



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA
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925-447-1888 smsliv.org

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November 10, 2019
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

God is not God
of the dead,
but of the living,
for to him all are

alive.

~ Luke 20:38

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Summary

As you begin your study on the readings for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, reflect on one particular difficulty or trial you are currently undergoing, and offering up that pain to Jesus.

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of scary things—wars, famines, persecution, plagues, earthquakes, and signs falling from the skies. Yet in the midst of his warnings about the judgment coming on earth and the persecution his followers will face, Jesus exhorts his disciples, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Perseverance is the key. Will the disciples remain faithful to Jesus when their faith is tested most—when they face trials, sufferings, and even persecution? For first-century Christians who might be hated for the sake of their faith in Christ, the words of Jesus would provide reassurance and hope. Jesus will always strengthen and comfort those who persevere in faith. And we can rest in this same hope today.

Just as the early Christians persevered in times of trial, so too are we called to persevere in the daily crosses the world might inflict upon Christ's followers today. While not all of us are called to literally die for the faith like the early Christian martyrs did, we all are called to die to ourselves in many little ways each day through the sacrifices we make for our faith and by persevering

through the misunderstanding, ridicule, and even hostility we might face for remaining faithful to Christ in our secular world today.

Unpack the First Reading Malachi 3:19-20a

Malachi, a name which means "my messenger," is the last word of the Old Testament as it falls last in the canon of its books.



PERSISTENCE IN TIMES OF TRIAL

Writing about 400 years before the coming of Christ, Malachi has some scathing things to say about the irreverence of the worship and immorality of the actions of the priests and people of Israel after the return from Babylonian exile. God threatens to throw dung in the faces of the priests for offering defective sacrifices and not teaching the true doctrine of the covenant. He chastises the laity for being unfaithful to their marital covenants and for cheating the poor.

That's the setting for our reading which speaks of the Day of the Lord, described as "blazing like an oven." This section of Malachi begins in 3:16 and is directed to

"those who fear the Lord." These are the ones who'll be spared God's wrath and enjoy the "sun of justice." Malachi leaves us with this beautiful and consoling image. As with all of the prophets, judgment always finishes with mercy.

Unpack the Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

One of the wonderful characteristics of Christianity is that it's a livable creed. God intends that all be saved and so he has revealed to us a way of living that's moderate and ordered and which doesn't crush human nature, but rather brings it to its fullest flower.

Paul is believed to have been a tentmaker by trade. In this portion of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, he counsels them on the value of labor; of simply doing the business at hand in a quiet and industrious manner. Part of this same reading appears in the Lauds or Morning Prayer for the first Monday in the four-week cycle of Psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours; the official prayer of the Church. So the first workday in the Church's official prayer book gives us this encouragement to make our labor a prayer to the creator who labored in creating the cosmos and then, as a carpenter in Nazareth, and finally, to give us eternal life by bearing the cross to Calvary.

Unpack the Gospel Luke 21:5-19

Jesus gives a warning in outline form that elaborates on the

prophecy he uttered in Luke 19:41-44 about the fall of the Temple. The importance of that event owes much to the symbolism represented in the construction of the Temple and its significance to the Jewish people. The Jews believed that God had designated the Temple Mount in Jerusalem as the place where he had specifically directed that his name would be hallowed. Jewish lore held that the Temple rested at the center of the universe and at a place where heaven, earth, and the underworld intersected. The Temple was constructed in three parts (Outer Court, Holy Place, and Holy of Holies) which corresponded to the three great divisions of creation (water above the heavens, land, and the water around the land). The Temple was a kind of microcosm, a universe miniature.

When Jesus foretells its destruction, he's in effect saying that the old world is passing away and that time is pregnant with a new age which is about to come to birth. That new age is the kingdom of God, the New Covenant in Christ. That's the world we inhabit as Catholics, citizens of that

kingdom, and heirs of that covenant.

Reflect & Discuss

In our world today, suffering (of any kind) is seen as the greatest of evils and is to be avoided at all costs. Jesus, however, calls us to face the trials that may come our way with courage. Take some time by yourself right now and reflect on a troubling area in your life. Are you approaching that difficulty with confidence and hope in the Lord or with discouragement, frustration, or despair? Watch the short Opening the Word video found at FORMED.org, then ponder these questions:

According to the video presenter, Jules Miles, how was cataclysmic imagery about earthquakes, plagues, and stars falling from the sky used in the Old Testament? What changes with Jesus' use of the imagery? If you were a Jew during the time of Christ, what would you interpret the "end of times" to mean? Knowing this, why do you think the Church uses these readings when it does in the

liturgical calendar?

The message of today's Gospel reading is meant to inspire hope in those who hear it. Why were early Christians in need of this message? Why is this message applicable for us today, too? How are we also called to respond by this Gospel message?

Digging Deeper: Christ's Love Conquers All!

"What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?...No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

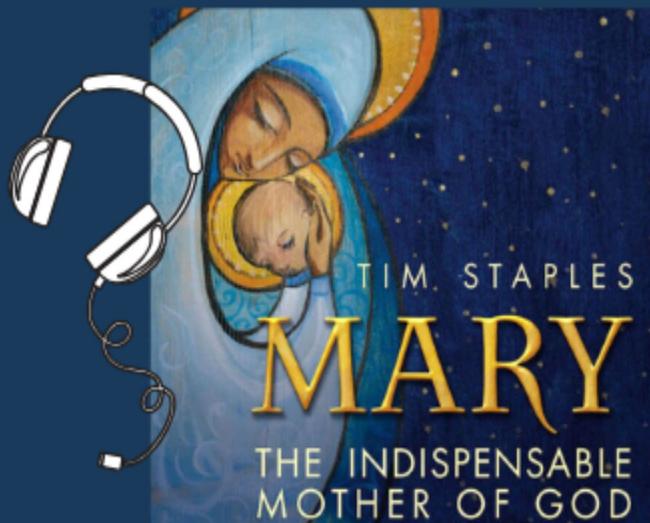
—Romans 8:35, 37-39

Reprinted with permission from Augustine Institute from the Opening the Word Leader Guide available on FORMED.org

LISTEN FREE!

Tim Staples explains the incredible impact that the Church's understanding of Mary has on our spiritual lives, and the profound way that Marian doctrines and dogmas safeguard what we believe about her Son.

Go to formed.org and listen to **Mary: The Indispensable Mother of God.**



Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 11/9

8:30am Edward J. O'Brian
5:00pm John Sarboraria †
7:00pm Mary & Ed Volpe

Sunday 11/10

6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am Russel Mueller †
9:30am Isabel Nunez †
11:00am Mass for Our Parish
12:30pm Gloria Gonzalez †
6:00pm Steven Hary

Monday 11/11

8:30am Joseph Mary Pham Yeu Dang †

Tuesday 11/12

8:30am Rogelio Meza Robels †

Wednesday 11/13

8:30am John & Kate Egan †
7:00pm Ana Maria Herrera †

Thursday 11/14

8:30am John Sarboraria †

Friday 11/15

8:30am Richard Boerger †

To request a Mass intention, please visit the Church Office in person.

It is customary to offer a \$10 donation for each Mass intention. This stipend is given to the priest who celebrates the Mass.



Prayer Meditation

Prayerfully consider the words of Jesus in today's Gospel passage: "By your perseverance, you will secure your lives." Imagine Jesus speaking those words specifically to you. To what situation in your life right now might Jesus' exhortation for you to persevere in faith apply the most? Is there a certain trial or difficulty in your life where you are wavering in your trust in the Lord? How might perseverance in faith and greater trust in God help you find greater security in your life?

Resolution

In prayer, consider that particular area of your life where you are struggling. Ask Jesus to show you at least one specific way you can live out his teaching to persevere in faith in that area, and ask him for the grace to help you to do that this week.

Weekly Prayer for Alpha

For our 40 Alpha guests who have made the decision to explore more meaning in their lives, that they may have a powerful encounter with the Lord.

Prayer Team

Our prayer team of over 70 members receives prayer requests weekly. Please send your requests or join the team by emailing Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com



Silence in Church

Dear St Michael Family,

I just came back from the Holy Land, and it was very evident that guards in all basilicas are serious about silence in the church, especially in the churches of the Holy Sepulchre, the Annunciation in Nazareth and the Nativity in Bethlehem. They were not shy at all about approaching people to ask them keep quiet and pray, to not take pictures during the liturgy, to take off their hats and only allow appropriate dress for church visits and liturgy. I observed that tourists from non-Christian countries humbly and obediently follow these simple rules. I noticed the same policy of reverence when I visited churches in Rome and the Basilicas of our Lady of Fatima and Lourdes... even in synagogues and in mosques!

Yet, returning home, I observed the opposite. Here at St Michael's we have grown accustomed to talking loudly and socializing inside the church before and after Mass.

Friends, there is a time and place for everything. A time to eat, play, work, rest, have fun and pray. I grew up in a culture that taught that churches are meant for prayer (communal or individual) and not a place to socialize and have conversations. It is my desire to follow the good example of the churches throughout the Holy Land and Rome, asking for silence within our Church walls.

Is talking in Church as sin?

If what is being said is not itself sinful, it is morally neutral to talk. However, Catholic moral teaching tells us that "circumstances" change the moral character of actions. Talking in Church when not demanded by necessity is at least venially sinful for the following reasons:



1) It is the Lord's House, which Jesus taught was "a house of prayer" (Mt 21:13) and thus should be used according to its purpose. This is a violation of justice against God, for whom we should have reverence.

2) It is a violation of justice against actual neighbors who are trying to pray. Again, necessity permits talking, just as it permits practicing the music before Mass and so on. However, most conversations are trivial and could go on elsewhere at another time. This puts them in the category of unnecessary. The truth of this is shown by the strict guard for silence maintained in the chapels of the Roman basilicas where people are praying. Even in the areas where the tourists are

viewing the architecture and art, talking above a whisper is not permitted. This is an accurate reflection of the Catholic respect for the church and for others.

3) Finally, it is a violation of charity, since as Christians we should be going "out of ourselves" to look after others first. If a person crassly and knowingly disregarded others trying to pray, or worst of all did so with malice or contempt, it could even be a mortal sin against charity.

These are basic principles of Catholic moral theology and need no other authority than that.

If friends approach us before or after Mass, wanting to start a conversation, a simple gesture inviting them to follow you outside the Church to talk is appropriate. We give a great witness to our fellow Catholics when we first lead by example. Sometimes we want to greet a new family that has joined our parish, this is a very good thing for us to do to show our hospitality. A friendly smile within the church is sufficient. After Mass, greet them in the Courtyard or other outside gathering spaces. Respect and reverence for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament comes first.

Be still and know that I am God!
(Psalm 46:10)

May God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

Reminders for the Week

Thanksgiving Day

- Mass at 8:30 am and 10:00 am. Bring bread and beverages in a basket for a blessing!
- Adoration Chapel closes after the 8:30 am Mass and reopens on Friday at 7:00 am.
- Parish Offices closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 29.

Next Weekend

- Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest on Saturday from 9 am—3 pm in the Hall
- KofC Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, 7:30—11:30 am in the Hall
- Mass in Tagalog on Sunday at 3:30 pm in the Church
- Santa's Secret Service Gift Appeal at All Masses



Deacon Dave's

Casa del Pombo
 Christmas Display
 Grand Opening
 Saturday, November 30
 6:30 pm
 352 Hillcrest Avenue

DONATE A TURKEY OR HAM

Saturday, November 23, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 and after the weekend Masses November 23 & 24

St Vincent de Paul Food Locker
 Behind St Michael Church

THANKSGIVING MASS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28
8:30 AM AND 10:00 AM

Bring the bread and beverages for your family feast in a basket for a special blessing

Collection Report

11/3/19	\$18,025.43
Month-to-Date	\$18,025.43
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
% Reached	21%
Faith Direct	
Maintenance (for Oct)	\$7,155.02

Advent Events



Why Church Matters

November 28 - December 19, videos delivered via email

Reflect on the importance of Church in this series by Bishop Robert Barron clicking the link in the Friday Flocknote or by contacting Tina Gregory 925-667-4051 Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com

Drive Through Prayer

December 2 - 20, Monday-Friday, 5:30 -6:30 pm

We invite anyone in the Livermore area, regardless of faith, to drive up to our courtyard to receive prayer.



Advent Reconciliation

Wednesdays, Dec 4, 11 and 18, starts at 5:30 pm in the Church

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 5:30 pm, followed by individual (bilingual) confessions (4 priests available) until benediction at 7:00 pm. Mass in Spanish will begin at 7:15 pm.

XLT [Exalt]

Friday, December 6 at 7:00 pm in the Church

Praise, Worship, Adoration and Reflections for youth and families.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

December 12

4:30 am Mananitas followed by 5:00 am Mass in Spanish.

8:30 am Mass in English.

7:00 pm Mass in Spanish.

Simbang Gabi

December 16-24, Mass at 5:30 am in the Church

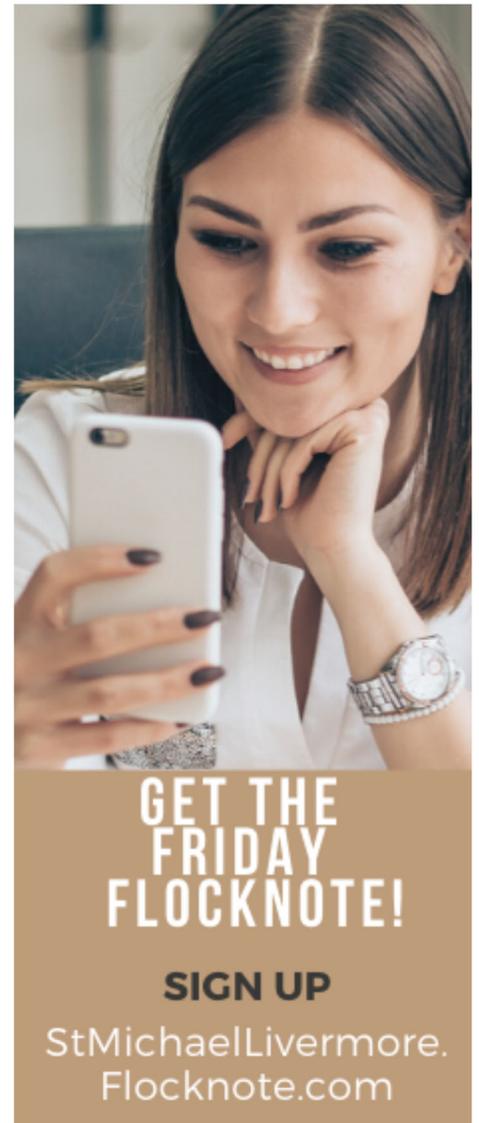
Celebrate the traditional Filipino novena of Masses leading up to Christmas. Reception and fellowship follows in the Hall.

Las Posadas

December 18 to December 23 at 7:00 pm in the Hall*

Experience the reenactment of Mary and Joseph searching for a place to stay in Bethlehem. Piñatas, chocolate, tamales, ponche, bread, and more to follow! *Dec 18th in the Courtyard, and Dec 21st at 8:00 pm in the Hall.





Thank You for Supporting the Kenya Mission!

Thank you, parishioners at St Michael's, for your generosity in supporting my missionary work in Kenya. I also extend the gratitude of the people of Kenya for your thoughtfulness, prayers and contributions. Together as a parish, you offered \$9,628 toward this charitable work.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."

- Philippians 1:3

Fr Peter John A. Guarin

Livermore Knights of Columbus Donate Ultrasound Machine to Support Circle

Members of the Livermore Knights of Columbus went on a road trip to celebrate their latest charitable work. The Knights visited the Support Circle Pregnancy Clinic in Oakland for a ribbon cutting ceremony of the new ultrasound machine that they donated.

This initiative is part of the Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Program which seeks to put an end to abortion and promote a culture of life. The goal is to save lives and help women choose life by giving them the opportunity to view their unborn children on ultrasound machines at pro-life pregnancy centers.





Silencio en la iglesia



Querida familia de San Miguel,

Acabo de regresar de Tierra Santa, y fue muy evidente que los guardias en todas las basílicas se toman en serio el silencio en la iglesia, especialmente en las iglesias del Santo Sepulcro, la Anunciación en Nazaret y la Natividad en Belén. No eran tímidos en absoluto en acercarse a las personas para pedirles que se callaran y rezaran, que no tomaran fotografías durante la liturgia, que se quitaran el sombrero y solo permitían vestimenta apropiada para las visitas a la iglesia y la liturgia. Observé que los turistas de países no cristianos siguen humilde y obedientemente estas simples reglas. Noté la misma política de reverencia cuando visité iglesias en Roma y las basílicas de nuestra Señora de Fátima y Lourdes ... ¡incluso en sinagogas y mezquitas!

Sin embargo, al volver a casa, observé lo contrario. Aquí en St Michael's nos hemos acostumbrado a hablar en voz alta y socializar dentro de la iglesia antes y después de la misa.

Amigos, hay un momento y un lugar para todo. Un tiempo para comer, jugar, trabajar, descansar, divertirse y rezar. Crecí en una cultura que enseñaba que las iglesias están destinadas a la oración

(comunal o individual) y no un lugar para socializar y tener conversaciones. Es mi deseo seguir el buen ejemplo de las iglesias en toda Tierra Santa y Roma, pidiendo silencio dentro de los muros de nuestra Iglesia.

¿Hablar en la Iglesia es pecado?

Si lo que se dice no es en sí mismo pecaminoso, es moralmente neutral hablar. Sin embargo, la enseñanza moral católica nos dice que las "circunstancias" cambian el carácter moral de las acciones. Hablar en la Iglesia cuando no se lo exige necesariamente es al menos venialmente pecaminoso por las siguientes razones:

1) Es la Casa del Señor, que Jesús enseñó que era "una casa de oración" (Mt 21:13) y, por lo tanto, debe usarse de acuerdo con su propósito. Esta es una violación de la justicia contra Dios, por quien debemos tener reverencia.

2) Es una violación de la justicia contra los vecinos reales que intentan rezar. Una vez más, la necesidad permite hablar, así como permite practicar la música antes de la misa, etc. Sin embargo, la mayoría de las conversaciones son triviales y podrían continuar en otro lugar en otro momento. Esto los coloca en la categoría de innecesarios. La verdad de esto es demostrada por la estricta guardia del silencio mantenida en las capillas de las basílicas romanas donde la gente está rezando. Incluso en las áreas donde los turistas observan la arquitectura y el arte, no se permite hablar en voz alta. Este

es un reflejo exacto del respeto católico por la iglesia y por los demás.

3) Finalmente, es una violación de la caridad, ya que como cristianos deberíamos estar "fuera de nosotros mismos" para cuidar a los demás primero. Si una persona descuidadamente y con desprecio ignora a otros que intentaban rezar, o lo peor de todo lo hace con malicia o desprecio, podría ser un pecado mortal contra la caridad.

Estos son principios básicos de la teología moral católica y no necesitan otra autoridad que esa.

Si los amigos se acercan a nosotros antes o después de la misa, queriendo iniciar una conversación, es apropiado un simple gesto invitándolos a seguirte fuera de la Iglesia para hablar. Damos un gran testimonio a nuestros compañeros católicos cuando primero predicamos con el ejemplo. A veces queremos saludar a una nueva familia que se ha unido a nuestra parroquia, es algo muy bueno que hagamos para mostrar nuestra hospitalidad. Una sonrisa amistosa dentro de la iglesia es suficiente. Después de la misa, salúdelos en el patio u otros espacios de reunión al aire libre. El respeto y la reverencia por Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento es lo primero.

¡Quédate quieto y sabe que yo soy Dios! (Salmo 46:10)

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias.

P. Carl

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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

First Friday | Primer viernes
12:00 pm

Sat Vigil | Vigilia del Sábado

5:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm (español)

Sunday | Domingo

6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am,
12:30 pm (español), 6:00 pm

**Sign Language | Lenguaje por
Señas**

1st Sun, 11:00 am

Primer domingo a las 11:00 am

Traditional Latin Mass

2nd Sun, 8:00 am

Tagalog

3rd Sun, 3:30 pm

Vietnamese | Vietnamita

4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

Confession | Confesión

Saturday, in the Church |

Sábado en la iglesia

9:00 am & 3:45 pm in English

6:15 pm en español

Monday & Friday in the church |

Lunes y viernes en la iglesia

7:30 am in English & español

Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel

2:30 pm

Anointing of the Sick |

Unción de los Enfermos

1st Saturday after 8:30 am Mass or
by appointment: 925-447-1585 |
1er sábado después de las 8:30 am
Misa o con cita previa: 925-447-
1585

Eucharistic Adoration |

Adoración Eucarística

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours
access code, call 775-772-6369.

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 9:00 am—5:00 pm

(Closed 12:00 pm—2:00 pm)

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor

Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar

Rev. David Staal, Associate

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

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Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Fidelis

Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Frank

Draschner, Jeff Andersen, Cynthia

Garay, Alison Wilke and Glenda

Dubsky.

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