



St Michael Catholic Parish

Where we Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples and Bring Christ to People.

458 Maple St
Livermore, CA 94550
925-447-1585
www.StMichaelLivermore.com

JULY 10, 2016

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

LUKE 10:29



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Times

Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 8:30 am
Saturday: 8:30 am
Wednesday: 7:00 pm in Spanish

Saturday Vigil
5:00 pm in English
7:00 pm in Spanish

Sunday
6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am 11:00 am
and 6:00 pm and 12:30 pm in Spanish

Sign Language 1st Sunday 11:00 am
Vietnamese Mass 4th Sunday 3:30 pm

Confession

Saturday in the Church
9:00 am and 3:45 pm English
6:15 pm Spanish
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
2:30 pm in the Convent Chapel

Anointing of the Sick

Every 1st Saturday after the 8:30 am
Mass or by appointment: 925-447-1585

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours
access code, call 925-980-4826.

Clergy

Rev. Van Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Rafael Hinojosa, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence
Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired
Rev. Dcn Rob Federle, Admin
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer
Rev. Deacon Bob Vince

Pastoral Council

Frs. Van, Rafael and Alfred, Deacon Rob
Federle, Alice Aufderheide, Ricardo Echon,
Michael Pereira, Dave Ruth, Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo
Anne Lindquist, Dave Parks, Frank Draschner,
Ken Varallo, Irving Garcia and Cynthia Garay

Finance Council

Fr. Van Dinh, Fr. Rafael Hinojosa, Deacon Rob
Federle, Cynthia Garay, Kathy Rooney, Dave
Ruth, Vanessa Suarez

St Michael School

925-447-1888

Faith Formation

925-447-8814 M-Th 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Bulletin Editor

TinaGregory@StMichaellLivermore.com
925-344-7127

Reflect &

Who is My Neighbor? by Opening the Word

Today's first reading is part of Moses' long, final commendation to his people before he is told by God that "you are about to sleep with your fathers," and the still harder message that "this people will rise and play the harlot after the strange gods of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake me and break my covenant which I have made with them" (Deuteronomy. 31:16, RSV). But Moses has given them fair warning to "heed the voice of the LORD," which, he explains is clear and "very near to you." Not only is it clearly written in the book Moses gives them, but it is also in their mouths and hearts.

We sometimes think that religious truths must be sought by searching in distant lands—India, perhaps, or China. Perhaps a Zen master in Japan has the answers to the human quest for esoteric knowledge. But God enters history and explains, first through the Jewish people and then, fully, in Jesus, what he wants of us. He doesn't keep any secrets. He isn't interested in playing "gotcha." He makes it plain, as Moses says later in this same address, that it is simply a matter of choosing between "life and death, blessing and curse" (Deuteronomy 30:19, RSV). In the moral life, the critical issue is not so much knowing what to do as finding the will to do what we know.

In the second reading, we have a beautiful Christological canticle where St. Paul explains why Moses can say in our first reading that the command of God is not mysterious and remote, but already in our mouths and hearts. Jesus Christ, who St. John in the prologue to his Gospel calls the Logos, the very Word by which the Father called the universe into being, is the one in whom, through whom, for whom all things were made, such that "in him all things

hold together." Jesus, who is the incarnation of the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, is the very pattern of the universe.

If we have eyes to see, the eyes of faith, then when we look at the ordered and harmonious structure of the material universe we will see him. He is its purpose, its key, its goal. The fullness of the Gospel, as St. Paul preaches it here, is that Jesus is not just our divine Savior who lived and died for our salvation at the center of human history—that is unimaginably fantastic, but not grand enough—he is the whole meaning of the world, the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He is the very grammar of the language our tongues speak and the very genetic code that drives the beat of our hearts. To return to the words of Moses, he is "very near" to us indeed.

In the Gospel, the critical issue—in keeping with the theme of the first reading, "Heed the voice of the LORD"—seems to be contained in Jesus' final words, "Go and do likewise." This sophisticated scholar of the law who seeks to "test" Jesus and to "justify himself," has his own convictions tested and is finally moved to see that mercy is the issue and not justice. Even the lawyer's question itself, "Who is my neighbor?" is turned around by Jesus, who asks instead, "Which of these three...was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

That is, the issue is not so much, "Who do I have to treat as my neighbor?"—to which the usual response would have been, "the sons of your own people" (Leviticus 19:18, RSV). The real question is "Have I been neighbor to everyone, treating each as one of my own?" The scholar of the law must himself admit that the hated Samaritan, "the one who treated him with mercy," is the one who acts as neighbor, to the

Discuss

man, a Jew, who was not one of his “own people.” The word for “mercy” in the Greek is eleos, the same word we use in a different form when we say at the start of Mass, Kyrie eleison, “Lord, have mercy.” As the Our Father teaches us, we must give mercy to get it, and so we, like the lawyer, must “go and do likewise.”

The Gospel of Suffering

“The parable of the good Samaritan belongs to the Gospel of suffering. For it indicates what the relationship of each of us must be toward our suffering neighbor. We are not allowed to ‘pass by on the other side’ indifferently; we must ‘stop’ beside him. Everyone who stops beside the suffering of another person, whatever form it may take, is a good Samaritan. This stopping does not mean curiosity but availability. It is like the opening of a certain interior disposition of the heart, which also has an emotional expression of its own. The name ‘good Samaritan’ fits every individual who is sensitive to the sufferings of others, who ‘is moved’ by the misfortune of another. If Christ, who knows the interior of man, emphasizes this compassion, this means that it is

important for our whole attitude to others’ suffering. Therefore one must cultivate this sensitivity of heart, which bears witness to compassion toward a suffering person. Sometimes this compassion remains the only or principal expression of our love for and solidarity with the sufferer.”

—Pope St. John Paul II

Gospel Meditation

Imagine you were in the crowd listening to Jesus’ story that day. When Jesus talked about the merciful Samaritan, everyone there had a very clear picture in his or her mind of what Samaritans were like and how they felt about them. Try to imagine what you might be thinking as Jesus begins his parable.

How do you feel when you hear Jesus say that if you want to be faithful, you need to focus your love on your most hated enemies? As you listen to him speak, who is the neighbor, or group, or person that you struggle to extend love and mercy to? Now imagine that Jesus comes to you and asks you what you are going to do for the Samaritans in your life. What do you tell him?



Sunday Readings

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 10, 2016

First Reading -- Heed the voice of the LORD. It is something very near to you, already in your hearts; you only need to carry it out (Deuteronomy 30:10-14).

Psalm -- Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live (Psalm 69) or Psalm 19.

Second Reading -- All things were created through and for Christ Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20).

Gospel -- To be a neighbor, show love by treating others with mercy, as did the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 10:34 -- 11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-8; Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Ps 94:5-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-14ab, 15-21; Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Is 38:10-12abcd, 16; Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14; Mt 12:14-21

Saints and Special Observances

Monday: St. Benedict

Wednesday: St. Henry

Thursday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Friday: St. Bonaventure

Saturday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Blessed Virgin Mary

Prayers

For Our Parish

For those who, having spent 33 days in preparation, will consecrate themselves (or re-consecrate themselves) to Jesus through Mary on Saturday, July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

For our children who will be enjoying Scripture Safari Vacation Bible School next week, that they may come closer to Jesus through praying and playing.

For teens and adults who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation, that the Holy Spirit may inspire them to register for Confirmation preparation programs.

For the parents of children entering first grade through fifth grade, that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to register them for Faith Formation classes.

For all the intentions of those who come to the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel throughout the day and night.

For our clergy, staff and ministry leaders.

Special Intentions

For the couples who are experiencing difficulties in their marriages and struggles with parenting their children.

For Brian who is recovering from an accident.

For the person who is battling a serious mental illness, that Christ may bring His presence of peace to the center of the chaos of their mind.

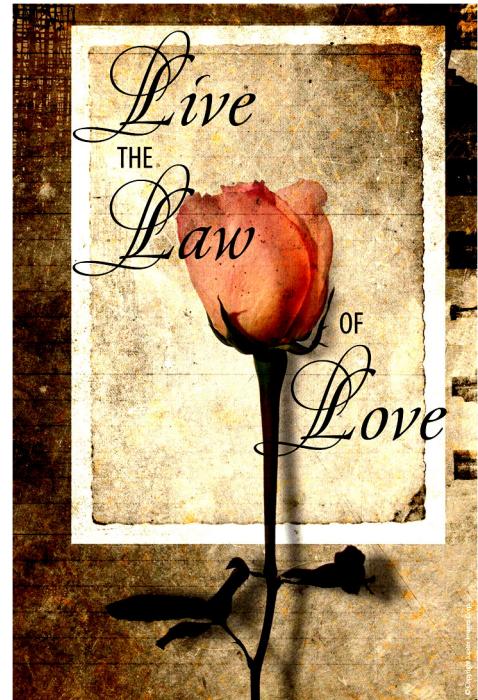
For the two people who have been away from the church for a long time and are taking small steps toward returning to the Sacraments.

For the family who is agonizing over a very difficult decision that they need to make.

For the people who are crippled by addiction and for the friends and family members who love them.

For the repose of the souls of Margaret Ann Roemer and William Stephen Rieg.

For all the souls in purgatory.



**God, my Father, may I love You in all things and above all things.
May I reach the joy which You have prepared for me in Heaven.
Nothing is good that is against Your Will, and all that is good comes from Your Hand.
Place in my heart a desire to please You and fill my mind with thoughts of Your Love, so that I may grow in Your Wisdom and enjoy Your Peace.
Amen.**

Mass Intentions

Saturday 7/9

8:30am Fr. Stanislaus Poon
5:00pm Mass for Our Parish
7:00pm Gregorio & Gliceria Arevalo †

Sunday 7/10

6:45am Anthony Sousa †
8:00am Carl Bennert †
9:30am Antony Pham Van Hoi †
11:00am Leticia Marie Lessley †
12:30pm Jesus Valencia Ateaga †
6:00pm Carol Roseball & Family

Monday 7/11

7:00am Harry & Marie McVey
8:30am Ilido Pereira †

Tuesday 7/12

7:00am Harry & Marie McVey
8:30am Ignacio T. Cruz †

Wednesday 7/13

7:00am Harry & Marie McVey
8:30am Judy Ballonado
7:00pm Soto Valencia Family

Thursday 7/14

7:00am Gene Dove
8:30am Paul Sorensen †

Friday 7/15

7:00am Harry & Marie McVey
8:30am Richard J. Gandolfo, Jr.

Saturday 7/16

8:30am Mildred Wilson †
and Tom & Jackie Heise
5:00pm Larry DeRosa †
7:00pm Soto Valencia Family

Confirmation Season

When we study the Sacraments, we learn that Confirmation is a sort of “stirring up” of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we were given in Baptism. In fact, Confirmation is linked so closely with Baptism that originally (and still today in certain rites of Catholicism), infants received the Sacrament of Confirmation immediately after they were baptized. This is not so today only because of the happy problem that there are simply too many baptisms for the bishop (the proper minister of Confirmation) to attend.

As with all Sacraments, there must be sufficient preparation before receiving Confirmation. Preparation helps to instill the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Catholic faith. Confirmation is important, because God wants to shower us with His gifts.

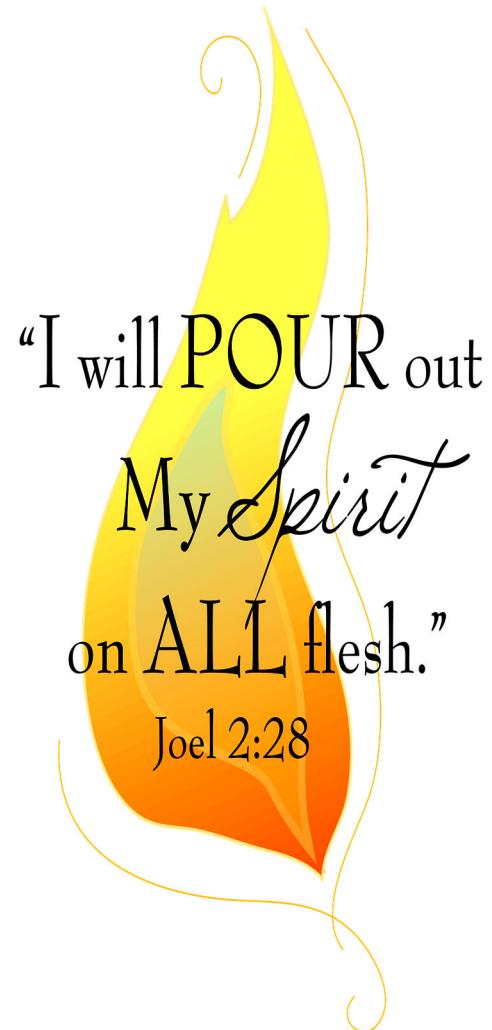
So maybe you missed your chance to get confirmed in high school. Maybe you missed too many classes, or church wasn’t a priority to you at the time, or you wanted to wait until you were “more mature” in your faith, etc. Well guess what?! Confirmation is what will give you the graces to build and grow in that mature faith! While it’s admirable to want to avoid committing sacrilege by receiving a Sacrament you don’t believe in, if your reason for avoiding Confirmation is simply because you are not yet bold or confident enough in your faith, then you should know that Confirmation is what will actually give you the graces to have that boldness and that confidence! We have preparation classes for both high school students AND adults.

High School Students

Pick up your Confirmation registration packet from the church office or download from StMichaelLivermore.com. The deadline is August 24.

Adults (age 18+)

Confirmation classes for adults begin September 7. Contact Marjorie Melendez at 925-447-2925 or RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com to sign up.



5 Ways to Open to the Holy Spirit

1. Prayer. Form the habit of praying to the Holy Spirit on a frequent basis. You could pray the traditional prayer to the Holy Spirit: “Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle within us the fire of your divine love.”

2. Acts of the Apostles. Read the book from the Bible, “The Acts of the Apostles”. Written by the Evangelist Saint Luke, this book clearly shows the powerful working of the Holy Spirit in the Apostles as well as in the formation of the early church.

3. Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Get to know the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. You received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit the day of your Baptism. These Gifts were fortified the day of your Confirmation. However, these Gifts must be used and exercised. If these Gifts are not used then they become rusty, dormant, and inactive. Memorize them and study them. Here they are: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Reverence and Wonder and Awe in the Lord’s presence.

4. Silence. We must cultivate zones of silence in our daily lives. The Holy Spirit speaks to a heart that is ready to listen in silence.

5. Docility. Silence is a prerequisite to move on to the next step—docility to the Holy Spirit. A person who is living in the state of grace, honestly pursuing a life of holiness and seeking perfection will be exposed to heavenly inspirations that come from the Holy Spirit.

Sign Up!

Altar Server Training Throughout the Summer

Pope Francis addressed thousands of altar servers and said:

"Serving at the altar is a privileged way to draw closer to Jesus. This in turn enables you to open yourselves to others, to journey together, to set demanding goals and to find the strength to achieve them."

Are you being called to be an altar server? The altar server program at St Michael's is open to boys and girls 5th grade and up. Training sessions are being held throughout the summer. For more information, please leave your name and phone number with the parish office admins at 447-1585 Ext.10

Register for Scripture Safari Vacation Bible School

Children entering grades K-6 are invited to Vacation Bible School July 25-29, Please pick up the registration form in the church office.

Register Your Child for Faith Formation

Students entering first grade through fifth grade this fall are encouraged to join our Faith Formation program. Registration packets are available in the church office, Faith Formation office, or www.StMichaelLivermore.com. Return them to the Faith Formation office M-Th between 9:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Register for OnFire NorCal Jam



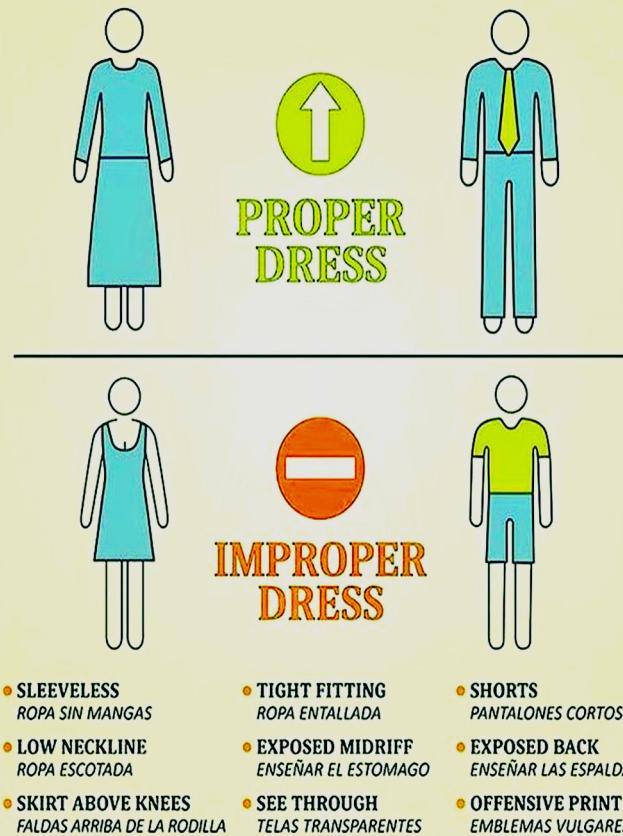
Attention all high school students!

Join us at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo to celebrate Mass with over 4,000 Catholic teens, to be inspired by great speakers, to enjoy an all-you-can-eat lunch, to ride rides till we drop, and to rock out to an amazing praise and worship concert!

It all happens Saturday, September 17. The cost is \$65 per person. We leave St Michael's at 6:00 am and return at 9:00 pm.

Payment and permission slip are due to the church office by August 15.

PLEASE DRESS MODESTLY FAVOR DE VESTIRSE CON MODESTIA



Dress Code for Mass

As the summer temperatures rise, Fr. Van reminds us to take care to dress modestly when we come to Mass. Certainly God is not expecting us to line up for a dress code inspection. However, He does inspect our hearts. Let what we present on the outside - our dress, our behavior, our words - reflect the respect for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that we hold inside ourselves.

"People have no problem, it seems, dressing for weddings, funerals, office parties, or dates -- but seem to think that dressing to meet Almighty God at the Mass is passé. But dressing for Mass is simply a matter of showing proper respect, not only for God, but for others around you.

It's certainly not a matter of showing off one's finery -- lots of people don't even have fine clothes. Certainly, too, some people may attend certain Masses on their way home from their construction jobs, for example. Fine! There is nothing to worry about in these things. Never let circumstances out of your control make you feel embarrassed or keep you away from the Sacraments! But one should always wear clothes that are modest, and, if possible, all things being equal, clean and the nicest clothes one has."

Upcoming

Baccalaureate Mass for All Grads

Saturday, July 23 at 5 pm Mass
Potluck to follow in the Hall

Fr Alfred is celebrating his graduation and invites all graduates to join him at a special Baccalaureate Mass to give thanks to God on Saturday July 23 at the 5:00 pm Mass. A potluck dinner will follow in the parish hall.

Please call Cheryl Ruth at 510-406-2326 if you can bring a dish for the potluck to help make this graduation celebration a success.

Deacon Steve Greco on "The Holy Spirit ALIVE in Scripture"
Followed by a Healing Service
Tuesday, October 18 6:30 pm in the Church



Come experience how to unleash the Holy Spirit in your life, making Scripture come alive! Deacon Steve Greco, our special guest speaker, will teach on the power of the Holy Spirit, and how the healing power of the Lord restores His people, spiritually, emotionally and physically. He will inspire us on how to allow Scripture to come alive through

the power of the Holy Spirit that was given to us at Baptism and Confirmation.

This event is a must for Small Groups studying the Bible!

Join us on October 18 in the church.

6:30pm: Songs of praise and worship
7:00pm: Holy Spirit ALIVE in Scripture
7:45pm: Healing Service

Deacon Steve is the founder of Spirit Filled Hearts Ministry and gives talks and healing services throughout California and the United States. He currently is host of a weekly radio show, "Empowered by the Spirit" heard on Immaculate Heart Radio and is the author of a number of books.

For more info, visit:
spiritfilledhearts.org

Small Group Registration

Sunday, September 11

St Michael parishioners will have the opportunity to register to join a small home-based group of eight to grow in faith and build strong communities. We will have three program formats available:

- Study the Bible and the faith.** Parishioners will have access to the full catalog of bible study programs and other excellent Catholic faith programs through Ascension Press. Group members will order their own workbooks (around \$20 per study). Included are the video lectures for each session which will be accessible online. At least one person in the group needs to have access to the internet (such as a laptop, phone or tablet).
- Reflect on the Sunday Mass Readings.** Grow deeper in faith with the Sunday's Liturgy of the Word using reflections found in the parish bulletin or through other sources. No internet access is required for this format.
- Gather for a Catholic Book Club.** Choose from a large catalog of great Catholic books for just \$3 per book (when ordering six or more). No internet access is required for this format.

For more info, call or text Tina at 925-961-7231

St Michael Parish Fall Festival

Fun for the Entire Family!

♦ **Games for Kids and Adults, including:**

- Haunted House
- Bingo
- Dart Throw, Basketball Shoot, Frog Jump and many more (over 20 game booths)

♦ **Live Entertainment**

- ♦ **Ethnic Foods from our Diverse Parish Cultures**
- ♦ **Burgers, Hotdogs, Cotton Candy & Snow Cones**
- ♦ **Beer, Wine, Soda, Water & Juices**
- ♦ **K of C "Bayou Ball" Dinner & Dance**
- ♦ **Live & Silent Auctions**
- ♦ **Raffle Drawing**

Saturday, October 1

11:00am - 10:00pm Food and Game Booths
K of C "Bayou Ball" Dinner & Dance
5:00pm - 6:30pm Family Dinner Seating
6:30pm - 8:00pm Adult Dinner Seating
8:00pm - 10:00pm Dance & Costume Contest



Sunday, October 2

7:30am - 11:00am Buffet Breakfast
10:00am - 4:00pm Food and Game Booths
1:00pm - 2:30pm Silent Auction
2:30pm - 3:30pm Live Auction
4:00pm Raffle Drawing & Festival Closes

OCTOBER 1 & 2, 2016
St. Michael School Courtyard

**At St. Michael Parish in Livermore, it is our mission to
Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples and Bring Christ to People.**



Jesus...
Know Him, Trust Him, Share Him
One Body, One Spirit

Staff Contact List

Clergy

Fr. Van, Pastor 925-447-1585 x 16
Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com
Fr. Rafael, Parochial Vicar 925-447-1585 x 18
Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com
Fr. Alfred, Priest in Residence 925-447-1585 x 21
Deacon Rob Federle, Business Admin 925-447-1585 x 14
RobFederle@StMichaelLivermore.com
Deacon Bill Archer, Pastoral Assoc. 925-447-1585 x 12

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TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com
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KathyHawkins@StMichaelLivermore.com

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Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com
JaNet Hancock, Music Director 925-292-5071
Music@StMichaelLivermore.com

Charmie Vince, Religious Ed 925-447-8814 x 242

CharmieVince@StMichaelLivermore.com
Priscilla Stutzman, Youth Ministry 925-447-1585 x 11
Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA 925-447-2925
RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com
Ana Fregoso, RICA 925-344-7150

St Michael School

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SallyDouthit@StMichaelLivermore.com
Mary Beasley, Admin 925-447-1888 x 221
MaryBeasley@StMichaelLivermore.com

Ministry Contact List

Adult Catechesis

Adult Catechesis Team
925-858-1342
Charismatic Group (English)
925-449-7848
Charismatic Group (Spanish)
925-339-6411
Social Concerns
925-201-8666
Vocations Committee
jouy1235@gmail.com

925-606-8784
Parish Communication
925-961-7231

Fellowship

Golden Friends
925-447-8198
Columbianettes
925-606-7991
Young Ladies Institute
925-447-8895

CYO Track www.smisctrack.org

CYO Basketball www.smsccyo.org

Girl Scouts
925-294-8504
Cub Scouts
925-876-3589 kstevens4scouts@gmail.com
Boy Scouts
925-321-3614
Columbian Squires
925-447-4299
Legion of Mary Junior Presidium
925-216-0309

Charitable Works

Backpack Project
925-455-1089
Dress-a-Girl
925-352-8447
Open Heart Kitchen
925-447-4344
Homebound Ministry
925-443-6829
Knights of Columbus
925-449-4828
St Vincent de Paul
925-373-7472
Santa's Secret Service Ministry
925-447-1585 x 0
Welcoming Ministry
925-294-4178

Fortifying Families

Annulments
925-447-1585 x 12
Birthright
925-449-5887
CounterPoint
Support for family and friends of addicts
925 606-8784
Covenant of Love Date Nights
925-455-4234
Grief Support Ministry
925-455-0944
Marriage Preparation (English)
925-447-1585 x 12
Marriage Preparation (Spanish)
925-960-1524
Mothers Fellowship
949-874-7404
Natural Family Planning
925-577-4499
Quinceañera
925-606-5763
World Wide Marriage Encounter
925-292-9585

Liturgy and Music

Liturgical Ministers
925-447-8814 x 222
Altar Linens
925-784-5390
Altar Society
925-443-7394
Altar Servers
925-447-1585
Music Ministry
925-292-5071

Christian Initiation

Baptism for Infant-7 year olds
925-447-1585 x 0

Funerals

Holy Angels Funeral & Cremation
at St Michael Cemetery
925-455-9696

Multi Cultural

Filipino Block Rosary Group
925-373-9059
Grupo de Oracion
925-339-6411
Virgen de Guadalupe
925-640-8821
Italian Catholic Federation
925-846-0897
Portuguese Community
925-455-8359
Vietnamese Community
lac.dinh@gmail.com

Evangelization

Charismatic Prayer (English)
925-449-7848

Kids and Teens

Charismatic Prayer (Spanish)
925-339-6411

Legion of Mary
925-223-7790

Catholic Detention Ministry

St Michael School
925-447-1888

K-5 Faith Formation
925-447-8814 x 304

Formacion de Fe
925-371-6214

High School Youth Ministry
925-447-1585 x 11

Vacation Bible School (summer)
925-443-3143

Prayer and Devotions

33 Day Consecration Ministry
pacatham@gmail.com
African Prayer Group
foatuegbu@yahoo.com
Blue Army of Mary
925-447-3845
Eucharistic Adoration Ministry
Adoration@StMichaelLivermore.com
Medjugorje Prayer Group
925-447-7878
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
925-223-7790



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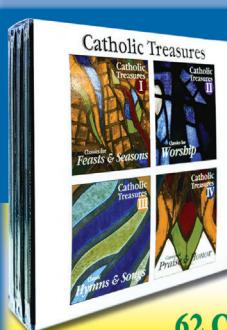
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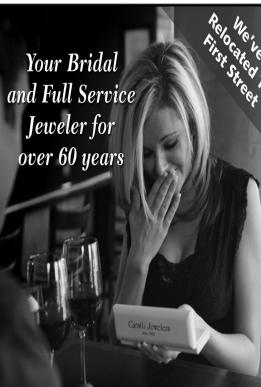
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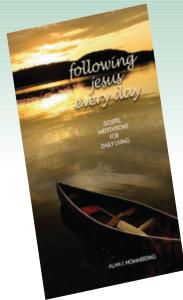
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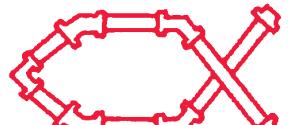
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10 de julio de 2016

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura -- Escuchen la voz del Señor. Es algo muy cerca de ti, y está en tu corazón; sólo necesitas observarla (Deuteronomio 30:10-14).

Salmo -- Escúchame, Señor, porque eres bueno (Salmo 69 [68]) o Salmo 19 (18).

Segunda lectura -- Todas las cosas fueron creadas mediante y para Cristo Jesús (Colosenses 1:15-20).

Evangelio -- Ser un buen vecino, mostrar amor tratando a otros con misericordia (Lucas 10:25-37).

ANDA Y HAZ TÚ LO MISMO

La señorita González, la decana de los estudiantes de la Escuela Secundaria Olimpo, ya estaba cansada de regañar a Mateo, a pesar de que le caía muy bien. "Cuatro castigos después de clase en dos semanas es demasiado".

Sin embargo Mateo permanecía en silencio. Sólo después de que la señorita González fuera en una ronda matutina por el vecindario descubrió la verdadera razón de las tardanzas de Mateo. Pataplún, cayó la silla de ruedas por las escaleras. Era Mateo, sujetando a Dolores mientras ayudaba a que la bajar-

ran por las escaleras y luego la empujaba hasta la parada de autobús.

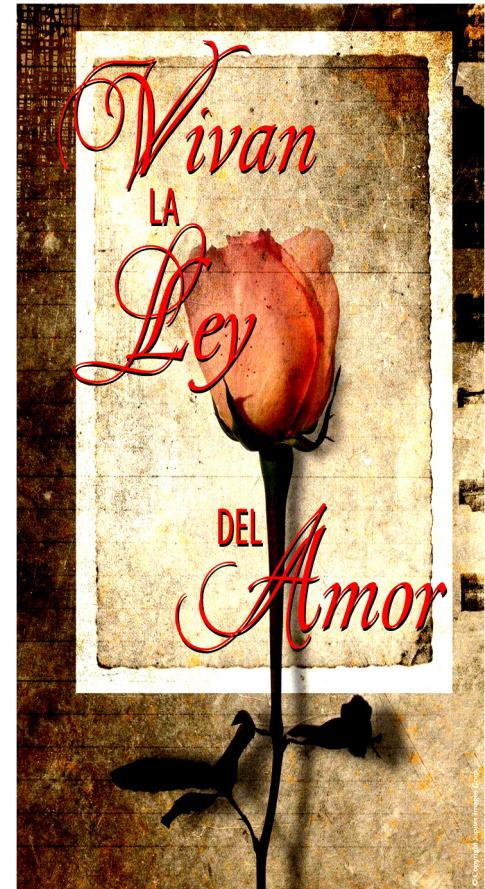
"Es una chica de mi grupo de jóvenes de la parroquia" Mateo le explicó a la señorita González.

Hay muchas formas de describir las acciones de Mateo -un acto de bondad al azar, marcar una diferencia en la vida de una persona a la vez. Jesús entendería. Cuando el abogado identificó correctamente al buen samaritano como el que había tratado al hombre herido con compasión, Jesús simplemente dijo: "Anda y haz tú lo mismo" (Lucas 10:37).

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Desde 1913, en la ciudad de Puntarenas, Costa Rica, la Virgen del Carmen es reconocida como la Virgen del Mar. En aquel año un barco llamado el Galileo naufraga en una tempestad y el pueblo angustiado por sus seres queridos recurrió al templo de la Virgen para pedir auxilio. Algunos días después todos los tripulantes fueron rescatados y llevados a Puntarenas. Según los tripulantes, mientras las lluvias y vientos amenazaban al Galileo una mujer los animó a que se echasen al agua y nadaran a tierra firme. Allí ella los alimentó y los acompañó hasta que fueron rescatados.

Llenos de alegría, el pueblo llevó a los rescatados a la iglesia para dar gracias. Estos reconocieron a la Virgen del Car-



men como la mujer que los había ayudado. Desde entonces el sábado más cercano al 16 de julio, el pueblo celebra en grande la fiesta del Carmen con grandes desfiles de barcos y yates. Entre música y fuegos artificiales los costarricenses vienen en embarcaciones adornadas desde toda la nación a celebrar con la Virgen del Mar que también se encuentra en una embarcación.

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