



ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS, GROW DISCIPLES, BRING CHRIST TO PEOPLE

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

1st Sunday OF ADVENT



FROM FR CARL

Dear St Michael Family,

Welcome to the season of Advent. This pandemic has caused a year of struggle and change and tragedy for so many of us. But I have good news! Advent is a season of HOPE. We remember that God's intention for us and all of nature - from the beginning of time - is perfection and beauty. He did not intend suffering and disease and death. During Advent, we are reminded that He sent His only Son to fix our world, broken by sin. Jesus was born to us some 2,000 years ago to set us free, so that we can choose to follow Him into the perfection of Heaven.

Advent is also a time to prepare to receive Jesus more fully into our hearts. Spiritually, we should do some housekeeping to allow room for the comfort and peace that Jesus always brings. In 2020, we need comfort and peace more than ever!

And finally, Advent is a time to recall that this is not the end of the story. Jesus WILL come again and there will never been pain or suffering again. We do not know when that time is, but we do know that we must be prepared.

Yes, 2020 has been a difficult year. But let us unite as a community this Advent in these ways:

Register to attend our Advent Mission Retreat on Zoom. It's called Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Mary. We will gather together online, watch an inspiring video and pray together. There is also a journal for your daily reflections.

Seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation! There is no better way to prepare our hearts and minds and souls than this healing sacrament. We priests are here for you Monday through Friday at 6:30 pm and Saturdays at 9:30 am.

Reconnect with the Mass. If the pandemic has thrown off your schedule and routine, now is the time to make a commitment to celebrating the Mass. You can celebrate Mass outside or via livestream any day of the week. Or you can park your car in the parking lot and tune in to 87.9 FM and listen. Or you can watch livestream on Facebook or YouTube.

Be generous. \$25 sponsors a holiday grocery kit for a family at our Community Care Grocery Drive Through. You can also donate grocery store gift cards. We are reaching over 900 people every week, so every donation helps!

So friends, even though this year has been difficult, we have many reasons to rejoice. Know that all of your priests here at St Michael are praying for you and your families. Please keep us in your prayers too.

May you all have a peaceful Advent.

Fr Carl



ADVENT PRAYER

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail.

Amen.

(Source: OurCatholicFaith.org)

Worship Schedule

Effective November 18, 2020

OUTDOOR MASS

Weather permitting.
Bring your own chair.
Face covering required.

Monday—Saturday

8:30 am

Sunday

8:00 am Traditional Latin

9:30 am English

11:00 am English

12:30 pm Spanish

LIVESTREAM MASS

On Facebook and YouTube.

Monday - Saturday

6:45 am

In English

Wednesday

8:30 am School Mass

In English

5:00 pm

In Spanish

Saturday Vigil

5:00 pm

In English

7:00 pm

In Spanish

Sunday

8:00 am

Latin

9:30 am

English

PARK & LISTEN

Tune in to 87.9 FM

Park in the parking lot or side streets within a block of the church and tune in to 87.9 FM to listen to Mass.

WALK IN COMMUNION

Pray with Livestream Mass or listen from the parking lot on 87.9 FM.
Face covering required.

Arrive exactly 45 minutes after Mass begins to receive Communion.

PLUS on Sunday at 5:00 pm

CONFESSION & ADORATION

In the Courtyard.
Weather permitting.
Face covering required.
Bring your own chair for Adoration.

Monday - Friday

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday

9:30 am - 10:30 am

DAILY ZOOM ROSARY

12:00 pm in English
<http://bit.ly/RosaryDec>

8:00 pm in Spanish
<http://bit.ly/RosarioDec>

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

Worship schedule is subject to change based on the latest from Alameda County Health Department and the Diocese of Oakland.

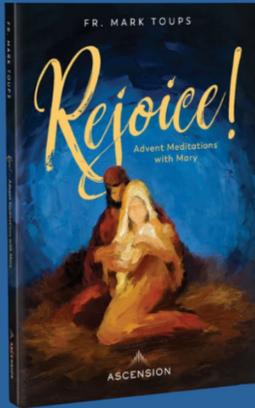
Outdoor Mass, Confession and Adoration is offered weather permitting.

Bookmark StMichaelLivermore.com/MassTimes (or scan the code below) for the most current schedule.



SCAN ME

ADVENT



ADVENT MISSION RETREAT

Mondays on Zoom

November 23 - December 21

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

StMichaelLivermore.com/Advent



SCAN ME



ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING & BLESSING

November 28

Livestream on Facebook & YouTube

5 pm in English, 7 pm in Spanish



SCAN ME



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

December 7: 5 pm English, and 7 pm Spanish

December 8: 6:45 am and 8:30 am

We remain dispensed from the obligation to celebrate Mass during the pandemic



SCAN ME



ADVENT RECONCILIATION

December 9 and 16 at 6:30 – 8:00 pm
for St Michael School and
Faith Formation.

Mon-Fri at 6:30 pm and Sat at 9:30 am
for parish community.



SCAN ME

CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS



NOW SCHEDULING BABY BAPTISMS

Preparation classes for parents and godparents are online. Download the information packet to start the process.



SCAN ME



CONFESSION IN THE COURTYARD

In the the Courtyard, weather permitting.

Face covering required.

M-F at 6:30 pm, Sat at 9:30 am.



SCAN ME



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

In the Courtyard, weather permitting.

M-F at 6:30 pm and Sat at 9:30 am.

Wear a face covering.

Bring your own chair.



SCAN ME



SACRAMENT PREP FOR ADULTS

Now enrolling adults to prepare for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Classes are online!



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GROW DISCIPLES



DAILY DECEMBER ROSARY

Meet on Zoom at 12:00 pm
Everyday in December
Rosary beginners welcome
Let's pray together



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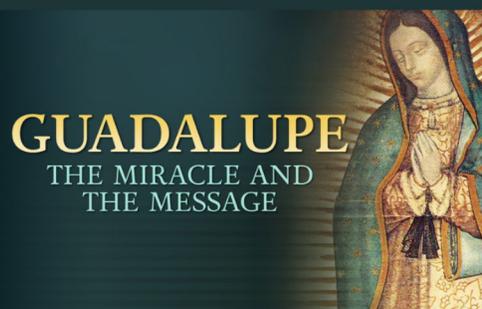


FORMED NOW! PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

Dr. Tim Gray sits down with Dr. Ben Akers to discuss the Church's teaching on prayer and how prayer is our response of love and faith to God's thirst for us. (30 min video)



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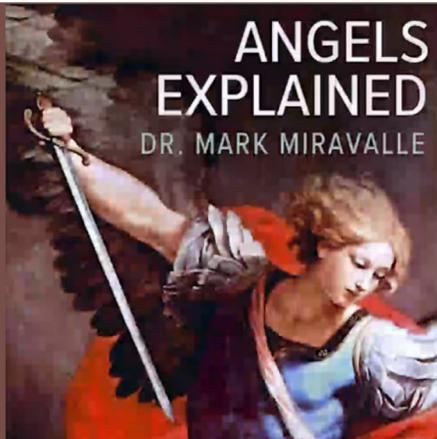


GUADALUPE

In 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to an indigenous convert named Juan Diego. As a result of this encounter, nine million Native Americans embraced the Catholic faith. (58 min documentary).



SCAN ME



ABOUT THE NINE CHOIRS

Dr. Mark Miravalle explains the nine choirs of angels, their differing roles and hierarchical order, and how much angels can help us if we only ask. 1-hour audio talk.



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BRING CHRIST TO PEOPLE



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Saturdays 12/5, 12/12, 12/19
9:00 am - 11:00 am while supplies last
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SANTA'S SECRET SERVICE 2020

No gifts to care facilities this year.
Collecting grocery store gift cards
instead to be distributed on
December 19



SCAN ME

NOT EVERYONE CAN MAKE THE SAME FINANCIAL GIFT...



but everyone can make the same sacrifice.

St Michael Catholic Church is committed to meeting the spiritual and physical needs of our Livermore community, even through a return to pandemic restrictions. We will

never tire of finding new ways to advance Christ's mission.

But we can only do it with your support.

We are closely monitoring our parish budget, being conservative with our spending. Please bring to prayer the financial needs of our parish. Let the Holy Spirit lead you to your level of giving during this challenging time.

For questions regarding our parish finances, please contact Eric Hom, Director of Business Operations at EricHom@stmichaellivermore.com.

Thank You.



Thank You!

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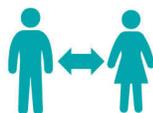
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Be Watchful AND VIGILANT

GOSPEL MEDITATION

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen.

Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

We hear today the prophet Isaiah's internal spiritual struggle as he questions God's ways and decries our human tendency to sin. What spiritual struggles do you need to confront as we enter into the season of Advent?

Second Reading:

In his opening words to the Corinthian Christians, Paul reminds the faithful of God's fidelity to those who believe in his Son. He then cites examples of the blessings they have received since coming to the faith. What are some blessings you have received in your faith journey?

Gospel:

Jesus instructs his disciples to be vigilant for the end times. How can you make this spiritual discipline a focus of your Advent season this year?

RESPONDING to the

Call

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

In the Unexpected

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

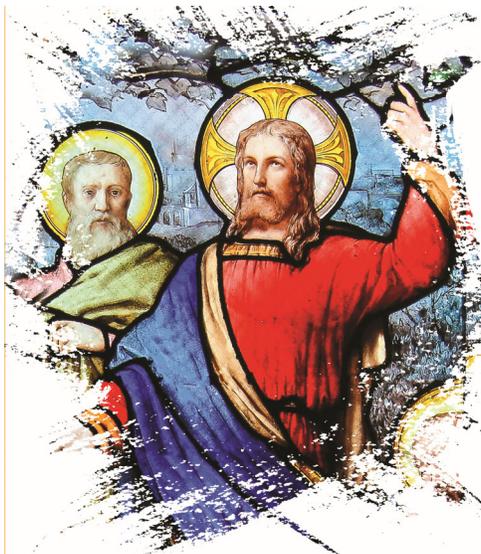
Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we

have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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