



St. Michael Catholic Parish

Where we celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples, and bring Christ to people.

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January 1, 2017 | Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God



*Mary
kept all these things,
reflecting on them
in her heart.*

~ Luke 2:19

Mass Times

Mon-Fri: 7:00 am & 8:30 am
Wed: 7:00 pm (Spanish)
Saturday: 8:30 am

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
7:00 pm (Spanish)

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

Sign Language: 1st Sun, 11:00 am
Vietnamese: 4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Confession

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

Anointing of the Sick

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

Eucharistic Adoration

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

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Rev. Rafael Hinojosa, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence
Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired
Rev. Dcn Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer
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Sunday Readings

The Rosary: A True Treasure

First Reading

**The LORD bless you and keep you!
The LORD look upon you kindly and
give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).**

The connection to be made between this First Reading, the Epistle, and the Gospel reading for this solemnity may not be immediately evident, but one interesting theme suggests itself. Each of these readings gives us an insight into the importance of the divine name. In Numbers, Aaron is told to bless the people by putting God's name upon them. In the Second Reading from Galatians, we are told that our capacity to call God by the name of "Father" is the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Lastly, the babe born to Mary, the Mother of God whom we celebrate today, is given the name "Jesus" at his circumcision.

We are told in this First Reading how Aaron and the Levitical priests are to bless the people of Israel. Previously in the Bible, the covenant blessing had been passed from fathers to sons (see Genesis 26 and 27, for example). From Exodus onward, Aaron and his sons are commissioned by God to serve as the priestly fathers of Israel, and they are instructed to pass on the blessing of the covenant with Yahweh by speaking that very name over the people. Just as the ancient patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had passed on the covenantal blessing to their sons, the priests of the Levitical order are enjoined to pass on the blessing to their spiritual sons. The blessing form we find in

this text is still used as a solemn form of blessing at the end of the Holy Eucharist. Our priest-fathers in the Church continue this practice, begun so long ago, of passing on God's blessing by invoking the holy name of God.

Second Reading

God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

Our reading from Galatians highlights the specific entry of God into time at the moment of the Incarnation. "Time" can have an abstract and general meaning (kairos in the Greek), such as "Time waits for no man," or a more concrete and specific meaning (chronos in the Greek), such as, "The time is 10 p.m." The Scriptures will sometimes use the more abstract form kairos, as in Ephesians 1:10 when Paul speaks about the "fullness of time." Other times, the more concrete and specific form chronos is used, as in this text from Galatians.

This suggests that St. Paul is here stressing the actuality of the Incarnation. Some translations of this passage render the "fullness of time" as "the designated time," making that point even clearer, suggesting also the designs of God's providence in this timing. Luke in his Gospel shows the same interest in specifying the entry of God into time by anchoring it to the reign of Caesar Augustus and local rulers like Herod in Judaea and Quirinius in Syria. This temporal specificity is accompanied by the added phrase, "born of a woman, born under the

and Meditation

law,” which also indicates the actuality of the Incarnation. Jesus took flesh from a particular woman, from Mary, a Jewish woman, and so he was born “under the law” of Moses. The Son of God becomes the son of Mary; and by truly entering into our humanity enables humanity to enter truly into his divine Sonship by way of an adoption worked by the Holy Spirit.

Gospel

The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

In giving us this solemnity, the Church presents us with many things to consider: the beginning of a new year, the birth of God into our human experience, as well as the important place that Mary plays in the divine plan. When we approach Mary, requesting her prayers, we ap-



proach someone who has a sublime and altogether unique relationship with God. Her role as Mediatrix for the Church is something truly singular and deserves our special recognition. That is why we honor her this day. Because Jesus enters into an intimate relationship with each one of us, it is only proper that his mother, the human person to whom he is most intimately united, should have a special place in the life of each of us in the Church, as well. This is not our doing or Mary’s doing; the agency for this is Christ himself.

We approach Jesus in much the same way that the shepherds did,

with Mary at his side. Approaching Jesus through Mary is not a denigration of Christ; on the contrary, it was his choice to come to us through Mary, and so we imitate him when we go to him through Mary! A mother is never far from her son, and by knowing her we come to know him better. That is why it is important for us to recognize and honor the specific role she plays in the events of our salvation. In addition to honoring her, we must also imitate her in treasuring in our hearts the events of Jesus’s life and death.

Meditation

Today’s Gospel reading is about an encounter with God Incarnate and how nothing can ever be the same afterward. We see this both from the perspective of the shepherds who receive the angel’s message and find the

infant, and from the perspective of the Holy Mother of God who carries these things in her heart, pondering and reflecting. We are called to do the same.

Think of a time when you have encountered God in a powerful way. It might have been an answer to prayer, consolation in a time of trouble, physical or mental healing, an overwhelming sense of peace amidst anxiety, or something else. Set aside time each day this week to remember and reflect on that encounter with God and to praise him for it.

Reflection by *Opening the Word* and reprinted with the permission of Augustine Institute.

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11

Saints and Special Observances

Monday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Wednesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Thursday: St. John Neumann
Friday: St. André Bessette; First Friday

Saturday: St. Raymond of Peñafort ; First Saturday

Prayer to St Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the divine power of God, cast into hell satan, and all the evil spirits, who roam through out the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Prayers & Devotion

DIGGING DEEPER: Sub Tuum Praesidium

One of the most ancient prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary is called the Sub Tuum Praesidium, "We Fly to Thy Patronage." The oldest known version of it was found on a third-century Egyptian papyrus. There is a partial indulgence granted for reciting this prayer.

We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always

Mary, Mother of God

Very early on the Church gave Mary the title Theotokos, "God-bearer" or "Mother of God," in recognition of her unique role in God's plan. Some people objected (and many still object) to the title "Mother of God" because Mary is human just like us and the title seems to elevate her too far above our humanity. But Mary is undeniably the mother of Jesus, and if we believe that Jesus is God, then Mary is clearly the Mother of God..



In declaring Mary to be the Holy Mother of God, we are recognizing the honor that God has already bestowed upon her by choosing her to be the mother of his Son. We are not elevating her any higher than God has already raised her. And in recognizing and proclaiming her privileged role as the Mother of God, we also recognize and claim her as our beloved Mother, entrusting ourselves to her loving care and allowing her to lead us ever closer to her Son.

Special Intentions

For Mr & Mrs Leonard Gregory who are celebrating their **70th** wedding anniversary!

For those who are sensing God drawing them to His Church, that they may answer and that the members of parishes throughout the world respond to assist them.

For our clergy, staff and ministry members who have given their time, talent and treasure to make the Advent and Christmas season wonderful.

For the repose of the soul of Paul Davis.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/31

8:30am William Warnock †
5:00pm Jack Wilson †
7:00 pm The Souls in Purgatory †

Sunday 1/1

6:45am Hector & Sophia Hernandez and Ramiro Resendiz †
8:00am Melanie Maher †
9:30am The Souls in Purgatory †
11:00am Pat Werner †
12:30pm Raul Contreras †
6:00pm The Ezekwem Family

Monday 1/2

7:00am William Lawrence †
8:30am Dunaway/Conway Families

Tuesday 1/3

7:00am Kimberly Lee Lemmon †
8:30am Ronald Leisure †

Wednesday 1/4

7:00am Tom & Marsha Becker
8:30am Mike Battaion †
7:00pm For the Souls of the Orlando Tragedy and Michael Jackson †

Thursday 1/5

7:00 am Tom & Marsha Becker
8:30 am Ralph Guzman †

Friday 1/6

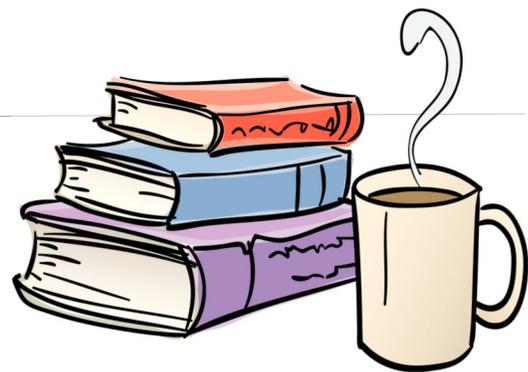
7:00am Mary Ann O' Reilly †
8:30am Ursula Edwards †

Saturday 1/7

8:30am Tom & Marsha Becker
5:00pm Mike Battaion †
7:00 pm Jasmine Suarez

To request a mass intention, please visit the church office.

Small Group Bible Study



Bible Study is one of the top New Year's Resolutions!



“*Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* led me through the astounding Old Testament references to Our Lady. Learning the cultural context helped me understand the meaning behind the church teachings about Mary. I feel like I’ve just discovered a great treasure!

—Cindy Avila

“I didn’t know any other Catholics, and joining a small group has been the best. I have made new relationships, and we support each other in our journey to holiness, keeping each other in check. I feel like I belong!”

—Justine Cameron

“I felt like I had a pile of Catholic knowledge, bits and pieces collected from homilies and Mass readings. It wasn’t until ***The BibleTimeline: Story of Salvation*** that I was able to make sense of what God is doing in the world and in my personal life. My relationship with Jesus has never been this close.”

—Jean M.

“I used to think Mass was boring. After completing A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, the whole liturgy has come to life. I have a better understanding of the Scripture behind everything that we do and say. My life will never be the same.”

—Michael Santeria

“*The BibleTimeline: Story of Salvation* literally made my life make sense. Learning about God’s masterful plan, and how I fit into that plan gave my life meaning and purpose. The Catholic faith makes sense to me in a way it didn’t before.

—Scott Giamonna

Starting in January:

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Take an exciting tour of the Liturgy as it explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. *5 sessions. About 60 min of homework per session.*

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

Join this extraordinary study that reveals Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her Divine Son. *8 sessions. About 60 min of homework per session.*

Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

Embark on a fascinating journey through the entire Bible, going deep into each period of salvation history to discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. *24 sessions. About 1.5 - 2 hours of homework per session.*

Register by January 15 at StMichaelLivermore.com/BibleStudy

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

Details:

- Home based groups decide when, where and how frequently to meet (usually once per week or every other week).
- Leading a group is easy! The workbook and video lectures do all the teaching. You just provide a welcoming space with internet access to gather.
- Cost is about \$2.00 per session.
- Sign up together with your group of at least four friends, **or sign up as an individual to be placed in a group of 4-8 people.**

Events

Adoration Resumes, Offices Still Closed Monday, Jan 2

No 7:00 am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration resumes Mon,
Jan 2 after 8:30 am Mass.

Parish Offices Closed

Training for New Readers Starts Jan 9

Come and attend the four classroom sessions on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, starting Jan 9, 2017 and continuing for the following three Mondays. The fifth session will be at a time arranged between you and the instructors. These sessions will be held in the Mother's Room, just to the left of the altar. For more info call 925-447-8814 x 222 or email Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com.



Octave of the Nativity

Today is called the "Octave of the Nativity." The feast of Christmas is so important that the Church celebrates it for more than just a single day. The Octave of the Nativity starts with Christmas Day and lasts for eight days (hence the title "octave"). On these eight days we celebrate the feast of Christmas in a special way, culminating with today's solemnity celebrating Mary and her motherhood. After today the Christmas season will continue until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

In earlier periods of the Church, many solemnities and saints' feast days were celebrated with octaves, but since 1969 octaves are only celebrated for the feasts of Christmas and Easter.

Small Group Bible Study Registration Deadline Jan 15

See previous page for more detail.

Managing Physical Aspects of Grief Jan 19, 7 pm at St Charles

Grief is not only emotional. Our bodies will give us information about our grief. In this workshop you will learn to recognize the signs of grief expressed through our bodies, and get information on how to manage these aspects of bereavement. Presented by Claire La Scola, retired registered nurse .

Golden Friends Thunder Valley Casino Trip Wed, Jan 25

Join us for a trip to Thunder Valley Casino! Price is \$27 per person, which includes \$15 in slot play and \$5 food coupon. Bus leaves promptly at 8:15 am from St Michael's and returns approximately 5 pm. Contact Wilma at 925 447-8198 or wilma.matuska@gmail.com. Make checks payable to St. Michael Church.

Priesthood Discernment Weekend Jan 27-29

St. Patrick's Seminary Vocation Discernment Retreat Weekend is on January 27-29 for men 21 years and older. If you know someone who might be a good candidate, please invite him to call Fr Neal at NClemens@oakdiocese.org or call 510-267-8345. The deadline to register for the weekend retreat is January 16.

Regular Weekly Adorers Needed

We need someone for Saturdays at 3 am, 4 am and 2 pm, Mondays at 3:00 am, Tuesdays at 3:00 am and Thursdays at 1:00 am. To sign up, please email

Adoration@StMichaelLivermore.com or complete the form in the Chapel.

Reminders



Next Sunday is Epiphany Sunday

The Proclamation of the date of Easter on Epiphany was a practical necessity in times of old (due to lack of printed calendars), but is kept within liturgical use. Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, the Epiphany proclamation is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith celebrated each year.

While a day like Christmas is fixed in our minds and on the calendars on December 25th, many of the important feasts of the Church year move, based upon the date that Easter is set. Easter changes each year moving to the Sunday after the "Paschal Full Moon," and can fall between March 22 and April 25. On Epiphany Sunday, the upcoming dates are "proclaimed". The Proclamation, however, announces more than dates. ***Ultimately, It proclaims the reality that our lives are to be lived in rhythm with and according to Jesus' life.***

Benefit Dinners

Portuguese Crab Feed January 28

IDES Livermore & Pleasanton invites you to join us for all-you-can eat hot cioppino crab and cold cracked crab, garlic bread, salad, wine and dessert.

Join us on Sat, Jan 28. No host cocktails 5 pm Dinner 6-8 pm, Dance 8-11 pm. Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Avenue

Contact 925-455-8359 or email ideslp@outlook.com for tickets or more information.

Knights of Columbus 44th Annual Crab Feed February 11

Enjoy crab and pasta dinner in town while supporting a worthy charitable cause on Feb 11 at Robert Livermore Community Center at 4:30—11:00 pm. No host bar - wine, beer and cocktails, live entertainment and dancing, door prizes and raffles, live & silent auctions. Tickets are available after Mass or by contacting Dennis Lundbom at 775-772-6369 or Mark & Claire Duguid 925-443-5873. Proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus charitable works.



St Michael School 58th Annual Wine Tasting Gala & Auction February 25

Save the date for St Michael School's biggest fundraising gala at Robert Livermore Community Center on Feb 25. This year's theme will be "A Night at the Oscars".

Birthright "For the Love of Family" Benefit Dinner and Auction February 11

Hosted by Birthright of Livermore & Knights of Columbus, Fr. John C. Murphy, Council #7987, come learn about God's plan for our families & enjoy live music, fine food & fellowship. Saturday, February 11, 2017, 5:30pm, Moran Hall, adjacent to St. Raymond Church, 11555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin, CA 94568. Reserve tickets by calling 925- 449-5887.



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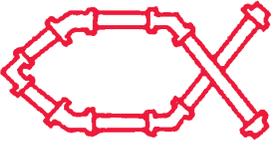
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Visita la página en español en el sitio web de la parroquia

StMichaelLivermore.com/espanol

Capilla de la Adoración Cerrada

Sábado, 31 de diciembre a las 6 pm. Regresamos, 2 de enero después de misa de 8:30 am

Oficinas parroquiales cerradas

Lunes 2 de enero

No habrá misa de 7:00 am:
Lunes 2 de enero

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura -- El Señor te bendiga y te proteja. Que el Señor te mire con benevolencia y te conceda la paz (Números 6:22-27).

Salmo -- El Señor tenga piedad y nos bendiga (Salmo 67 [66]).

Segunda lectura -- Dios envió a sus corazones el Espíritu de su Hijo, que clama "¡Abbá!" (Gálatas 4:4-7)

Evangelio -- Los pastores se volvieron a sus campos, alabando y glorificando a Dios por todo cuanto habían visto y oído (Lucas 2:16-21).



BENDITAS NOTICIAS

Tanto el libro de los números como el de los Salmos describen el ser bendecidos, como la experiencia del rostro de nuestro Padre iluminado así como él nos ve. Las bendiciones se reciben con gestos y expresiones de gracia y bondad. En Gálatas se nos recuerda que también nosotros somos hijos de Dios. Como hijos, la bendición de nuestro Padre se busca y se aprecia. Los pastores llegan y repiten el mensaje de los ángeles. Ellos traen la Buena Nueva de los ángeles que ese niño es tanto Hijo de Dios como hijo de María. Este pequeño, indefenso, pobre niño es el Salvador, el Señor y Rey por quien

todos han esperado. Él es la bendición que ilumina el cielo y el rostro de quienes lo ven. Este Hijo, este Señor y Rey, descansa en el regazo de los brazos de su madre y ella medita todas estas cosas.

RESPUESTA A NUESTRA ORACIÓN

Hay muchas noticias de varias fuentes en estas lecturas. Moisés, Pablo, ángeles, pastores, todos tienen una noticia acerca de este niño. Pero no hay ninguna noticia de María. María está en silencio y pensativa. El mensaje de los pastores es increíble, pero ya ella había escuchado este mensaje y su

respuesta entonces fue un sí. Sí a la incertidumbre, a lo desconocido, a la bendición. Su respuesta ahora es meditativa, guardando todas estas cosas en su corazón. Ella dijo sí y ahora esos sí es real en su pequeño hijo. Ella llevó a cabo el cumplimiento de esa promesa anterior en sus brazos y está fuertemente consciente de lo pequeña y vulnerable que es la promesa. Ella sabe que su hijo, el Hijo de Dios, es la respuesta a las oraciones de tantos durante tanto tiempo, y ella sabe lo frágil que la respuesta es. Su hijo necesita ser amado y alimentado. Así como María sabe y nosotros sabremos, la respuesta a una oración es solo el principio.



La Parroquia de San Miguel

En la Parroquia de San Miguel nosotros como misión celebramos los sacramentos, formamos discípulos, y llevamos a Cristo a la comunidad.

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Contáctenos

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Padre Rafael Hinojosa
Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com

Misa en español

Sábado 7:00 pm
Domingo 12:30 pm
Miércoles 7:00 pm

Confesión en español

Sábados 6:15-6:45 pm
Primer y tercer miércoles a las
2:30 pm en el convento

Adoración Eucarística Perpetua

Para un directorio de sus socios de oración y para el capitán de horas, llame a Elsa al 925-339-6411

RICA en español

Ana Fregoso: 925-344-7150

Formación de Fe

Ruben Nunez: 925-453-6494

Bautismos, Quinceañera, Matrimonios, Confirmación

925-447-1585 x10

1 de enero de 2017 | Solemnidad de María Santísima, Madre de Dios



*María, por su parte,
guardaba todas estas cosas
y las meditaba
en su corazón.*

— Lucas 2:19



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Para obtener información en español sobre eventos y noticias de nuestra parroquia.

Si están interesados en agregar o presentar un artículo en el boletín en español, por favor contactar a Brenda Zavala 510-691-2864