseph, Middletown

9:30 a.m. English

4:00 p.m. Spanish

11:30 a.m. Our Lady of the Pines

English

(Memorial Day Weekend—Labor Day Weekend)

Weekday Masses

St. Joseph, Middletown

Tuesday—Friday 8:30 a.m. English

Friday

Every Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1st Friday at 9:00 a.m. Exposition and Benediction

of the Blessed Sacrament

6:30 p.m. Spanish

Every Friday at 7:00 p.m. Exposition

and Benediction of the

Blessed Sacrament

Office Hours

By appointment 707-987-3676

July 2026 Collection Totals

7/5/2026	\$	5,012.00
7/12/2026	\$	4,736.00
7/19/2026	\$	3,767.00
7/26/2026	\$	3,542.00
Total Received	\$	17,057.00
Goal	\$	17,202.00
Difference	\$	(145.00)

We observe the steady growth of our students. For now, twenty-two students have enrolled for our first-year reconciliation classes, sixteen students for the first communion classes and ten students for the second-year confirmation classes. This year, we do not have first-year confirmation classes. Let us pray for all our students as they continue their journey of faith and for the teachers and their aides as they impart the values of the Kingdom of God.

Next month, we hope to begin the renovation of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Cobb, following the permission granted by Bishop Robert Vasa through the Diocese of Santa Rosa. I am deeply grateful to the Our Lady of the Lake Guild for their continued fundraising and to our generous donors, especially Suzanna and Rick Macedo for their \$10,000 donation. I am also deeply grateful to our contractor, Sergio Ornelas, for his generosity and willingness to work with us. He reduced the original cost of renovation of \$36,300 to \$27,800. With the completion of our special Novena to St. Joseph, we confidently look forward to the beginning of this important work of preserving our beautiful Church.

On Saturday, September 19, at 4:45 p.m., we will celebrate our annual Feast in the Vineyard at Bantry. I warmly invite everyone to join us in this joyful Parish celebration and to give thanks to God as I celebrate my 46th birthday. As always, we will enjoy Mexican, American and Asian cuisines and an addition this year, Italian cuisine. Entertainment will be provided by Irma Lopez and the Middletown High School Ballet Folklórico. We will also have desserts for the silent auction and we will introduce the Dining Delights raffle. I am grateful to the many restaurants and businesses throughout Lake County that generously donated gift certificates. Once again, proceeds from this event will support our Multi-Purpose Hall and Storage Project.

As we continue our journey together, let us entrust our families and our Parish community to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and our Parish Patron St. Joseph ... to guide, protect and bring us ever closer to the Glory of Christ!

To God be the Glory!!!

Prayers for the sick.

In His Service,



Fr. Lawrence Mendoza
Pastor

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, 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 Tomez, Toni Vecellio, and special intentions for all who suffer from cancer.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

** Effective the first Sunday following Labor Day Weekend, Our Lady of the Pines outdoor Mass will close for the winter and the 11:30 a.m. Mass will revert to Mass at 11:30 a.m. at St. Joseph. In addition, the Mass at Our Lady of the Lake will revert to 4:00 p.m. from 5:00 p.m.

***VOLUNTEERS needed to help clean St. Joseph Church every other Thursday at 9:30 a.m. For information call Lynn Thacher 707 890-0793.

*** Silent Dessert Auction for the Feast in the Vineyard: Please consider donating a dessert for our Silent Dessert Auction at the Feast in the Vineyard. Sign up by writing your name and the dessert item you would like to bring. We encourage everyone to participate and share their favorite homemade desserts. Thank you for your generosity and support!