



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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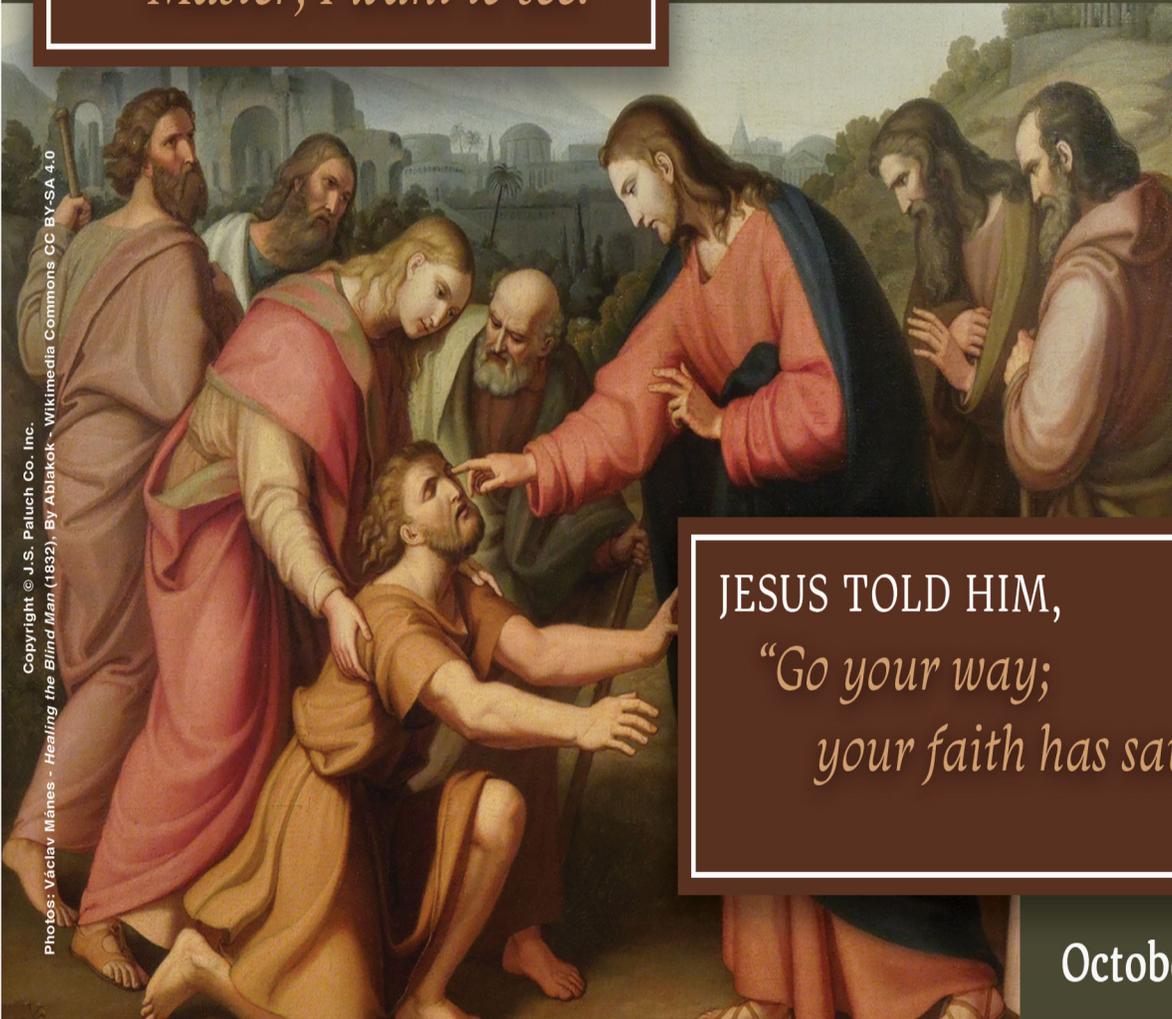
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THE BLIND MAN SAID,
"Master, I want to see."

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



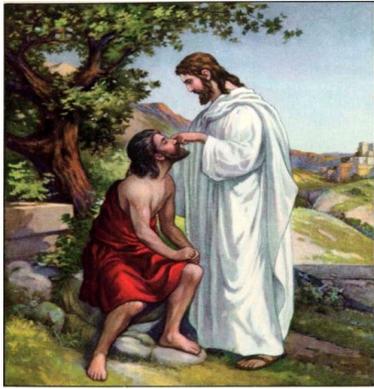
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JESUS TOLD HIM,
*"Go your way;
your faith has saved you."*

MARK 10:51-52

October 28, 2018

The Face of God



The imagery of sight and blindness pervades the readings for this Sunday. The Church uses this metaphor to help us understand how we are blinded by sin and are in need of Christ's light in order to follow him.

In modern society, we think of freedom as the absolute ability to do whatever we want, as long as we don't hurt anyone else. As Christians, this gravely distorts our understanding of sin. It follows from that definition of freedom that there really is no sin; as long as what we do affects ourselves, then it cannot harm anyone else.

This is not a Catholic understanding of sin and freedom. We believe that we are only free as far as we are able to do the good freely. We grow in freedom the more that we resist evil and choose what is good. Moreover, sin is not private, because it gravely offends our relationship with God, it hurts our union with others, and we only hurt ourselves by sinning. In the Bible, we see attachment to sin described as blindness. The one who is full of sin is actually made blind to reality. The more we sin, the less

we are able to see the truth clearly.

Through Jesus Christ, we are able to overcome our blindness and step into his light. Do we have the spiritual strength to let go of our petty attachments, and choose Christ above all else?

First Reading Reflection Jeremiah 31:7-9

Jeremiah lived during one of the most difficult times in the history of Israel, which included the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple (587 BC) and deportations to Babylon (597 & 587 BC). God commissioned him to prophecy these events, which made him a very unpopular figure among the ruling classes. These ruling classes perpetrated the acts of idolatry (including child sacrifice), which Jeremiah condemned, and which eventually brought about the destruction of Israel. The reading for this Sunday draws from the section in Jeremiah that consoles the people, promising the coming of the New Covenant and a Messiah who would redeem Israel from its sins (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

In this section, the prophet Jeremiah delivers God's promises to His chosen people. He is a generous God, whose fatherly love does not diminish, even though the people of Israel fail to love him and reverence him in return.

God reaches out to the Israelites in order to bring them closer to his heart. Time and time again, the Israelites promise to be faithful to him, but then refuse to give

him the love and adoration that he is owed. Even still God, calls the people back to himself. For this reason, he promises them the New Covenant, in which he will recapitulate, or bring under his Headship, all peoples, both Israelites and Gentiles.

Our movement toward God in difficult times is a sign of a deep faith. We can use periods of suffering in our lives as opportunities to strengthen our faith and make honest assessments about where we stand before God. It is very difficult to trust in God at all moments, especially when we encounter some unforeseen suffering or pain. We must work to increase our faith in God's merciful love, begging his forgiveness when we fail and fall into sin.

Having considered all that God has said here, we can echo the sentiments of the opening verses and "shout with joy...proclaim your praise and say: "The Lord has delivered his people." By his faithfulness, God has truly given us reason to rejoice. We should always give thanks to God for being part of his people, the ones to whom he has given his saving message. His love tests us in trials but rewards us too with heavenly gifts.

Second Reading Reflections Hebrews 5:1-6

The end of Hebrews 4 spoke of Jesus Christ as the new and eternal High Priest, who stands before God's throne in heaven. The author of Hebrews states that Jesus's High Priesthood is in "the

order of Melchizedek.” While this comparison may strike as odd, the symbolism is actually very rich.

The letter was written to Jews and attempts to show that Jesus is both Messiah and God. It is full of Old Testament references to underscore the validity of the Christian claims about Jesus to this Jewish audience. So why all the discussion about the priesthood of Jesus? Because the Jews held that only a male from the tribe of Levi could be a priest (see Numbers 3). Since Jesus was of the tribe of Judah he could not be a priest, especially not a High Priest, according to the Law!

Gospel Reflection **Mark 10:46–52**

Although Mark’s Gospel is the shortest, he is the only one to record the name of the blind man as Bartimaeus (literally, “son of Timothy”), and he alone records the eventual encouragement from the crowd when Jesus calls him, “Take heart; rise, he is calling you.” And Bartimaeus then

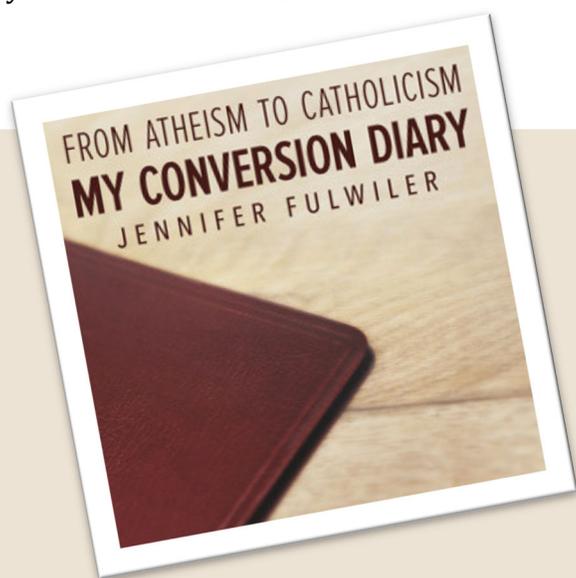
“threw aside his cloak, jumped up and came to Jesus.” After Bartimaeus’s encounter with Jesus we are told, “Immediately he received his sight and started to follow him [Jesus] up the road.” Mark loves the immediacy of Jesus’s power. The word immediately is used repeatedly at the beginning of his Gospel, and suggests the imminent arrival of the Kingdom.

Jesus passes through Jericho like a new Joshua, who conquered Jericho on his way into the Promised Land. At Jericho, Jesus brings forgiveness to Zacchaeus (see Luke 19) and sight to Bartimaeus and his blind companion (see Matthew 20). Just as Rahab the harlot (who shows up in the genealogy of Jesus) was saved by Joshua when Jericho was conquered, so now the outcast tax collector Zacchaeus finds salvation in his encounter with this new Joshua. Bartimaeus, as the last disciple to join Jesus before He goes to Jerusalem and the death awaiting Him, becomes an icon for all those Gentile believers who are late-comers to the way of Christ. Even though they are late in following Christ, they have come to see him as the

“Light of the world.” Indeed, through Christ, “the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light” (Matthew 4:15-16).

The juxtaposition of light and darkness is a prominent theme in the Gospels, especially John 1. Jesus heals Bartimaeus and the man born blind, while the Pharisees, in contrast, are called “blind guides.” In the story of Bartimaeus, we see this light theme connected with trusting faith. It is Bartimaeus’s persistent faith in the “Son of David” that brings him into the light. This image of light in connection with faith impressed the early Christians so deeply that they called those catechumens who were preparing to receive Baptism “*Photizomenoi*,” which literally means, “those who are coming into the light.” The Greek word “*photismos*” was used in reference to Baptism, because it was considered to be an enlightening. St. John sees the light as necessary to avoid stumbling in the darkness (John 11:10), and Bartimaeus shows us that, with Christ, we are given the light to follow him, even though it leads to the Crucifixion.

Reflections reprinted here with permission from Augustine Institute.



Jennifer Fulwiler is a popular writer and speaker from Austin, Texas. In this compelling presentation, she recalls her spiritual journey - one that ultimately led her to enter the Catholic Church after a life of atheism.

Listen at FORMED.org under “Listen” then “Conversion Stories”.

Discussion for the Week

Reflect on your own life, asking the Holy Spirit to show you how sin may have blinded you and distorted your perception of reality. Share your reflections in a journal or with a friend.

What do you want Jesus to do for you?

The Parish has already paid for your FORMED account!
Register at StMichael.FORMED.org.

Mass

Intentions

Saturday 10/27

8:30am Ilda Rosa †
5:00pm Herb DiGrazia †
7:00pm Blandon, Castillo &
Mendoza Families

Sunday 10/28

6:45am Virginia Tynan †
8:00am Antonio Pimentel †
9:30am John Arena †
11:00am Quintina Echon †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Shane Gaynor

Monday 10/29

8:30am Hector & Sofia Hernandez †
Ramiro Resendiz †

Tuesday 10/30

8:30am Kale Stanley

Wednesday 10/31

8:30am Alfredo Bugay Inton †
7:00pm Wilfredo Nunez †

Thursday 11/1

8:30am Pat & Ray Werner †
10:30am Mass for Our Parish
12:15pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Joseph Mary Pham †
7:30pm Mass for Our Parish

Friday 11/2

8:30am For the Souls in Purgatory

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.

Effective October 3, each month, from October through December, parishioners can request up to two Mass intentions only.

Mass intentions will not be accepted through the mail and will only be taken in the Church Office.



Return to the Gospel for this week. Imagine that you are the blind beggar searching for healing. You realize Jesus is near, and a little part of you believes, or simply wants to believe, that he will look on you and love you if you only call to him.

Take the word that comes to mind and reflect on what it means to you personally. For example, the phrase, “Take courage, get up. Jesus is calling you,” might have stuck out to you. Ask yourself what this means in your own life. Are the saints interceding for you and encouraging you to seek healing and freedom in Jesus?

RESOLUTION

In the Gospel story this week, we see Bartimaeus throw aside his cloak, spring up, and turn to Jesus. Why did he need to throw aside his cloak? The cloak was among Bartimaeus’s few possessions, and his willingness to throw it aside before Jesus even healed him is a witness to his faith in Jesus’s healing powers, and that he would no longer need the clothes of a beggar.

Many things in our lives hold us back from fully trusting in Jesus. We could be held back by bad friends, an addiction, a habit of wasting time on technology, overeating, etc. These are all things we use to cope because we don’t really believe Jesus will heal us. What material object in your life prevents you from truly seeking healing from Jesus, and how can you strive to “throw it aside” to grow your faith in Jesus this week?

October is Rosary Month

Visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Rosary for group Rosary times and for audio Rosaries.

Send your prayer requests to
Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com



“The pastoral council is thus a consultative organ in which the faithful, expressing their baptismal responsibility, can assist the parish priest, who presides at the council, by offering their advice on pastoral matters.” (*The Priest, Pastor and Leader of the Parish Community*, 23).

This week, we shall begin our parish survey, led by our Pastoral Council. I convey my gratitude to the members of the Council for listening to my call to conduct this parish-wide survey to discover the needs of the parish. All parishion-

ers - especially members of groups and ministries - are encouraged to complete this survey, with the goal of helping me make decisions based on the current reported needs of the parish.

Our parish is one of the most diverse parishes in the Diocese. Currently we have about 5,500 registered families from rich ethnic backgrounds. We have at present over 475 children and youth enrolled in our faith formation and youth ministry programs and more than 170 students in our school. We have over 75 ministries and organizations serving our parish. We have eight Sunday masses, and our weeks are full of quincenearas, weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Observing the many events happening in our parish, it's clear that St. Michael is a very busy parish. There is never a boring day! Hence, there is a question that we need to ask. How can we effectively respond to the current needs of the parishioners and work toward

the future of the parish?

Your participation in this survey will be huge help for me and for the Pastoral Council. This week, please complete the survey online at StMichaelLivermore.com/Survey or stop by the parish office to pick up a hard copy.

Allow me to end with a saying that my professor in Social Ethnics taught me: "If you are not part of the solution, you must be part of the problem." And finally the famous quote from John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your country."

So, ask not what the parish can do for you, rather ask what you can do for the good of the parish. God has given each of us the gifts needed for building His Kingdom. Let us use them well, wisely and be good stewards of such gifts and a part of the solution.

St. Michael, defend and protect us!

Fr. Carl

The Last Things: 5-Session Online Study

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Church focuses on the "last things". Join us in a 5-week online study with Bishop Robert Barron to discuss topics such as death, judgment, Heaven, and Hell. When you register, you will receive via email one short video with reflection questions each week. Please plan to share your comments and questions with the group.

October 31: What will happen when we die?

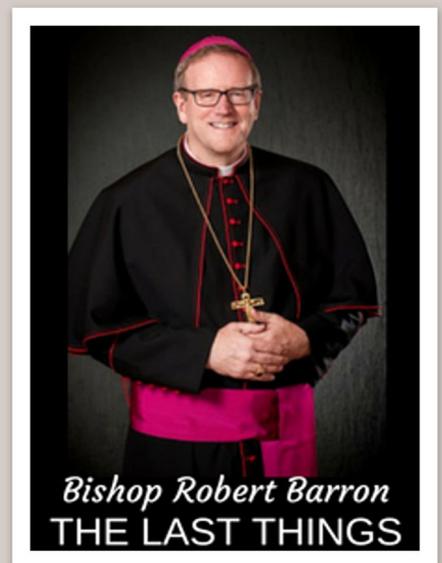
November 7: Does God really send people to Hell?

November 14: Why Purgatory is actually a good thing.

November 21: What can we know about angels?

November 28: What is the goal of Christianity?

Register free at Flocknote.com/StMichaelLivermore/TheLastThings



General Conditions

Indulgence Obtainable November 1-8

A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

1. have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin.
2. have sacramentally confessed their sins.
3. receive the Holy Eucharist .
4. pray for the intentions of the Pope.

If only some of the conditions have been met, the indulgence is partial.



“An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints”. (CCC 1471)

Grant #29.1.1: For the Souls in Purgatory

A plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted each and every day from Nov 1 to Nov 8, who devoutly visit a cemetery and there pray, if only mentally, for the departed.

Grant #29.1.2: All Souls’ Day, November 2

A plenary indulgence is granted the faithful who, on All Souls’ Day (or according to the judgment of the bishop, on the Sunday preceding or following it, or on the solemnity of All Saints), devoutly visits a church or an oratory and recites an Our Father and the Creed.

Parish Office Closed on Sundays

After a careful monitoring of the number of people coming to the parish office on Sunday, we have determined that we will no longer be open on Sundays starting in November. Thank you for your understanding as we continually strive to make the best use of our resources to serve the community.

Contact the Church Office

925-447-1585

Office@StMichaelLivermore.com

Pastoral Emergencies for the Homebound

925-521-4117

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:

9 am - 12 pm then 2 pm - 5 pm

(closed between 12 pm and 2 pm)

Parish Wide Weekly Bible Study

Opening the Word is a weekly Catholic faith formation and Bible study resource that helps you unpack the meaning of the Sunday Readings and explore how they connect to your life.

What started as a curriculum to guide RCIA groups in their faith formation quickly expanded to Catholics outside the RCIA community because of its unique approach.

Features

- Video Reflection so you can gain insight from dynamic Catholic scholars like Dr. Edward Sri, Dr. Tim Gray, Dr. Mary Healy and others.
- A downloadable guide and Personal Prayer Journal with prompts to help you apply the readings to your own life in a personal way—complete with Bible verses, prayers from the Saints, and references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- An opportunity to share your thoughts, questions and reflections online with other St Michael parishioners.

Visit FORMED.org/Community, click “Opening the Word Discussion”.



MONDAY, OCT 29

Readings: Eph 4:32 -- 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17

Memorize the Prayer for Eternal Rest

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”

Offer this prayer daily during the month of November for the souls in Purgatory.

TUESDAY, OCT 30

Readings: Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21

WEDNESDAY, OCT 31

Readings: Eph 6:1-9; Ps 145:10-14; Lk 13:22-30

Serve at Open Heart Kitchen:

12:30 pm-2:00 pm and 2:00 pm-3:30 pm. Contact Diane Schord at dhschord@sbcglobal.net or 925-447-4344.

Discover the Catholic Faith In-

quiry meetings at 7 pm in the Convent for adults considering preparing to receive Sacraments.

THURSDAY, NOV 1

Solemnity of All Saints

Readings: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

All Saints Day Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:30 am, 10:30 am (school), 12:15 pm, 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm (Spanish).

If you will not be in Livermore, please check MassTimes.org for a parish near you.

FRIDAY, NOV 2

Commemoration of All the Faithful (All Souls' Day)

Readings: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40

Holy Consecration Ceremony at

1:00 pm at St Michael Cemetery for the newly completed St Anthony section.

This event satisfies the act of Indulgence for All Souls' Day.

SATURDAY, NOV 3

St. Martin de Porres

Readings: Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11

Anointing of the Sick following the 8:30 am Mass.

Confession at 9:15 am, 3:45 pm and 6:15 pm (Spanish).

Dia de los Muertos Celebration

at 11 am at St Michael Cemetery. Bilingual Mass followed by fiesta.

SUNDAY, NOV 4

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Dt 6:2-6; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28b-34

Maintenance & Improvement Collection at all Masses.

Mass with Sign Language interpreter at 11:00 am.

Carondelet High School's Open House from 2- 4 pm. Please visit www.carondeleth.org/ admissions



Save the Dates

Parish-Wide Reconciliation Services

November 5

November 12

November 19

at 6:30 pm in the Church

About the Sacrament of Confession



will to become "like gods," knowing and determining good and evil. Sin is thus "love of oneself even to contempt of God." In this proud self-exaltation, sin is diametrically opposed to the obedience of Jesus, which achieves our salvation. (CCC 1850)

ation at least once a year. If we have committed a mortal sin, we are to receive sacramental absolution before going to Communion. *But these are just the absolute bare minimums.* We are encouraged to seek reconciliation any time we are in need of Jesus' healing grace.

Preparing for Confession

All are encouraged to watch the three-part video series *Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession*, available free on FORMED.org

Sessions 1, 2 and 3 explain everything that you need to know about God's loving mercy and the Rite of Confession.

Also check out the bonus videos - *For Children: How to Make a Great Confession* and *For Parents: Preparing Your Child for First Confession*.

Confession at St Michael's

Saturdays in the Church

at 9:15 am and 3:45 pm in English, 6:15 pm in Spanish.

Mondays & Fridays in the Church
7:30 am in English & Spanish.

1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel at 2:30 pm.

Parish Wide Reconciliation Services for Adults, Teens & Children on Monday, November 5, 12 and 19 at 6:30 pm. Several priests from our neighboring parishes will be available.

Different Names, Same Sacrament

The Sacrament of "Confession" is also called the Sacrament of "Conversion" or "Penance" or "Forgiveness" or "Reconciliation" (CCC 1423-1424)

Confession is One of the Seven Sacraments

The Church celebrates seven sacraments, which are divided into three categories. The Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist - form the foundation of every Christian life. The Sacraments of Healing - Confession, Anointing of the Sick - celebrate the healing power of Jesus. The Sacraments at the Service of Communion - Matrimony and Holy Orders help members serve the community.

Sin

Sin is an offense against God. Sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from it. Like the first sin, it is disobedience, a revolt against God through the

Forgiveness

It is not your priest who forgives sins. He acts as God's representative, offering absolution only through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Confession when he told his apostles "whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt 18:18). Confessing to a priest invites us to own up to our wrongdoing and reconciles us with God and our Church community.

Seal of Confession

The Church doesn't permit any exceptions to the seal of confession, which binds a priest to absolute secrecy regarding the sins he hears in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. "He can make no use of knowledge that confession gives him about penitents' lives," the Catechism says. (CCC 1467)

Receiving the Sacrament

We are expected by the Church to receive the Sacrament of Reconcili-



“ El consejo pastoral es, por lo tanto, un órgano consultivo en el que los fieles, que expresan su responsabilidad bautismal, pueden ayudar al párroco, que preside el consejo, ofreciéndole consejos sobre asuntos pastorales”.

(El sacerdote, pastor y líder de la comunidad parroquial, 23).

Esta semana, comenzaremos nuestra encuesta parroquial, dirigida por nuestro Consejo Pastoral. Transmito mi gratitud a los miembros del Consejo por escuchar mi llamado a esta encuesta a nivel parroquial para descubrir las necesidades de la parroquia. Se alienta a todos los feligreses, especialmente a los miembros de los

grupos y ministerios, a completar esta encuesta, con el objetivo de ayudarme a tomar decisiones basadas en las necesidades actuales de la parroquia.

Nuestra parroquia es una de las parroquias más diversas en la Diócesis. Actualmente tenemos alrededor de 5,500 familias registradas de ricos orígenes étnicos. En la actualidad, tenemos más de 475 niños y jóvenes inscritos en nuestros programas de formación en la fe y ministerio juvenil y más de 170 estudiantes en nuestra escuela. Tenemos más de 75 ministerios y organizaciones al servicio de nuestra parroquia. Tenemos ocho misas de domingo, y nuestras semanas están llenas de quincenas, bodas, funerales y bautismos.

Observando los muchos eventos que ocurren en nuestra parroquia, está claro que San Miguel es una parroquia muy ocupada. ¡Nunca hay un día aburrido! Por lo tanto, hay una pregunta que tenemos que hacer. ¿Cómo podemos responder eficazmente a las necesidades actuales de los feligreses y trabajar hacia el futuro de la parroquia?

Su participación en esta encuesta será de gran ayuda para mí y para el Consejo Pastoral. Esta semana, complete la encuesta en línea aquí StMichaelLivermore.com/Survey o pase por la oficina de la parroquia para recoger una copia impresa.

Permítame terminar con un dicho que mi profesor de Etica Social me enseñó: "Si no es parte de la solución, debe ser parte del problema". Y, finalmente, la famosa cita de John F. Kennedy: "No preguntes qué puede hacer tu país por ti, sino qué puedes hacer por tu país".

Entonces, no pregunte qué puede hacer la parroquia por usted, más bien pregunte qué puede hacer usted por el bien de la parroquia. Dios nos ha dado a cada uno los dones necesarios para edificar Su Reino. Usémoslos bien, sabiamente y seamos buenos administradores de tales dones y parte de la solución.

San Miguel, defiéndenos y protégenos!

P. Carl

Fe y Vida

Fe y Vida es una serie de videos cortos que nos enseñan una manera práctica y sencilla de poner en práctica nuestra fe. Respondiendo a preguntas de personas en distintos lugares del mundo, la sección Fe y Vida nos ayuda a vivir la fe en el día a día, conectando Fe y Vida.

StMichael.FORMED.org —>
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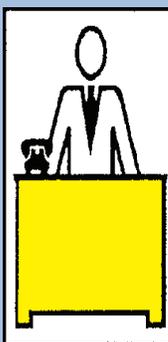
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Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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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 in the chapel

en la capilla

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

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

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays in the
Convent Chapel**

2:30 pm in English

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 |

24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de

acceso después de las horas, llame al

775-772-6369

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 8:30 am—5:00 pm
(closed during lunch)

Sun 8:30 am—12:30 pm

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor
Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer
Rev. Deacon Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

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Pastoral Council Chair:
Mike Pereira
michaelpereira@comcast.net

Eric Hom, Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo
Anne Lindquist, Dave Parks,
Frank Draschner, Miguel Ibarria,
Jeff Andersen, Cynthia Garay and
Glenda Dubsy.

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TBD

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925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos



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