



# ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS, GROW DISCIPLES, BRING CHRIST TO PEOPLE



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020

## 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” - Mt 16:24b-25

# FROM FR CARL

## LET'S BEEF UP OUR SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Dear Parish Family,

A pandemic and an unprecedented thunderstorm with hail. A smoky heat wave and worrisome grass fires. Students struggling to distance-learn and parents struggling to support them. Businesses failing and employees out of work. Power outages! What next in 2020? Truly, when it rains, it pours!

On a positive note and despite these challenges, we can use this difficult time to be courageously prayerful. I suggest to you that times of difficulty offer a unique opportunity for spiritual growth. Hence, I have a challenge for you. Let's beef up our spiritual exercises by taking some time to meditate on these three Scripture passages this week:

### **Hardship is temporary and has purpose**

"For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NRSV-CE)

### **God will show His strength through your weakness**

"...but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NRSV-CE)

### **You will grow in Christ-likeness when God is in the picture**

"We know that all things work together for good[a] for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified." (Romans 8:28-30 NRSV-CE)

Let us together see our suffering and our discomfort to be more a blessing. Let us especially unite these hardships with Jesus' suffering on the cross for our intentions. Pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, for respect of human life, for respect of our religious freedom and for the protection of the sacredness of marriage and family. We may be going through a rough time, but we know there is spiritual benefit when we join our pains with the suffering of Christ.

United with you in the Body of Christ,

Fr Carl



"MY GRACE  
IS  
SUFFICIENT  
FOR YOU,  
FOR POWER  
IS MADE  
PERFECT IN  
WEAKNESS."

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Dear St Michael Family,

I want to express my words of gratitude to my beloved community of St. Michael Parish for your kind generosity and your prayers during my years as a seminarian, now as a deacon and for my continued journey toward the priesthood. I am overwhelmed by your support for my vocation.

At the same time, it is also sad that because of the pandemic we are not able to gather to celebrate the gift of the Transitional Diaconate I've received. But I did see your comments on our livestream Mass and on social media, offering congratulations, well-wishes and prayers. Thank you!

As I take on my new assignment at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Brentwood, my gratitude, my prayers and my blessing are in a special way for all of you at St Michael's. St Michael parish has been and always will be my home, and I will take everything that I have learned here from you to my new community.

May God continue to bless your families and our parish with many vocations to the priesthood, marriage and religious life.

Dcn. Candelario Jiménez



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**August Goal**  
\$103,558.82

**Collection from 8-23-2020**  
\$12,953.00

**August collection to date**  
\$83,201.46

**Percentage reached**  
80%

**August Maintenance Goal**  
\$9,500

**August Maintenance  
collection to date**  
\$7,704.00

**Percentage reached**  
81%

## RECEIVING SACRAMENTS!

### August 29 at 7:00 pm

Presentation of the Our Father  
for Elect in Spanish

### August 30 at 9:30 am

Presentation of the Our Father  
for Elect in English

### September 5 at 8:00 am

Deacon Peter Lawongkerd's priestly  
ordination

### September 6 at 9:30 am

Confirmation for adult candidates  
in English

### September 12

David Weiss's Diaconate Ordination

### September 29 at 4:00 pm

Sacraments of Initiation  
in English

### September 29 at 6:00 pm

Sacraments of Initiation  
in Spanish for adults and children

### October 2 at 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 pm

Confirmation for teens and adults.

*Regular parish schedule preempted  
on October 1 for rehearsal and  
October 2 for Confirmation.*

 **Glory and Praise** hymnals are available for purchase for your personal use during our Livestream or outdoor Masses for only \$ 10 per hymnal. For more information, please contact JaNet Hancock, Director of Music at 925-292-5071 or [Music@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Music@StMichaelLivermore.com)



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

**Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mt 16:24)**

Secular pursuits only bring a temporary amount of satisfaction and fulfillment. As much as we may think that achieving worldly success, economic security, personal well-being, and self-fulfillment are worthy goals to obtain, they all are dependent on external variables and can lead to emptiness. We are trained to be very pragmatic and productive. Unless we are able to check off all of the boxes or comply with specific measurable requirements, our value and worth becomes questionable. Corporations, educational institutions, systems, structures, and secular ideology rarely consider deeper, more spiritual, and human contributions a person can and needs to make.

To the secular mind, the wisdom and ideals of the Gospel are making less and less sense. Consider for a moment this question: “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” While Jesus is asking this very challenging question to people who are considering his message, many in our world are in a quite different place. Whether we realize it, many folks are asking a much different question. Why would you not want to gain the whole world and secure your life? If you look at where a lot of folks are investing their time, energy, and resources, it becomes obvious where current priorities rest.

Modern day comforts and possibilities are backing us out of our relationship with God. The fire burning in every human heart is trying to find its satisfaction in the things that humans have created and not God. Being altruistic and offering compassion for those most in need becomes a political responsibility or responsible gesture. We realize that our hearts need to be centered on something and someone who calls us out of ourselves, but we struggle and battle with naming the source of that call. God places the desire to seek, find, and love Him in the core of every soul. We are not abandoned and left to fend for ourselves. But we can easily get confused. We know that when we extend ourselves to another self-sacrificially, we are doing what is just and right. We know that we can work through suffering and loss and come out better and more whole on the other side.

Our minds need to be renewed so that they can begin to understand that there is much more to who we are, and that faith plays a pivotal role in achieving our true and everlasting goals. It is when we see that it is only faith that can bring us to this heightened awareness of ourselves and God that it will begin to make sense. Then, we can put things in proper perspective and consider being a disciple.

# RESPONDING *Call* to the

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### The Vision of Stewardship

I love the original movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. All the way through while I watch the film I still laugh and feel like a child. It is only the last line with which I have an issue. Wonka by now has chosen Charlie to succeed him as head of the chocolate factory. They board an elevator that proceeds to crash through the roof and begins to fly. Wonka then asks Charlie if he ever heard of what happened to the boy who got everything he ever wanted. After Charlie says no, Wonka explains, "He lived happily ever after." As I get older, I can say I have met several people who got all or most of all they have ever wanted, but unlike Charlie, it did not lead to endless bliss. In fact, as a Christian I know that that statement of Wonka's is a lie. The secret to living happily ever after lies in not getting all you ever wanted, but instead in giving all you ever wanted away.

A person can't have any sense of that reality until they begin to see his or her life transformed by Jesus. When we have accepted the challenge placed before us and made a choice to live a certain way daily, we can find ourselves transformed. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is the only true way to find authentic joy. When we have emptied ourselves and allowed him to fill the open spaces in us, we become different. We are transformed and, if enough of us in a parish community experience the same journey, our parish is transformed as well. Then we begin to transform the world around us. Don't be fooled: A flying elevator is cool, but it pales in comparison to what can happen when we find a new life in Jesus Christ.

– Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi



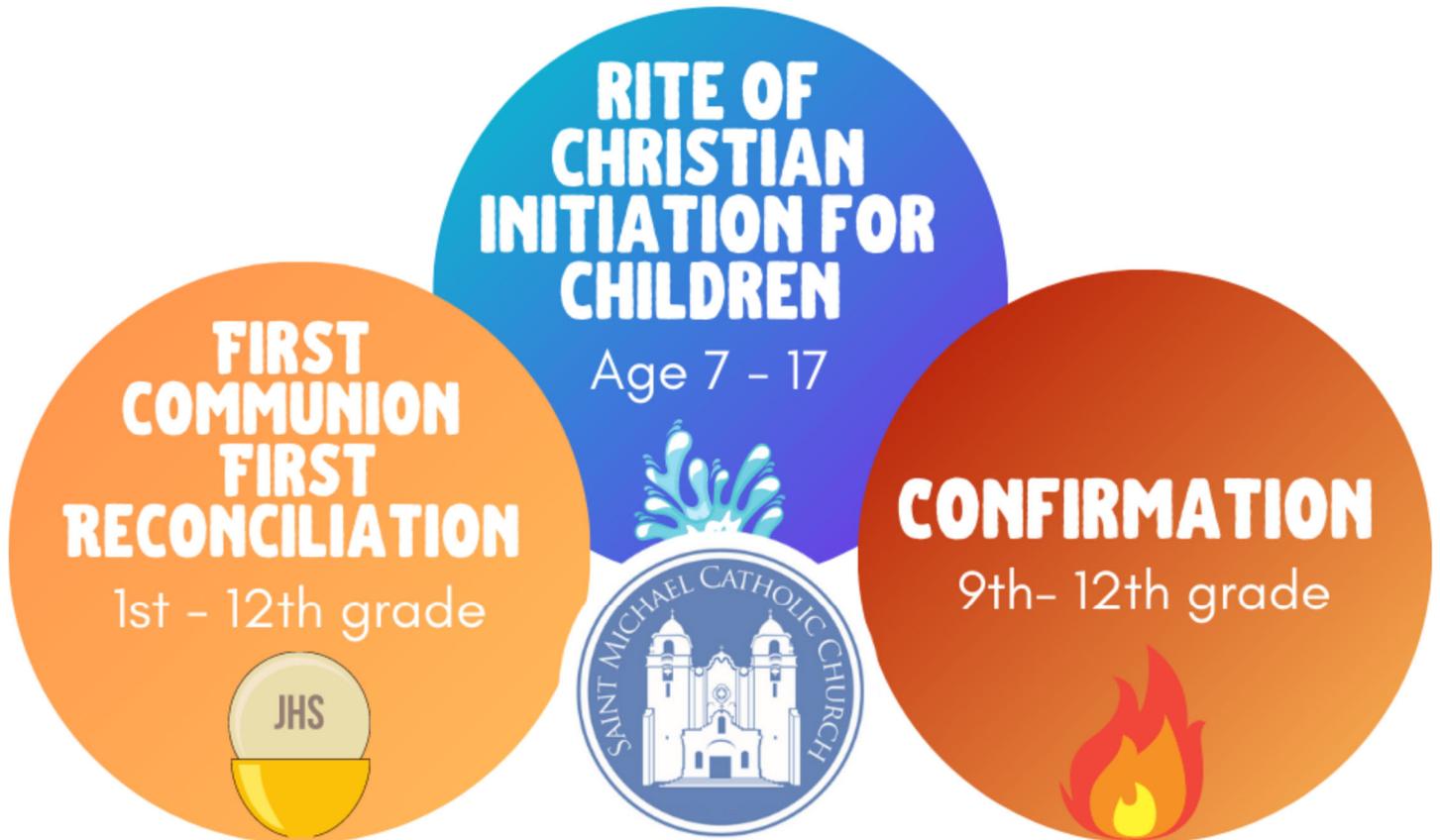
## FREE GROCERIES TO 118 FAMILIES IN 45 MINUTES

Community Care at St Michael's launched the first Free Grocery distribution on Saturday, August 22, thanks to a huge group effort of independent Catholic organizations, parish ministries, local businesses and community volunteers. We delivered groceries to 34 seniors and people who are homebound. 84 drivers came to the drive through, many who had lined up an hour early. Within 45 minutes, we ran out of food and sadly had to turn away around 50 cars.

The need is great! Help us help more families on September 5 and 19.

DONATE: \$10 sponsors one family with groceries.  
VOLUNTEER: [Care@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Care@StMichaelLivermore.com)

# REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



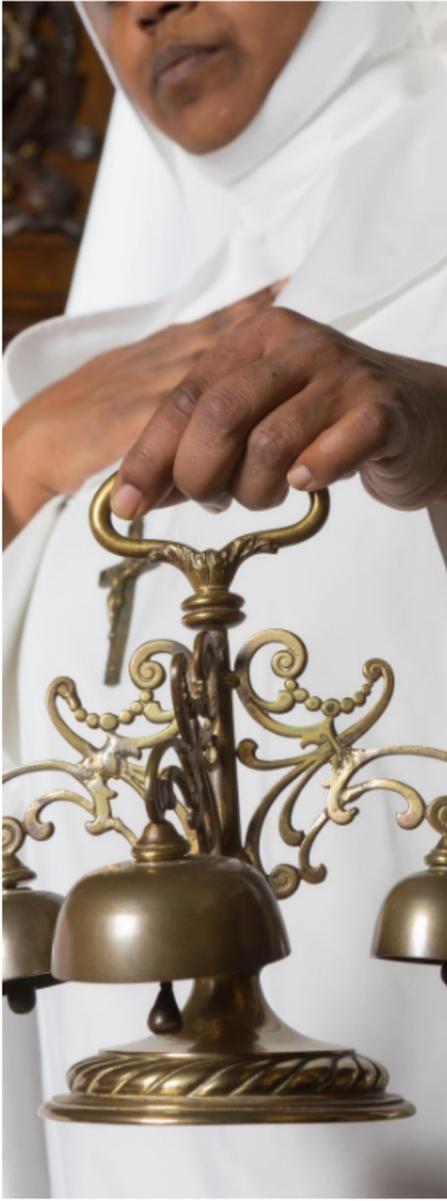
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**Register by September 21**

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# Outdoor Mass

**In the Courtyard.**

**Wear a face covering.**

**Bring your own chair and sit 6-feet apart.**

## **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

6:45 am Mass in English

## **WEDNESDAY**

6:00 pm Mass in Spanish

## **SATURDAY**

6:45 am Mass in English

7:00 pm Vigil Mass in Spanish

## **SUNDAY**

6:45 am Mass in English

9:30 am Mass in English

6:00 pm Mass in English

## **DISPENSATION**

Bishop Michael Barber has offered a dispensation from the obligation to celebrate Mass to all the faithful, indefinitely. This means that we are not required, under the penalty of sin, to attend Mass. Those who are high risk for COVID 19 should not attend Outdoor Mass or Walk-In Communion.

## **KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE**

While attending Outdoor Mass, please sit at least 6-feet apart from non-household members. Wait until directed to enter the Communion procession. After Mass, please keep socializing at a distance and avoid congregating.



# Livestream Mass

**[Facebook.com/StMichaelParishLivermore](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelParishLivermore)**

**[YouTube.com/StMichaelLivermore](https://www.youtube.com/StMichaelLivermore)**

## **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

8:30 am in English (filmed inside)

6:00 pm Mass in Spanish (filmed inside)

## **WEDNESDAY**

6:00 pm Mass in Spanish (filmed outside)

## **SATURDAY**

8:30 am in English (filmed inside)

5:00 pm in English (filmed inside)

## **SUNDAY**

8:00 am Traditional Latin Mass (filmed inside)

9:30 am Mass in English (filmed outside)

12:30 pm Mass in Spanish (filmed inside)

## **JOIN THE PARISH AV TEAM**

It takes a team of volunteers to produce livestream Mass, so that hundreds of people can pray along at home. It is our intention to broadcast Mass on Facebook and YouTube on the schedule above, but we need more help! If you or someone you know can follow instructions well and would like to be part of this important ministry, please call or text Rochelle at 925-997-5674

## **ABOUT THE SOUND QUALITY**

You will notice that the sound quality of livestream Mass is better when it is broadcast inside, and you see the different camera angles. This is when we are using the professional livestream equipment that requires trained volunteers. When you see only one camera angle, it means no volunteers were available to operate the system, and a simple iPad solution (with less than optimal sound) is being used as a backup.



# Walk in Communion

**Communion is offered at the end of each Mass.**

**Please arrive promptly at the times listed below.**

**Wear a face covering.**

**Exit immediately after receiving.**

## **MONDAY - FRIDAY**

7:25 am, 9:10 am, 6:40 pm

## **SATURDAY**

7:25 am, 9:10 am, 5:40 pm, 7:40 pm

## **SUNDAY**

7:25 am, 9:00 am, 10:15 am, 1:15 pm, 7:15 pm

## **RECEIVING COMMUNION**

Enter the church as directed. Wear a face covering and sanitize your hands. Keep 6-feet apart from non-household members. For those who are sick, homebound or at high risk for COVID 19, please contact the church office at 925-447-1585 to arrange for a priest to visit.

## **HAND OR TONGUE?**

Receiving Communion in the hand is acceptable in our diocese.

The faithful cannot be denied receiving Communion on the tongue. Our priests sanitize their hands if they inadvertently come in physical contact with the communicant.

Note that the norm at the Traditional Latin Mass is to receive on the tongue.



# Confession & Adoration

**Park in the parking lot or side streets.**

**Walk to the Courtyard.**

**Face coverings required.**

**For adoration, please bring your own chair.**

**Sit at least 6 feet apart from others.**

## **MONDAY - FRIDAY**

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

## **SATURDAY**

9:30 am – 10:15 am

## **CONFESSION FOR HOMEBOUND**

For those who are sick, homebound or at high risk for COVID 19, please contact the church office at 925-447-1585 to arrange for a priest to visit.

## **OUTDOORS IN THE BREEZEWAY**

We have two “Confessionals” set up in the breezeway, on either side of the altar. A partition is set up between a two chairs: one for the priest, and one for the penitent. All of our priests also wear face coverings.

## **ADORATION**

Anyone can bring a chair to the courtyard to pray, basking in the presence of the Lord!

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*"Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand." Psalm 73:23*

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