



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA
925-447-1585
StMichaelLivermore.com
Pastoral Emergencies:
925-521-4117

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925-447-1888 smliv.org

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DECEMBER 8, 2019 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



On that day, a shoot shall sprout
from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots
a bud shall blossom.

~ Isaiah 11:1

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Fr Carl on Understanding the Mass: Part 1 — page 5
- Reminders for the Week — page 6
- Advent Events—page 7
- Mass Times for Christmas and Mary, Mother of God—page 8

It may seem odd that, just as the secular world begins to celebrate peace and joy during the holiday season, we are asked in this week's Gospel to consider our sinfulness. The words of John the Baptist echo across the centuries: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Isn't John's talk about sin, God's wrath, and the need for repentance a bit of a downer as we prepare for Christmas?

It might seem that way, at least until we think about what it means to "repent." To repent is not just to realize that we have done bad things, or to berate ourselves continually for our errors. Repentance does mean that we confess our failures, but that's just the beginning. True repentance also entails turning toward those attributes and actions that will allow us to unite more closely with Our Lord. It involves an honest examination of conscience and a firm commitment to change.

That's what John is telling us in this week's reading when he accuses the Pharisees and Sadducees of being a "brood of vipers." He is, in very dramatic fashion, asking them to judge their actions against their words; to see if they are living according to the Word of God or merely mouthing words about God. He is calling them to make the dramatic change that lies at the heart of true repentance.

We are asked to do the same thing. What gives us hope is that Jesus, whose birth we will celebrate in a few short weeks, will bring with him the Holy Spirit. This is one of the reasons the Church includes this reading during Advent—for it is the Holy Spirit who breaks through the



walls of our sinfulness and pride and illuminates our hearts. It is only through this illumination that we are able to set our feet on a new path, which leads to the abundant life that Jesus has promised is waiting for us.

Unpack the First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

This reading begins, "On that day." For Isaiah, this refers to the coming of the Davidic Messiah, made clear by the reference to the "stump of Jesse." David was the son of Jesse. At the time of Isaiah, the Davidic line was on the throne of the kingdom of Judah, but those following the righteous king Jotham were corrupt. Isaiah's prophecy suggests that at some future point, a king will come forth; not from the family now on the throne, but from the root of the family tree. That prophecy is fulfilled when the Messiah is born in Bethle-

hem, the ancestral place of Jesse. The Messiah's reign will result in a return to a paradisiacal state of peace. It's important to recognize that the catalyst for this return is that "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the LORD." This might remind us of that first paradise of Eden, whose inhabitants chose the knowledge of good and evil over the knowledge of God. All those who teach the faith can be confident that passing on the knowledge of the Lord that they've received contributes to this eventual return to paradise.

Unpack the Second Reading Romans 15:4-9

In this reading, Paul concerns himself primarily with the Scriptures; the written portion of Revelation. Specifically here, he refers to the Old Testament when he says that we (the Romans and Christians of every age) should derive "hope" and "encouragement" from what we find in Scripture. He says to accept one another, likely in reference to some tensions between Jewish and Gentile Christians. The conclusion he draws from what is revealed in Scripture is that Christ served the Jewish people as their Messiah, in faithfulness to the promises made by God through the prophets. He has also saved the Gentiles as their Christ, so that they might bear witness to God's mercy to those beyond the covenant with Israel.

Just two verses after this reading, St. Paul cites a line from our first reading from Isaiah, which prophesies that the root of Jesse will be sought out by the Gentiles, as proof that the revealed plan of God is to bring all nations into unity under the headship of Christ, the Messiah of the Jews. Today, we still live in this age of mercy to the Gentiles; we will celebrate this mercy Incarnate in the baby born in Bethlehem.

Unpacking the Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist is the man who stands at the seam of the Old Testament and the New. St. Augustine teaches that John's birth to elderly parents (Elizabeth and Zechariah) represents the antiquity of Israel, and that his leaping for joy while still in his mother's womb at the Visitation of Mary suggests the newness of his coming prophetic proclamation. In his appearance and actions, John sums up the whole of the Old Testament. His clothing is the same as Elijah's, the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. He calls Israel out into the desert for purification as Moses did, and prepares

the people to be led into the new Promised Land by the new Joshua (Yeshua=Jesus). His diet consists of locusts, which are symbolic of pestilence, and honey, which is the food of the Promised Land.

John the Baptist's most prominent virtue is humility. "I am not worthy to carry his sandals," he says of Our Lord. Carrying one's sandals at this time would be the work of a slave—and John sees himself as unworthy of even that office! If we're to prepare ourselves and others for the coming of the great King this Advent, then we should first turn our attention to our need for a humility like that of St. John the Baptist, the first herald of Christ.

Reflect & Discuss

On this Second Sunday of Advent, let us consider how the message of John the Baptist calling for repentance is an essential part of our lives as Christians. As you watch the short Opening the Word video found at FORMED.org, think about how God has called you to enter into a new relationship with him. Then reflect upon and discuss the fol-

lowing questions with a friend:

Have you ever experienced an answer to prayer that led you to reevaluate your life and make positive changes?

Why is repentance an essential part of faith? What does it mean to "return to the Truth"?

DIGGING DEEPER: Advent Reconciliation

Gain a better understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation by watching ***FORGIVEN: The Transforming Power of Confession*** on FORMED.org. Find it under "Programs" then click "Sacraments" and watch sessions 1, 2 and 3 (each video is about 30 minutes).

In addition to the regular Confession hours found at StMichaelLiverpool.com/Confession, the sacrament is also available on Wednesday, December 11 and 18, between 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

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



Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession, explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love.

Parishioners can watch all episodes free on FORMED.org

Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/7

8:30am Robert Ralph Simpson †
5:00pm Emma Sailer †
Elizabeth Gapp †
7:00pm Rigoberto Mora †

Sunday 12/8

6:45am Manuel Mendoza & Family
8:00am Gina Esguerra †
9:30am Jesus Munoz, Jr †
11:00am Virgilio Dela Rosa †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Damilo & Cecilia Tiojanco

Monday 12/9

8:30am Soledad Voss †

Tuesday 12/10

8:30am Maureen Yost †

Wednesday 12/11

8:30am Ralph Melendez †
7:00pm Souls in Purgatory

Thursday 12/12

8:30am Matthew Kupski †
7:00pm Quintana Family

Friday 12/13

8:30am Robert T. Boyle, Jr †

To request a Mass Intention, please visit the parish office. It is customary to offer a \$10 donation per intention for the priest celebrating the Mass.



**join the
parish
prayer
team**

WHAT IS THE PARISH PRAYER TEAM?

Parish Prayer Team members receive a weekly email with a list of our parishioner's prayer requests. They then commit to including the intentions in their personal, daily prayer. Some take the list to the Adoration Chapel. Some offer rosaries. Others prefer the Divine Mercy Chaplet, songs of praise, the Liturgy of the Hours or any other prayer method that suits them.

Praying for each other unites us as a parish family!

If you are interested in being part of the Parish Prayer Team, please send an email to:

Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

PRAYER

Imagine that you are standing on the banks of the Jordan River listening to John the Baptist. You hear him say, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." What do you think as you hear those words? What areas of your life come to mind where you might not be bearing good fruit?

RESOLUTION

What is one thing—one "good fruit"—that you could do this week that would show your sincere desire to repent? Make a commitment to act on this thought by writing down a specific action you can do and a time you can do it.

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



Understanding the Mass: Part 1

St Michael Parish Family,

As we begin Advent and the new Liturgical Year of the Church, the best preparation for the coming of our Lord is to understand more deeply the Eucharist and the Holy Mass. St. John Vianney said, "If one understood the Mass well, he would die of joy!" Hence, as a good tradition for all of us here in St. Michael, let us review the parts of the Holy Mass, the summit and source of Christian Life. I hope that those of us who go to Mass regularly may become something like ambassadors, providing a living witness of the importance of the Holy Mass to our families, friends and those who visit St Michael's.

The **INTRODUCTORY** of the Mass helps the faithful come together as one, establishes communion and prepares themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

MAKE the Sign of the Cross with holy water (a sign of baptism and acknowledgement of the presence of the Divine Holy Trinity) upon entering the church.

GENUFLECT or **BOW** toward the tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament and the Altar of Sacrifice before entering the pew. Please avoid socializing or conversation. This is your time to socialize and converse with God.

KNEEL in the pew for private prayer before Mass begins or join in the

praying of the Holy Rosary.

STAND for the Introductory Rite: Entrance Chant, Penitential Rite, Gloria and Collect.

STRIKE your breast at the "*mea culpa(s)* through my fault" in the Confiteor. This action reminds us of our unworthiness before God and begging for God's mercy. This

"If one understood the Mass well, he would die of joy!"

ST JOHN VIANNEY



prayer also pardons all venial sins and prepares our soul for an encounter with God.

BOW your head when you say "Lord, have mercy" during the Kyrie. If there is a Rite of Sprinkling, make the Sign of the Cross when the holy water is sprinkled in your direction.

Preparing for Mass

How should we prepare for Sunday Mass? Since the Holy Mass is our path toward the Eucharist—"the source and summit" of our lives as Catholics—it's probably worth putting in extra effort to prepare for our encounter with God and worship Him with reverence. Below are some practical tips I would like to share with you:

1. Approach the Sacrament of

Reconciliation if needed especially when we are in the state of mortal sin. Saturday times are at 9:15 am, 3:45 pm and 6:15 pm. Also, there are morning opportunities on Mondays and Fridays at 7:30 am in the Church and afternoon opportunities on Wednesdays at 2:30 pm in the Convent Chapel.

2. Read the Mass readings and reflections at home before coming to church. Links to the readings and reflections to help you understand them are provided in the Friday Flocknote that is emailed to you at 7:00 am every Friday. You can also visit usccb.org and look for Readings for Holy Mass.

3. Don't be Late! Arrive early to spend time in silence in the Adoration Chapel or join us in praying the Rosary in the church. Greet others with a warm smile, but save conversation for outside.

4. Remember to fast for one hour before Mass. This is a physical reminder for us that we are putting Jesus first.

5. Dress nicely as is fitting for your encounter with the Lord.

It is my prayer that we will all come to a better appreciation for the Holy Mass together. Next week, we will look at the Liturgy of the Word.

St Michael the Archangel, defend us!

Fr Carl

Reminders for the Week

Wednesday, December 11

Advent Reconciliation (Confession) is available between 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

Thursday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass is at 5:00 am and 7:00 pm in Spanish, 8:30 am in English.

Friday, December 13

Golden Friends Mass & Luncheon at 10:30 am in the Hall.

Saturday, December 14

Caroling in Downtown Livermore is at 10:00 am, on First Street in front of Strizzi's. Plan to have brunch at Strizzi's after as a thank you!

Upcoming Events

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation Before Christmas

Saturdays at 9:15 am, 3:45 pm and 6:15 pm in the Church

Mondays and Fridays at 7:30 am in the Church

Wednesdays at 2:30 pm in the Convent Chapel (except December 25)

Additional for Advent: Wednesday December 11 and 18, from 5:30 pm—7:00 pm in the Church. Four priests will be available. Drop in when you can.

Resources on Confession and a calendar of Confession hours at nearby parishes, please visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Confession

Open Heart Kitchen

Our January date for serving at Open Heart Kitchen has been canceled. Usually St Michael parishioners provide volunteer support every 5th Wednesday. We prepare and serve meals to our Livermore neighbors in need. Our next service opportunity will be April 29. Please contact Diane at 925-447-4344 or dhschord@sbcglobal.net

Collection Report

Thank you for your continued financial support.

12/1/19	\$16,297.59
Month-to-Date	\$16,297.59
Month Goal	\$108,823.53
% Reached	15%
Faith Direct	\$0.00
Maintenance (for Dec)	\$6,348.63



Faith Direct is a safe, easy way to make donations to St Michael Parish online!

Weekly/Monthly | One-Time | Special Holy Day | "Catch Up" Offerings

Membership.FaithDirect.net/CA602

Advent Events

DRIVE THROUGH PRAYER



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



Simbang Gabi

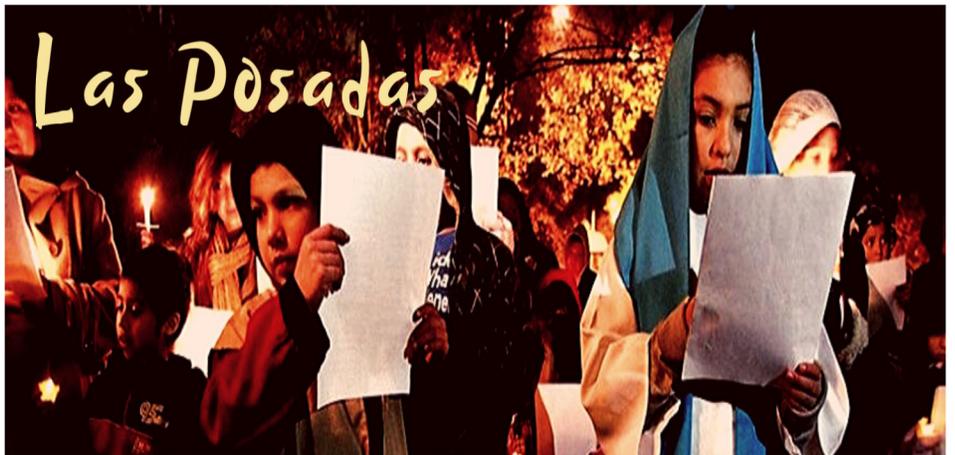
The Traditional Filipino Novena of Masses at Dawn
December 16-24, Mass at 5:30 am in the Church



Parish Office

HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 23
REOPEN THURSDAY DAY, JANUARY 2



18 al 23 de diciembre a las 7:00 pm Salón de San Miguel

Fr Carl's Advent Challenge

Every day at noon, pray the **Angulus Prayer** and the **St Michael Prayer!** Let's remember who we are as parishioners, united in prayer and in our mission entrusted to us by Christ.

Don't know them? Visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Prayer

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

3:00 pm: English
5:00 pm: Children's Mass
7:00 pm: English
9:00 pm: Spanish
11:30 pm: Carols followed by
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

6:45 am: English
8:00 am: English
8:15 am: Spanish in the Hall
9:30 am: English
9:45 am: English in the Hall
11:00 am: English
11:15 am: English in the Hall
12:30 pm: Spanish

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31

6:00 pm in English,
7:30 pm in Spanish

January 1

7:00 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm
and 6:00 pm English
7:30 pm in Spanish



BY CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
OFFICE, DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

Sunday, January 5 | 2:30 to 4:30 pm

LinC Retreat

[Life in Christ]

A Weekend for Teens to Encounter Christ
January 17-19

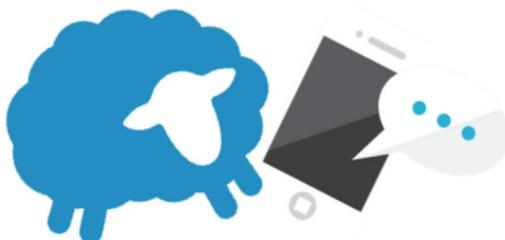
REGISTER NOW youth@StMichaelLivermore.com

Stock Gifts to St Michael's

Did you know that St Michael Parish can accept stock gifts as your donation to our community? Stocks have greatly appreciated over the past few years and there are some tax advantages to making a donation of some of your appreciated stock to St. Michael Parish. **One advantage is to avoid capital gains taxes on your appreciated stock assets.** Of course we encourage you to consult with your tax advisor as well.

If you are interested in making a stock gift donation to St. Michael Parish, please reach out to Business Manager, Eric Hom at EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com who can assist in this process.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Are you getting the Friday Flocknote?

Sign up at Flocknote.com

Search for St Michael by zip code 94550

Mensaje de la semana del Padre Carl



Entendiendo la Misa: Parte 1

Familia de la parroquia de San Miguel,

Al comenzar el Adviento y el nuevo Año Litúrgico de la Iglesia, la mejor preparación para la venida de nuestro Señor es comprender más profundamente la Eucaristía y la Santa Misa. San Juan Vianney dijo: "Si uno entendiera bien la Misa, moriría de alegría" Por lo tanto, como una buena tradición para todos nosotros aquí en San Miguel, repasemos las partes de la Santa Misa, la cumbre y la fuente de la vida cristiana. Espero que aquellos de nosotros que vamos a misa regularmente podamos llegar a ser algo así como embajadores, proporcionando un testimonio vivo de la importancia de la Santa Misa para nuestras familias, amigos y aquellos que visitan San Miguel.

El INTRODUCTORIO de la Misa ayuda a los fieles a unirse como uno, establece la comunión y se prepara adecuadamente para escuchar la Palabra de Dios y celebrar la Eucaristía dignamente.

HAGA la Señal de la Cruz con agua bendita (una señal de bautismo y reconocimiento de la presencia de la Divina Santísima Trinidad) al entrar a la iglesia.

HACER una GENUFLEXIÓN o INCLINARSE hacia el tabernáculo que contiene el Santísimo Sacramento y el Altar del Sacrificio antes de entrar al banco. Por favor, evite socializar o conversar. Este es el momento para socializar y conversar con Dios.

Arrodílese en el banco para la oración privada antes de que

comience la misa o únase a la oración del Santo Rosario.

De pie para el Rito introductorio: Canto de entrada, Rito penitencial, Gloria y Collect.

Golpee su pecho en el "mea culpa (s) por mi culpa" en el Confiteor. Esta acción nos recuerda nuestra indignidad ante Dios y la misericordia de

"Si uno entendiera bien la Misa, moriría de alegría "

SAN JUAN VIANNEY



Dios. Esta oración también perdona todos los pecados veniales y prepara nuestra alma para un encuentro con Dios.

Incline su cabeza cuando dice "Señor, ten piedad" durante el Kyrie. Si hay un Rito de Aspersión, haga la Señal de la Cruz cuando el agua bendita se rocía en su dirección.

Preparándose para la misa

¿Cómo debemos prepararnos para la misa dominical? Dado que la Santa Misa es nuestro camino hacia la Eucaristía, "la fuente y la cumbre" de nuestras vidas como católicos, probablemente valga la pena hacer un esfuerzo adicional para prepararnos para nuestro encuentro con Dios y adorarlo con reverencia. A continuación hay algunos consejos prácticos que me gustaría compartir con ustedes:

1. Acérquese al Sacramento de la

Reconciliación si es necesario, especialmente cuando estamos en el estado de pecado mortal. Los sábados son a las 9:15 a.m., 3:45 p.m. y 6:15 p.m. Además, hay oportunidades en la mañana los lunes y viernes a las 7:30 am en la Iglesia y oportunidades en la tarde los miércoles a las 2:30 pm en la Capilla del Convento.

2. Lea las lecturas de misa y las reflexiones en casa antes de venir a la iglesia. Los enlaces a las lecturas y reflexiones para ayudarlo a comprenderlos se proporcionan en el Flocknote que se le envía por correo electrónico a las 7:00 am todos los viernes. También puede visitar uscgb.org y buscar Lecturas para la Santa Misa.

3. ¡No llegue tarde! Llegue temprano para pasar tiempo en silencio en la Capilla de Adoración o únase a nosotros para rezar el Rosario en la iglesia. Salude a los demás con una cálida sonrisa, pero guarde la conversación para afuera.

4. Recuerde ayunar durante una hora antes de la Misa. Este es un recordatorio físico para nosotros de que estamos poniendo a Jesús primero.

5. Vístase bien como sea apropiado para su encuentro con el Señor.

Es mi oración que todos lleguemos a apreciar mejor la Santa Misa juntos. La próxima semana, veremos la Liturgia de la Palabra.

¡San Miguel Arcángel, defiéndenos!

P. Carl

AD PAGE

AD PAGE

Information | Información

St. Michael Parish | La Parroquia de San Miguel

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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 Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer, Retired

Pastoral Council |

Consejo Pastoral

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PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

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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Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Edna

McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa

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English

925-667-4096

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925-344-7150 Adultos

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