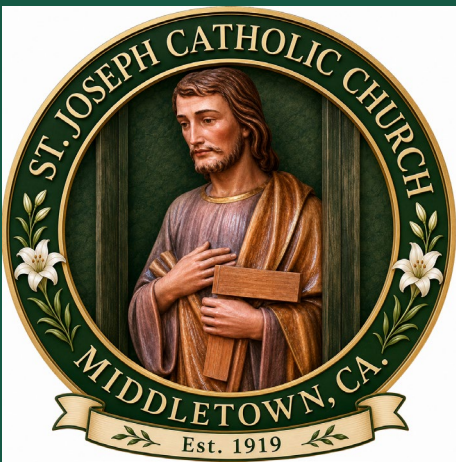




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St. Joseph Catholic Church

Newsletter – September 2026

Dear Parishioners,

Blessings and Peace!

September is always special to me because it is the birth month of the Blessed Virgin Mary ... and mine, too! This year, I celebrated my 46th birthday. With a profoundly grateful heart, I thank God for His continued blessings and for all that He continues to accomplish in my life and vocation as a priest!

As the warmth of summer slowly gave way to the crispness of autumn, creation reminded us of the gentle rhythm of change ... an invitation for us to pause, reflect and renew our relationship with God. In this beautiful month dedicated to Mary, specifically to Our Lady of Sorrows, let us continue to learn from her humility, faith, complete trust in God's plan and that human suffering finds meaning and strength when united with Christ's love!

After the Labor Day weekend, our summer Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Pines concluded for the season, and we returned to our regular Sunday Mass schedule at St. Joseph Church. My special thanks to everyone who helped make our summer outdoor Masses such an inspiring experience of faith.

This month, we also welcomed our children back to Religious Education and began our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes. Let us continue to pray for our children and all who are journeying toward full communion with the Catholic Church ... that the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them as they grow in faith and knowledge of Christ. Let us also offer our special prayers and thanks for all our catechists.

I want to sincerely thank everyone who made The 5th Annual Feast in the Vineyard a remarkably successful and memorable event. It was very encouraging to see the noticeable increase in attendance this year, with approximately 200 people joining us. Thank you to everyone who supported, volunteered, donated, baked, purchased desserts and graced the event with their presence! Celebrating my birthday and ordination anniversary at the Feast in the Vineyard was a blessing I will always treasure. Thank you to all for making it so wonderful and unforgettable.

My heartfelt thanks to the following: Toni Vecellio for making my birthday cake, large enough for everyone to enjoy; our food providers and chefs ... Lisa Lambert and family, Laura Rosales, Cherry Walls, Delia Neilson, Yvette Scalese and Joan and Bob Hume; Hardester's and Rosales Markets for their generous support; the local restaurants and businesses that donated gift certificates for our Dining Delights Raffle; Pat Giacomini, Jane Cauley, Joan O'Keeffe and Toni Vecellio for reaching out to local businesses, securing generous donations and coordinating the raffle; Irma Lopez and the Middletown High School Ballet Folklórico for sharing their talents that added so much joy to our celebration; and Jose and Sonia Ramirez and their family of Bantry Vineyard for preparing, graciously welcoming us and providing such a beautiful venue for our celebration.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to Jane Cauley, our chairperson, and the entire Feast in the Vineyard Committee for their countless hours of planning, preparation and hard work.

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

Prayers 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.

As I mentioned in our Mass announcements, I will be out of the country for approximately one month to complete the necessary processing for the stamping of my H-1B visa. By the time you read this Newsletter, I may already have arrived in the Philippines. God willing, I plan to return on Saturday, October 31, 2026, in time for the celebration of All Saints' Day. Please keep me in your prayers ... for my safe journey and for the successful completion of my visa processing. I am wholeheartedly grateful for your understanding, prayers and continued support during my absence.

This month, we also began the renovation of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Cobb. I am deeply grateful to all who generously donated to this project ... parishioners, members of the Cobb community, friends and to those who are not even members of our Parish. And I would like to correct an error I made in our last month's Newsletter. Suzanna and Rick Macedo donated \$1,000, not \$10,000 as I erroneously reported. I sincerely apologize for the error. To date, we have received \$29,000 in donations, which is enough to cover the total cost of the renovation project. I am utterly amazed and humbled by everyone's generosity, which enabled us to proceed with the project without any funding delays.

I am also grateful to Rick Macedo, Dan Wheelan, Tom O'Brien and Tim Chastain for helping peel the bark from the logs that will be used to repair the back wall of Our Lady of the Lake Church. Special thanks to the Prather family for donating the logs. Please continue to pray for the success of this project. God willing, we hope to have the renovation completed by the end of next month.

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 count the number of adults and children attending Masses at our Parish and Mission Churches. I ardently request everyone to please find the time to faithfully attend the Sunday Masses throughout the month of October ... not only for the count, but also as a commitment to worship God, receive spiritual nourishment and unite with the faith community in remembering Christ's sacrifice for our salvation! Moreover, please invite your family members and friends to join as well ... and again, not only for the count in the month of October, but also for every month thereafter!

As autumn begins, let us enjoy the gentle breeze, the rustle of amber leaves and even the chill of the fading sunshine, while remembering that every season of life is a gift from God. Let us entrust our families, our Parish communities, and all our intentions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and our Parish Patron Saint Joseph!

To God be the Glory!!!

In His Service,

St. Lawrence

August 2026 Collection Totals		
8/2/2026	\$	5,833.00
8/9/2026	\$	4,282.00
8/16/2026	\$	3,374.00
8/23/2016	\$	3,858.00
8/30/2026	\$	3,295.00
Total Received	\$	20,642.00
Goal	\$	17,202.00
Difference	\$	3,440.00



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

*Good Food
Good Fellowship
A Stronger Parish!*

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



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
MIDDLETOWN