



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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and Bring Christ to People.

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 27, 2019

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Luke 4:18

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Jubilee: New Beginnings

Who of us wouldn't like a second chance, a new beginning, especially if we have made mistakes over the course of our lives? Two of today's readings speak of new beginnings in the relationship between God and his chosen people. In the first reading, Nehemiah has just completed reconstruction of the city's defensive wall and has reorganized the priests for resumption of Temple worship. Now it is time to bring the people into the process. So, with all the people gathered together, Nehemiah and Ezra, the scribe, proclaim and explain the book of the Law to them. Because it is a new beginning after Israel's release from exile, Nehemiah and Ezra exhort the people to celebrate: "The joy of the Lord must be your strength."

Luke's Gospel is a recounting of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus returns "in the power of the Holy Spirit" to Nazareth and stands up in the synagogue to read from a passage he selects from the prophet Isaiah. In it, Isaiah declares that the Spirit of the Lord has commissioned him to announce good news to the poor, news of release from captivity, recovery of sight for the blind, liberty to the oppressed—all in all, a year "of the Lord's favor," that is, the Old Testament celebration of what was called the Year of Jubilee. Jesus applies that passage to himself. At the start of his own ministry, he also announces a new beginning for Israel. He is the one who

will release prisoners from captivity to sin, open the eyes of faith, deliver those under demonic oppression, and complete the restorations that the Jubilee Year stands for.

But it isn't just the people of Jesus' time who experience the newness. The Holy Spirit continues that work in the Body of Christ, the Church, as Paul describes in the second reading from 1 Corinthians. The Spirit's



gifts are freely bestowed on the members of the Church and are exercised in a spirit of unity, so that "there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another." These are ministry gifts, whose function is to continue in the body the same liberating work of Jesus. Even after twenty centuries, the "year" of Jubilee is only beginning.

First Reading Reflection Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Ezra and Nehemiah dedicated the Temple during the Feast of Booths (also called Tabernacles), which commemorates the sojourn in the desert and the giving

of the Law and the covenanting of Israel to God. This feast was an appropriate time for Ezra and the Jewish people to renew the Covenant. When the Law was read, we are told, the people wept. Why did the Israelites cry when they heard the Law? They wept over their sin and consequent punishment of foreign oppression under which they still lived.

But Ezra told the people not to weep but to rejoice, since the Covenant was being renewed and the Feast of Booths was for celebrating God's Law and the blessings that come from the Covenant. The sadness of the Jews was caused by their history of sin and also the rigor of the Law that called them to give up things that they were attached to. The Law called Israel to sacrifice many of the things of this world for the sake of obtaining the spiritual blessings of God. We too experience sadness in cutting our attachments, but God will bless our sacrifices with abundant joy.

Second Reading Reflection 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

St Paul paints a word picture in this passage to help quell some of the dissension that was apparently rife in the church in Corinth. He draws out in a colorful way the implications of the doctrine of the church as the body of Christ. The unity of the members of the Church is to be like that of the various parts of one body. That is, the limbs of a body don't compete for primacy or pull in

different directions; they cooperate because they're unified by the single intention or purpose that's supplied by the head. Church unity is to be an actual, organic unity like that of the body. Whenever we speak of our Church we speak of ourselves. Even today we hear of news or polls that seek to gauge what percentage of Catholics agree with the Pope or the Church on various topics. To a Catholic, however, the whole idea is as silly as asking a foot what it thinks about the hand to which it's attached—to which it's united—in one body.

Gospel Reflection Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

The telling of this story is unique to the Gospel of Luke, providing us with information that's not given in the other two synoptic accounts. Jesus is preaching in his hometown where he was known not as the Second Person of the Trinity, but in the fullness of his humanity. Although Jesus' identity wasn't known to those whom he taught, it's quite clear in the Scriptures that he knew who he

was and understood his role.

Today's reading begins to establish the identity of Christ clearly within the context of what the Church calls salvation history. The messianic proclamation that Jesus begins in this episode from Luke will become broader and deeper as the Gospel advances and will not, in fact, be fully explicated until Luke's Acts of the Apostles. As Catholics, we believe that Jesus himself is the principle of unity between the Old and New Testaments, the key to salvation history. There's no other way to fully understand the message that Jesus taught in the synagogues and streets of Palestine.

Discussion

In today's *Opening the Word* video presentation available free on FORMED.org, we reflect on the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the announcement he makes to the people of his hometown. As you listen, imagine how you might have felt if you were present when Jesus was making his announcement.

What was supposed to happen during the Jubilee Year? How does the Jubilee apply to us?

In the Gospel reading, Jesus announces the fulfillment of the Isaiah passage. He comes to release us from slavery to sin and from spiritual debts we cannot repay.

Has there been a time in your life when someone paid a debt for you? Perhaps it was a financial debt. Or maybe it was simply someone doing something for you that you could not do on your own.

How can you express more gratitude to God for paying the debt of your sins on the cross?

Write your responses in a journal, discuss them with a friend, or post your responses in St Michael's *Opening the Word* Discussion group found on the "Community" tab at FORMED.org.

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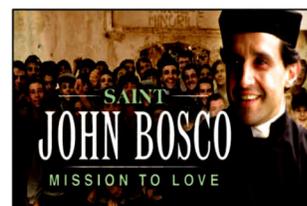
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Saint John Bosco

A Father to the Fatherless

Saint John Bosco dedicated his priesthood to educating and housing the forgotten youth on the tough streets of Turin, Italy. Watch the inspirational tale of how he transformed the lives of countless outcasts.

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—Christine M., Tuscaloosa, AL



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Prayers for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 1/26

8:30am Henry & Elizabeth Sheng †

5:00pm Bill Tsunos †

7:00pm Andrea & Pedro Ledesma

Sunday 1/27

6:45am Jack & Bernice Rooney †

8:00am Charles J. Hasmann †

9:30am Cresencio & Pedro Quero †

11:00am Mass for Our Parish

12:30pm Domingo & Albertina Madera †

6:00pm Alejandro Ortega †

Monday 1/28

8:30am Cheryl Burrescia †

Tuesday 1/29

8:30am Tomas & Dolores Cairel †

Alfredo & Lourdes Palino †

Wednesday 1/30

8:30am John & Kate Egan †

7:00pm Marie Aaron Martinez †

Thursday 1/31

8:30am Patty Wiesner †

Friday 2/1

8:30am Graciela Romero †

To arrange a Mass intention, please visit the Church Office.

The suggested donation of \$10 per intention goes to the priest who celebrates the Mass.

To accommodate our very large parish, parishioners are limited to three Mass intention requests per month.



When Isaiah says in prophecy that the Holy Spirit will send someone to bring good news to “the poor” and to “the captives,” he is not talking only about people who are below the financial poverty level or those locked up in a jail. He is talking about a kind of spiritual poverty—awareness that our entire lives are completely dependent on God. And he is talking about those who are in bondage to sin and recognize that only God can liberate them from their sinful ways

Prayer

Recall Jesus’ words from today’s Gospel reading about coming to proclaim liberty to the captives. Prayerfully ask Jesus to show you an area of your life where you are in slavery to sin and in need of the release, healing, and relief from oppression that he offers.

Resolution

Recognizing our spiritual poverty—our complete dependence on God—talk to Jesus about areas where you need to be released and ask him what you can do to seek healing during the week. Ask for his help in this area.

Need Prayers?

Send requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

You are also invited to write your prayer requests in the Book of Intentions in the Adoration Chapel, just to the right as you enter.

Choose Your Personal Devotions

Dear St Michael Family, Devotion to saints, especially to the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a key characteristic of Roman Catholicism. Catholic devotions have various forms, including formal prayers, activities or practices. Examples of formal prayer devotions include praying the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross or nine-day prayers called “novenas”. Devotional activities include visiting the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel, participating in First Friday Sacred Heart of Jesus Masses, attending a spiritual retreat or traveling on a pilgrimage. Common devotional practices are wearing a scapular, mantilla (chapel veil) or saint medals. Venerating saintly images by pausing for a moment of prayer in our lovely Guadalupe grotto, or at the painting of the Divine Mercy image, are also popular.

While the Catholic Church considers the Mass as central to our lives as Catholics, Mother Church also encourages us to cultivate personal devotions. They are touchstones for our daily spiritual life, anchors that keep us rooted to our life in Christ.



The constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium* states, "The spiritual life, however, is not limited solely to participation in the liturgy. ... Popular devotions of the Christian people are to be highly commended, provided they accord with the laws and norms of the Church, above all when they are ordered by the Apostolic See."

This year, I would like to sustain our devotional life as a spiritual tool for faith formation. As present, we have the following:

- 24/7 Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration
- First Friday Mass: Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and 3pm Chaplet of the Divine Mercy with Holy Adoration
- Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:30 am in the Church and 9:15 am in the Adoration Chapel, Monday-Saturday
- Group Rosary at 7:15 am in the Church and 9:15 am in the Adoration Chapel, Monday – Saturday. Also in Spanish at 6:30 pm on Saturdays and 12:10 pm on Sundays
- Guadalupe celebrations from December 9-12
- Posadas December 16- 24
- Filipino Simbang Gabi Masses
- Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent
- Portuguese Pentecost traditions
- Corpus Christi procession

During my stay here as your Pastor, I would like to add the following devotions to our annual calendar:

- First Saturday Novena to Our Lady of Fatima



- Monthly Novena Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 1st Wednesday gathering to pray the Rosary and blessing of statues, rosaries, medals
- Feast of Santo Nino on the 3rd Sunday of January
- Divine Mercy Novena before Divine Mercy Sunday
- The month of May, dedicated to praying the Rosary for World Peace
- Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila on the 4th Sunday of September
- September 26-28 for a Triduum of Masses in honor of St. Michael the Archangel, our patron saint
- The month of October, dedicated to praying the Rosary for the protection of life and an end of abortion

So, I challenge you! What new or renewed personal devotion will you explore in 2019 to grow in your discipleship?

May God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl
Pastor



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This Week

MONDAY, JAN 28

St. Thomas Aquinas

Readings: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30

Rosary & Chaplet at 7:10 am in the Church and 9:15 am in the Chapel

Confession at 7:30 am

TUESDAY, JAN 29

Readings: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35

Rosary & Chaplet at 7:10 am in the Church and 9:15 am in the Chapel

Counterpoint, faith-based program that offers support to those who suffer from their loved one's addiction, meets at 7 pm at St Michael School, Room 21

WEDNESDAY, JAN 30

Readings: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20

Rosary & Chaplet at 7:10 am in the Church and 9:15 am in the Chapel

Open Heart Kitchen: Serve meals to low-income people in Livermore. Contact Diane Schord at 925-447-4344.

THURSDAY, JAN 31

St. John Bosco

Readings: Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25

Rosary & Chaplet at 7:10 am in the Church and 9:15 am in the Chapel

WINGS guest speaker at 9:30 am at St Charles is Carole Patterson, the CEO of Shepherds Gate in Livermore. WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) is a women's group that meets at St Charles on Thursday mornings.

FRIDAY, FEB 1

Readings: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34

Rosary & Chaplet at 7:10 am in the Church and 9:15 am in the Chapel

Celebrate First Friday Mass at 12:00 pm in the Adoration Chapel, then follow Jesus present in the monstrance in procession to the church where there will be Eucharistic Adoration until 3:00 pm, ending with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. (During this time, the chapel will be closed for monthly cleaning).

SATURDAY, FEB 2

The Presentation of the Lord

Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Confession at 9:15 am, 3:45 pm and 6:15 pm

Celebrate First Saturday Mass at 8:30am, followed by Anointing of the Sick, Rosary, Consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, hymns and Fatima procession.

SUNDAY, FEB 3

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Cor 12:31 -- 13:13 [13:4-13]; Lk 4:21-30

Scout Sunday at the 8:00 am Mass

St Michael School Mass at 9:30 am



Upcoming Events

Mass of Remembrance Tuesday, Feb 5 at 7:00pm St. Charles

All are invited to bring photos of your departed loved ones to place before the altar. Roses and candles are provided by the Grief Support Ministry of St Michael and St Charles.

Catholic Daughters See's Candy Sale February 9 & 10

St Michael's Catholic Daughters Court will be selling See's Candy as a fundraiser... right in time for Valentine's Day!

Golden Friends Red Hawk Casino Trip Wednesday, February 13

Come take a trip to Red Hawk Casino for some great fun and games! Total price is \$28. For details and to reserve your seat, please contact Wilma at 925-447-8198.

Hey Ministry Leaders!

Got an upcoming event or a report of an event? Submit your articles at StMichaelLivermore.com/Bulletins Send photos to share with the community at Photos@StMichaelLivermore.com and we'll post them on social media!

Ministry Report: Our Busy Knights of Columbus!

Veterans, their families, and staff of the Livermore VA hospital enjoyed a fun filled New Year's Eve party. Knights of Columbus from Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon, and Danville prepared a sumptuous feast to brighten the day for in-patient veterans. Boy Scouts from Troop 924 and Livermore 4-H'ers joined the Knights to help serve meals and treats in the dining hall and deliver them to the rooms for patients who could not leave their beds. Patients had their fill of great food and, more importantly, had a wonderful chance to share their stories and experiences with avid listeners who deeply appreciated their significant contributions.

The Livermore Knights of Columbus donated \$2,375 to the Livermore Joint Valley Unified School District for special education

programs in support of students with intellectual disabilities.

The funds were presented at a School Board Meeting on January 15.

The Knights of Columbus joined forces with sixth grade students from St. Michael School, and their parents, to host a delicious breakfast for hundreds of parishioners and visitors. This hugely successful event raised much needed funds for the students to attend Science Camp this Spring.

The Knights of Columbus hosted a Free Throw Competition at Livermore High School on Saturday, January 13th. Young athletes competed for prizes and bragging rights. The top shooters were Brayden Rutherglen (age 9), Grant Weber (age 10), Alexander Mar-



tinez (age 11) and William Arnold (age 12) and Michael Maloney returned as a champion for the second year in a row in the 14-year-old bracket and put on a 3-point shooting exhibition for the crowd as he also won that portion of the competition.

Find out more about Knights of Columbus at LivermoreKnights.org

Elija sus devociones personales

Querida familia de San Miguel,

La devoción a los santos, especialmente a la Santísima Virgen María, es una clave característica del catolicismo romano. Las devociones católicas tienen varias formas, que incluyen oraciones formales, actividades o prácticas. Ejemplos de devociones formales de oración incluyen rezar el Rosario, las Estaciones de la Cruz u oraciones de nueve días llamadas "novenas". Las actividades devocionales incluyen visitar el Santísimo Sacramento en la Capilla de la Adoración, participar en las Misas del Primer Viernes Santo del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, asistir a un retiro espiritual o viajar en peregrinación. Las prácticas devocionales comunes son usar un escapulario, una mantilla o medallas de santos. Venerar imágenes santas haciendo una pausa por un momento de oración en nuestra hermosa gruta de Guadalupe, o en la pintura de la imagen de la Divina Misericordia, también es popular.

Mientras que la Iglesia Católica considera que la Misa es fundamental para nuestras vidas como católicos, la Iglesia Madre también nos alienta a cultivar devociones personales. Son piedras de toque para nuestra vida espiritual diaria, anclas que nos mantienen enraiza-

dos en nuestra vida en Cristo.

La constitución Sacrosanctum Concilii-

um dice: "La vida espiritual, sin embargo, no se limita únicamente a la participación en la liturgia ... Las devociones populares de los cristianos deben ser altamente recomendadas, siempre que estén de acuerdo con las leyes y normas de la Iglesia. Sobre todo cuando son ordenados por la Sede Apostólica".

Este año, me gustaría sostener nuestra vida devocional como una herramienta espiritual para la formación de la fe. Actualmente, tenemos los siguientes:

- Adoración eucarística perpetua 24/7
- Primera misa del viernes, devoción al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y a las 3 pm Coronilla de la divina misericordia con la Santa Adoración
- Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia a las 7:30 a.m. en la Iglesia y a las 9:15 a.m. en la Capilla de Adoración, de lunes a sábado
- Rosario grupal a las 7:15 am en la Iglesia y a las 9:15 am en la Capilla de Adoración, de lunes a sábado. También en español a las 6:30 pm los sábados y 12:10 pm los domingos
- Celebraciones de Guadalupe del 9 al 12 de diciembre.
- Posadas del 16 al 24 de diciembre.
- Misas filipinas Simbang Gabi
- Estaciones de la Cruz los viernes de Cuaresma.
- Tradiciones portuguesas de Pentecostés
- Procesión del Corpus Christi

Durante mi estadía aquí como su Pastor, me gustaría agregar las siguientes devociones a



nuestro calendario anual:

- Primer sábado: Novena a Nuestra Señora de Fátima
- Misa mensual de novena para Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
- 1er miércoles reunión para rezar el rosario y bendición de estatuas, rosarios, medallas.
- Fiesta del Santo Niño el 3er domingo de enero.
- Novena de la Divina Misericordia antes del Domingo de la Divina Misericordia.
- El mes de mayo, dedicado a rezar el Rosario por la paz mundial.
- Fiesta de San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila el 4º domingo de septiembre.
- 26-28 de septiembre Triduo de Misas en honor a San Miguel Arcángel, nuestro santo patrón.
- El mes de octubre, dedicado a rezar el Rosario por la protección de la vida y el final del aborto.

Así que, ¡le desafío! ¿Qué nueva o renovada devoción personal explorará en 2019 para crecer en su discipulado?

Que Dios le bendiga a usted y a familia.

Padre Carl
Pastor



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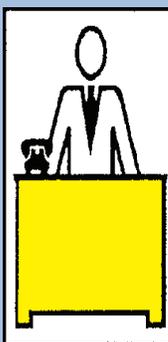
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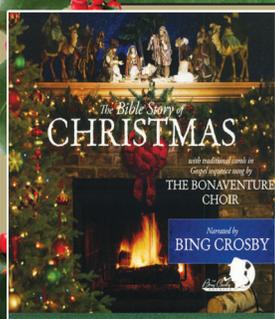
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For 105 years, Saint Michael School in Livermore has lived out their mission as a Dominican school providing an academically challenging education in a Christ-centered environment.

Our school has always been known for its traditional, rigorous academics. Today, we hold onto those traditions as we incorporate new innovative practices.

Our Catholic faith traditions are alive. St. Michael School students learn about their faith through studying the lives of the saints, scripture study, and by actively living out the liturgical seasons. Students also reverently participate in school masses, pray in the adoration chapel, and experience different forms of prayer throughout the school day.

St. Michael School is dedicated to developing the next generation of servant leaders by living out our baptismal call to serve those in need. Weekly, students help to fill the St. Michael Church St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry by donating needed items. In addition, the school has a commitment to the Livermore Homeless Refuge. We provide needed winter items, such

as socks, sweatshirts, toiletry items, sleeping bags and even tents for those in need in Livermore. Each spring, we also reach out to those in need in our global society by supporting a Dominican mission project in Tijuana, Mexico.

Each class also focuses on a specific service learning project. One example of this faithful service is the 7th grade class project. Students create handmade paper butterflies with scripture passages and prayers of support. The beautiful messages are then given to the Grief Support Ministry members in the Catholic Community of Pleasanton for those who are dealing with the recent loss of a loved one. Our students' hearts are overflowing with love knowing that they are making a difference in people's lives.

Beyond a rigorous academic Christ-centered environment, community is one of the principle reasons parents express for selecting St. Michael as their school of choice. This year, we will host our 60th Annual Wine Gala and Auction on Saturday, February 9th to support the school. Last year, through the fund-a-need part of the Auction, the community was able to financially support the re-design of a

classroom to be made into a STREAM room where academics and creativity come together and flourish amongst all students. Our small community comes together to financially support the school, and they come together to build relationships that may last a lifetime.

Saint Michael School has a rich tradition of Excellence Strengthened by Faith, which continues to flourish through the grace of God and a community who supports it through the sharing of their time, talent, and treasure.

If you are an alum or are an alumni family, please register on our Alumni website, so that we may keep in contact with you regarding future alumni events: smsliv.org/alumni.



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