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JESUS SAID TO THEM,

**"COME AFTER ME,  
AND I WILL  
MAKE YOU  
FISHERS  
OF MEN."**

MATTHEW 4:19



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JANUARY 26, 2020 • THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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## Summary

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus's reaction to the news that his cousin John has been arrested: he goes into seclusion back at home in Galilee, maybe for one last visit home with Mary, and then begins gathering the band of followers who will become his apostles.

In Israel at this time, students sought out their teachers, but Jesus reverses that. He calls first Peter and Andrew, and then James and John, saying "Come, follow me." Apparently his words strike some deep chord, because these rough, work-hardened fishermen put down their nets and immediately go with Jesus. James and John apparently even got out of the boat they were in, leaving their father behind! These men responded to Jesus's call without hesitation, and their lives, and the history of the world, were changed because of that.

Jesus also calls each one of us. Just as he did on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he meets us where we are and extends the invitation to follow him. We might think that we don't have the necessary gifts or talents to do great things for the kingdom, but who would have thought that ordinary fishermen would become the greatest fishers of men?

When we say "yes" to Jesus, when we are willing to drop our nets and turn our lives over to him, he can use us in ways we can't even imagine. However,

we have to be willing to put aside what we think we can do in order to do what God truly wants us to do— just like the fishermen Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

## First Reading Reflection Isaiah 8:23–9:3

Isaiah delivers words of comfort to the first to fall under the



Assyrian conqueror to the effect that they'll be the first to appreciate God's deliverance. It's important to our future study of Matthew to realize that even though the people of Israel will eventually go into exile in Babylon and then return to Jerusalem to rebuild it, Israel is in the throes of a steady decline that will leave her a subject state of stronger nations until the time of Jesus and beyond. In Matthew, Jesus is portrayed as the new Moses, who will lead his people out of exile. His primary mission isn't to free his people from the domination of foreign oppressors, but to lead his people, a newly reconstituted Israel, out of the exile they suffer due to sin.

The light that shines when Je-

sus is celebrated as the "light to the nations" is cast here on the people of Israel, who have been subjected to the rule of the Gentiles. As Jesus is revealed to the Gentiles on Epiphany in the heart of Judah, he's now prophesied in Isaiah as revealed in the "District of the Gentiles," who've overrun the Jews. In this way, even the subjugation of Israel works for the good of the world, as it is from their midst that the light of Christ will shine.

## Second Reading Reflection 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17

In Christianity, the message is more important than the messenger (the only exception being Jesus himself—both messenger and the message of the Gospel). Despite having gifts that would have guaranteed Paul a prominent position in Jewish society, he sacrificed everything to embrace the very Jesus whom he'd formerly persecuted.

Although God has graced his Church with people of every conceivable kind of talent and temperament, these gifts are for naught if that diversity isn't united in a common commitment to Christ and his teaching. When all of our diverse gifts are given back to Christ, he directs them through himself in a gift of praise to the Father.

The last phrase in this passage ("that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning" is one that Pope St. John Paul II has used on several occasions to decry the attempt on the part

of some to downplay the seriousness of sin. The one sin that Paul draws into particularly sharp focus for us here is the sin against the unity of the Church. All sin, in some measure, offends against the unity of the Church because it detracts from the witness we're to give of her holiness.

## Gospel Reflection

### Matthew 4:12–23

Our reading begins with the account of what happened after the arrest of John the Baptist. With the decline of John, Jesus's rise will begin. Next, we see Jesus calling his first disciples, who come immediately from their work and abandon everything to answer his summons.

Jesus begins in Galilee, called Galilee of the Gentiles in Matthew's version of Isaiah 9:1. That Jesus should begin a "reconquest" of Israel in the same area where Assyria had begun its conquest of the northern kingdom 750 years earlier is significant—particularly since the ten northern tribes had ceased to exist for all practical purposes.

This is just the first of many signals in Matthew's Gospel that Jesus has come to reconstitute Israel. His choice of twelve apostles, who he says will judge the twelve tribes of Israel, is the clearest indication of this (Matt 19:28).

The journey from Galilee to Jerusalem will have its counterpart in the life of the Church when the disciples are told to return to Galilee from Jerusalem after the Resurrection for a meeting with the risen Lord and as a prelude to their own ministry of proclaiming the Gospel. Matthew's Gospel describes a circuit which is closed at its end but opens onto the future of the Church as well.

## Reflect & Discuss

As you watch the short *Opening the Word* video on FORMED.org on the beginning of Jesus's ministry, think about what it might have meant to the first disciples to hear the words "Come, follow me."

Reflect and discuss these questions with a friend:

What happened 750 years earlier in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali that makes the area so important to Jesus' ministry?

What would it take for you to leave your "fishing nets" and follow the Lord with your whole heart?

## Digging Deeper: Assyria

The Assyrian Empire was located in the middle of four modern countries: Syria, Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. The word Assyria comes from the phrase "*mât Aššur*," which means "the country of the god *Aššur*," the principal god worshipped by the people. One of the greatest empires of ancient times, Assyria was conquered by the Babylonians in 612 BC.

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## PICK OF THE WEEK

January 28 is the feast day of Saint Thomas Aquinas. In celebration, Matt Fradd sits down with Peter Kreeft as he shares 12 quick stories about Saint Thomas Aquinas.

## Pints With Aquinas

### 12 Stories about Aquinas

[LISTEN ON FORMED.ORG](#)

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# Pray Throughout the Week

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 1/25

8:30am Rob Lindquist †  
5:00pm Neil Hunt †  
7:00pm Dafrosa Baculi

### Sunday 1/26

6:45am Alberto Loza  
8:00am Romeo DeJesus †  
9:30am Camille Tall †  
11:00am Eduardo DeRivera †  
12:30pm Pedro & Andrea Ledezma †  
6:00pm John Bautista

### Monday 1/27

8:30am Peter Ivanic

### Tuesday 1/28

8:30am John Sarboraria †

### Wednesday 1/29

8:30am Rob Lindquist †  
7:00pm Gustavo Carrillo †

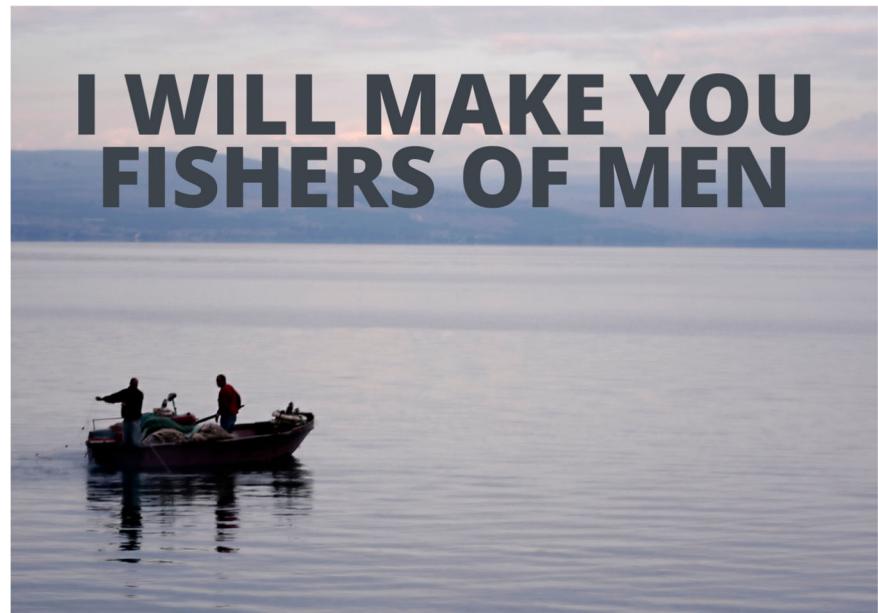
### Thursday 1/30

8:30am Ronald, Maria and  
Arnold Moore †

### Friday 1/31

8:30am Mung Nguyen †

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.



## Prayer

Imagine that you are working alongside Peter and Andrew. You see a man walking along the shore. He stops and begins talking. What is he saying? What is he talking about? All of a sudden, he says to Peter and Andrew, “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” What is your reaction to those words? Now see Peter and Andrew putting down their nets and getting ready to walk off with this man, Jesus. What are you feeling? What do you do? As they walk away, Jesus turns back and looks directly at you. “Come, too,” he says. “Come with us. Come with me.” What do you say? What do you do?

## Resolution

What are some ways that Jesus may be asking you to “come and follow” him more closely? Write down a resolution to help you follow Jesus more in this area in your life this week.

## Special Intentions

**For our guests at Alpha** whom we will meet on February 10, that they experience a powerful encounter with Jesus, supported and loved by our entire parish.

Please pray for all the intentions sent to the **Parish Prayer Team** at [Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com) and the prayers written in the book of intentions in the Adoration Chapel.

# Fr Carl's Message

## How to Share the Kerygma

Our baptism has moral implications. It requires that we live a morally good life and participate in Christ's mission. As Catholics, we do not hold to the "once saved, always saved" idea as some of our Protestant brothers and sisters do. In fact, those about to be baptized are asked whether they reject Satan, sin and the glamor of evil to live as God's children. The Church asks simply and bluntly: "Have you listened to Christ's word and made up your mind to keep His commandments?" In the case of the baptism of children, the Church asks parents for a commitment to accept the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. In Baptism, we become sharers of divine life and heirs of the Kingdom of God... and also sharers of Christ's mission.

Christ's mission is none other than the salvation of souls. By our baptism, we become active partners, and we are expected to share His message. The message – also known as the Kerygma – at its simplest form is this:

There is a God. God created everything perfect, out of love. This perfection was broken by sin and disobedience, which disrupted our communion with God and others, and is why there is disharmony and disorder in the world. We cannot save ourselves from this fallen, darkened state. God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior from the forces of sin and death. Jesus restored our right relationship with God the Fa-

ther through the reconciliation of his cross. He opened the gates of heaven to us through his resurrection and ascension. Jesus reigns eternally as Lord of heaven and earth with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Moreover, he has sent his Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we can be formed as his mystical body in the communion of the church where he continues to speak his word to us. The forces of sin and death no longer have the last word for those who

**“Most of us were not trained how to share this gospel message.”**

accept and respond to what Jesus has done for us in God's plan of salvation. Rather, Christians who share fully in the life of grace are drawn deeply into an eternal communion of life and love with the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit in heaven, forever.

If the thought of sharing all of that to your neighbors, coworkers, extended family causes you anxiety, that's okay! Most of us were not trained how to share this gospel message.

That's where Alpha comes in. At Alpha, all the framework is done for you. We will have a meal ready and waiting. Guests can start to relax and get to know each other over dinner. Then we

will watch a series of videos over several weeks that explain the Kerygma listed above in a well-produced, engaging way. Then there will be time for tablemates to talk about it. All you have to do is invite guests to come! Sharing the Good News – the Kerygma – is the core of who we are, and our priority. Alpha makes your baptismal duty easy.

I want to thank our parish groups and ministries who are answering the call to evangelize by sponsoring a meal at Alpha this season:

Filipino Community, Catholic Daughters, Thursday Bible Study Group. St Michael Scouting Units, Portuguese Community, Italian Catholic Federation, Golden Friends, La Familia Counseling /

Los Años Dorados, Fatima Consecration Group, Legion of Mary, Vietnamese Community, St Michael Staff Members and Knights of Columbus. Young Ladies' Institute will be helping with set up and greeting on a few nights, and RCIA offered to wash dishes on one night! We have also had a few generous donors offer financial gifts to cover some of our expenses. Together we are changing the culture at St Michael's!

We still have ways you can be a part of Alpha. Please see page 6 for details.

May God bless you.

Fr Carl

## WHO WILL YOU INVITE?

As Fr Carl mentioned in his letter on page 5, we are all called to share our faith with others. Alpha is an easy way. Just invite someone to dinner on February 10 at 6:30 pm in the Hall.

Together we will share a meal in a relaxed, informal environment. Then we will watch an engaging video talk about the basics of Christianity. The first topic is “Is there more to life than this?” Then there will be an opportunity for discussion with your tablemates, where no one will be judged, corrected, shamed or preached at. Seriously!

At Alpha we allow everyone to be heard. Alpha is about creating a safe place for guests to gently explore life’s biggest questions. Catechesis—teaching and guiding and correcting—comes later in other ministries. We radically trust that the Holy Spirit will do miraculous work in the hearts of our guests.

### Tips for inviting:

- Don’t say “no” for them.
- Make it sound fun and exciting.
- Don’t overcomplicate it.
- Just invite to the first night on February 10 (let them decide to continue or not)

## ALPHA GUEST REGISTRATION

Alpha is free, but so that we can plan the meal, please register you and your guests at [StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha) or point your iPhone camera at this code and tap the pop up link:



## BE A PART OF ALPHA

JOIN THE TEAM!



FR CARL WANTS EVERYONE TO BE INVOLVED SOMEHOW

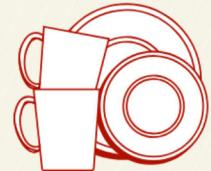
### HOLY HOUR FOR ALPHA



Join Fr Carl in the Adoration Chapel on Mondays from 5:00 - 6:00 pm to pray for our Alpha guests by name. Can't make it on Mondays? Sign up to get an emailed list of prayer requests for your private prayer.

### WASH DISHES

In an effort to be Earth friendly, we are avoiding disposable place settings. Sign up to wash dishes on as many Monday nights as you like. Arrive by 7:30 pm (done by 8:30 pm)



### CLEAN UP CREW

Help reset the Hall for the next day by putting away tables and chairs, taking out the garbage and sweeping. Sign up for as many Monday nights as you like. Arrive by 8:30 pm (done by 9:30 pm)



### SET UP AND GREET

Help set the tables with table cloths, then warmly greet guests. Sign up for as many Monday nights as you like. Arrive by 5:30 pm (done by 6:45 pm)



### MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT

Your donation of any size will go toward offsetting the cost for supplies, for the guests' day retreat.



Sign up today with Tina or Jacqueline at [Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com) or 925-667-4051

# OPEN HOUSE



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## Sunday, January 26, 2020

You're invited to join us...

**Mass (9:30 am)**

> at St. Michael Church in Livermore

**Open House (10:30 am - 12:30 pm)**

- > Check-in at the welcome booth (corner of 4th & Maple)
- > Check-out the Science and Book Fairs
- > Take a tour of the school
- > Meet the teachers, staff and current families

**Visit us online at [smsliv.org](http://smsliv.org)**

- > Discover Admission details and apply online
- > Add your child to the Interest List
- > Sign-up for TK, K and 1st Grade 2020/21 testing  
- Saturday, Feb 22nd
- > Sign-up for a Shadow Visit (1st through 7th grades)  
- Wednesdays 8am to noon.

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## SERVING AT ST MARY'S CENTER

St Michael's RCIA group, parishioners and families planned, prepared and served the low-income and unsheltered seniors at St Mary's Center in Oakland.

## COLLECTION REPORT

1/12/20 Collection	\$22,016.69
Month-to-Date	\$48,522.72
Month Goal	\$84,941.18
Percentage Reached	57%
Faith Direct	\$7,607.00
Maintenance (for Month)	\$7,473.19

## MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Grief Support Ministry of St. Michael and St. Charles invites you to a bilingual Mass of Remembrance at St Charles on Monday, January 27th at 7:00 pm. The Mass honors the memory of our loved ones who have passed before us. Bring a small framed photo of your loved ones to place before the altar during Mass.

## FIRST FRIDAY & FIRST SATURDAY

Saturday, February 1 is the First Saturday devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join us for Mass at 8:30 am and Rosary (following Anointing of the Sick).

Friday, February 7 is the First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Join us for Mass in the Church at noon. The chapel will be closed at this time for cleaning.

## ALUMNI MASS & BRUNCH

Join us for Mass on Sunday, February 2 at 9:30 am in the Church, followed by brunch in the Hall.

Stroll down memory lane on a tour of the school and see what our current students are learning. Bring your family! RSVP by Monday, January 27 at [smsliv.org/alumnibrunch](http://smsliv.org/alumnibrunch)

Livermore Knights of Columbus 47th Annual  
**CHARITY CRAB FEED & AUCTION**  
Saturday, February 8, 2020  
[LivermoreKnightsCrabFeed.eventbrite.com](https://LivermoreKnightsCrabFeed.eventbrite.com)

## EUCARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

February 4 at 6:30 pm OR  
February 8 at 9:30 am  
in the Church



Register at  
[StMichaelLivermore.com/EM](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/EM)



# LA BIBLIA *y la* VIRGEN MARÍA

## La Biblia y la Virgen María

Es el programa dinámico de estudio de Biblia de St. Paul Center diseñado para ayudar Católicos ordinarios a crecer en su conocimiento de las Escrituras al mismo tiempo que profundizan su entendimiento de las riquezas de nuestra fe. Tiene su raíz en la historia, aunque de una manera activa utiliza temas que enfrentan los Católicos hoy en día.

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Audio: Divina Misericordia 101

Niños: La Trilogía Testimonial - Dios con nosotros

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@StMichael94550

### 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

Pastoral Council Chair:  
Mike Pereira  
PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Frank Draschner, Jeff Andersen, Cynthia Garay, Alison Wilke and Glenda Dubsky.

### Finance Council | Consejo Financiero

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Kathy Hawkins, Travis Cox, Analy Palomino, Vanessa Suarez and Erleene Echon

### St. Michael School | Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

### Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

### Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños  
925-344-7150 Adultos

### Ministerio Hispano

Veronica Carrillo & Ricardo Garcia  
Hispano1@StMichaelLivermore.com



Rev. Father Carl Arcosa, Pastor Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4057
Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen Parochial Vicar Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4053
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes DeaconD@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-1585
Eric Hom Business Manager Business@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4052
Jacqueline Garcia, Church Secretary Office@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-1585
School Front Office	925-447-1888
Alison Wilke, School Principal awilkie@csdo.org	925-447-1888
Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper Books@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4058
Faith Formation Office Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4096
Priscilla Stutzman, Religious Ed DRE@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4097
Joseph Garcia, Youth Ministry Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4093
Tina Gregory Communication/Adult Enrichment Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4051
JaNet Hancock. Music Director Music@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-292-5071
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-2925
RICA (español)	925-667-4053