



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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December 25, 2016 • Christmas



*Suddenly there was a multitude
of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:*

*“Glory to
God
in the highest.”*

Luke 2:13-14

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

Clergy

Rev. Van Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Rafael Hinojosa, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence
Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired
Rev. Dcn Rob Federle
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925-447-1888

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925-344-7127

Sunday Readings

God Had This All Planned

First Reading

All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

Chapter 52 of Isaiah is a remarkable one. It begins with a promise of redemption (from the exile that Israel endured in Babylon) and ends with prophecies that we often read in the Lenten season about the character of Christ's Passion, the means by which he worked our redemption. This prophecy speaks mysteriously about a "servant" (in the Greek Old Testament, pais, which can be translated either as "servant" or as "son") who will be both "exalted," or "raised high," and "marred... beyond that of human beings" (Is 52:13-14).

In this central section that we read for the celebration of Christmas, the theme is one of announcement of the coming of the one who brings these "glad tidings" of the "salvation of our God," or what we as Christians call the Gospel. It is somewhat ironic that on this Christmas Day the Church would remind us, if even only allusively, that the scene which we contemplate today, so full of the warmth and religious of this feast of the winter season, is vitally connected to that other season in the spring of the year when we recall that the babe in the manger will pay the price of our redemption on the Cross. One of the themes of this part of Isaiah is that God will redeem (literally, "buy back") Israel without a cost to her. That is, he will pay the ransom that

she owes. We know by Faith that this prophecy is intended not just for Israel but also with reference to the sins of the whole human race. It is worthwhile to pause for a moment on Christmas to recall that the incomparable gift we receive in Christ, though it cost us nothing, cost Jesus greatly, beginning in the poverty of Bethlehem.

Second Reading

God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

In our Second Reading, which is from the very beginning of the Letter to the Hebrews, we find a theological reflection upon the truth that we find also in the portion of the prologue from John's Gospel. Jesus is the very Son of God "through whom he created the universe" and the object of the worship of even the angels. This is an important element in the apologetic argument that Paul makes, because the Jews believed that the Old Testament Law was delivered through the angels. So a Jew who was arguing against the claims of Christianity might argue, "Our Law of Moses was received from the angels, but your new Christian law is only received from Jesus, a man."

Christmas is a celebration of what we call the Incarnation, God the Son becoming man in Jesus and being born into our human experience by taking to himself our flesh and all that goes with it, both our birth and our death. This central mystery of our Faith is always a difficult thing to hold. In fact, we only hold it by virtue of the gift of faith that makes this great mystery known to us. For

and Meditation

many Jews, too, this was the central difficulty of accepting Christianity. They thought that God could not enter the flesh in this way, though he had clearly demonstrated his love for his people in many ways. We know, again, only by faith, that this mystery reveals just how far his love goes.

Gospel

The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

As was noted in the commentary on Second Reading, the mystery of the Incarnation is central to Christianity and only confessed through the gift of faith. How the infinite God, without limit of any kind, could enter the limitations of space and time is naturally unknowable. While it is clear in the Gospels that Jesus does divine things and makes divine claims—and also does human things and makes human claims—how it is that these two sets of truths can be found in one Person is not seen without the gift of faith. Only faith can see that these two things, infinity and finitude, divinity and humanity, exist together in Jesus Christ. So though on Christmas we tend to stress the importance of love and the warmth of the scene in the stable where the infant Christ is surrounded by the love of Joseph and Mary, we ought to remember that it is only faith that enables us to see—and so to feel—that love in full. That is what St. John is trying to

help us see in the prologue to his Gospel. He wants us to stand at the height of eternity with the divine Word so that we might gain the dizzying sense of how far down God's love comes to enter time. We really ought to love God more when we see that he willed to come so far down to make himself knowable and lovable.

Meditation

Today's readings center around God's loving plan, which begins "in the beginning" and results in the birth of the divine Savior—the Word made flesh, God dwelling with us. It can be very comforting to be reminded that God always has a plan. What are some ways that you have seen God's plan unfolding in your own life? Is there some area of your life where you need the extra hope that comes from knowing that God is in control?



Resolution

Make a commitment to discover God's loving plan by joining a Small Group Bible Study this January. Register by January 15. See the flier insert or visit StMichaelLivermore.com/BibleStudy

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

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Saints and Special Observances

Monday: St. Stephen

Tuesday: St. John

Wednesday: The Holy Innocents

Thursday: St. Thomas Becket; Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Saturday: St. Sylvester I

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 throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Prayers & Devotion

A Christmas Prayer

Praise to you, Lord God!
You have become one of us.
You have become a human being,
while still retaining all your power and
holiness as God!



You, O Lord, made the journey of the unborn child. By being an embryo, a fetus, and a newborn, you joined all unborn and newborn children to you!

From the beginning of history, O Lord, you were the Creator of every human life. Now, with Christmas, you join yourself in an unthinkable way with the life you created. Let this Christmas, O God, fill all of us with awe and wonder at how close human life is to you.

Cleanse the world of all that tarnishes and rejects this gift. Purify our hearts of all that fears this gift. Let our Christmas joy be the joy of welcoming every human life!

Amen!

www.Catholic.org

In Your Quiet Prayer...

Picture the newborn Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the manger. Now consider the proclamation that today's Gospel makes about this infant: he has always been and always will be, through him everything was created, he is the light of the world, he saves us and makes us children of God, he reveals the full glory of the Father, he is God.

What are you not entrusting to him completely? Where do you need to surrender more fully to his plan? Offer these things to him.

Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him

Spending time in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is especially appropriate during the Christmas Season. Jesus is as fully present in the Eucharist as he was in the manger. You can adore Him just as Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi did.

The Adoration Chapel is regularly open 24/7. However, Sat, Dec 31 the chapel will close at 6 pm and will resume on Mon, Jan 2 after 8:30 am Mass.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/24

- 8:30am Edward Fleming †
3:00 pm Susan & Dan Collins †
5:00pm Joe & Jo Goralka †
7:00 pm Patricia Werner †
9:00pm Rosa Suarez
Midnight The Ezekwem Family

Sunday 12/25

- 6:45am Christopher Headley †
8:00am Alice & Walter Noonan †
Irene & Milton Staton †
9:30am Candido Echon †
11:00am Antony Pham Van Hoi †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish

Monday 12/26

- 8:30am Carmen Sanchez †
and Robert Moreshead †

Tuesday 12/27

- 7:00am The Souls in Purgatory †
8:30am Telesfora B. Gorospe †

Wednesday 12/28

- 7:00am Fr Rafael Hinojosa
(Happy Birthday)
8:30am Frank Fallon †
7:00 pm Maria Sandoval †

Thursday 12/29

- 7:00 am Bob Moreland †
8:30 am Raquel C. Rodriguez †

Friday 12/30

- 7:00am Rhea Ong †
8:30am Patricia Werner †

Saturday 12/31

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

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

Merry Christmas!

Dear St Michael Community,



ON THIS JOYOUS celebration of Christmas, and together with the clergy and staff of St Michael's, I want to thank you, my dear parishioners, for your continued support. I see the love of God in you, by your prayers, devotions, offerings and hard work. We are so blessed with this vibrant, faith-filled family where we celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples and bring Christ to people. Your faith is always an inspiration to me.

If you are visiting St Michael's, welcome! I hope that you found a home-away-from-home while celebrating the Nativity of the Lord with us, and please visit us again.

If this is your first time back to Mass in a while, I am so happy that you chose to return! Please let us help you continue growing in the love of Christ. Find out more about St Michael's by talking to one of our Welcome Ministers in the burgundy aprons, visiting our website or calling the office. I encourage you to join one of our small group Bible Studies to learn more about the faith and make new friends.

May the Lord richly bless you and your family and friends this Christmas! It is my prayer that you may experience the same joy of that our Blessed Mother and St Joseph felt when Jesus was born.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Van



Inquiry: **The First Step to Becoming Catholic**

If you have had a moving experience this Christmas, and are feeling drawn to the Catholic Church, come find out more! Inquiry meetings resume on January 3 and every Tuesday thereafter at 7:00 pm in the Convent.

Inquiry is the first step to becoming Catholic or completing initiation sacraments. If you are an adult who is not baptized, or baptized in another Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation, come talk with us on Tuesdays. Inquiry is a no-pressure place to get answers about the Catholic faith.

Visit StMichaelLivermore.com/CompleteSacraments or
Call Marjorie Melendez at 925-447-2925 or
Email RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com.

Returning Catholics Welcome Home!

Maybe you have been away from the Church for a little while or for quite some time, but now you feel a tug at your heart calling you back to the Catholic Church. Listen to that tug. It's your Heavenly Father reaching his arms out to you, the Holy Spirit whispering in your ear, hoping to draw you home.

If you want someone to talk to, we are here for you. We can help with resources to refresh your understanding of the Mass and Catholic teaching and give you some tips about how to get re-connected and involved at our parish.

Call or text Tina at 925-961-7231 or email ComeHome@StMichaelLivermore.com. Visit CatholicsComeHome.org for some great info!

Events

Last Chance to Tour Deacon Dave's Christmas Lights Dec 26 thru Jan 1 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Tour Deacon Dave's Christmas light display and take part in a 34 year long Livermore tradition! Open now through January 1 at 352 Hillcrest Avenue.

The Christmas display is subject to closure due to heavy rain or strong winds.

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.

CYO Track & Field Sign Ups at St Charles Jan 9, 12, 17, 19 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Children from 3rd to 8th grade are welcome to enjoy the friendly competition of CYO Track and Field! The 2017 season is Feb 6th through the 2nd week of May.

For more information, please visit www.smisctrack.org or email mandy.costello@hotmail.com.

Reminders

Regular Weekly Adorers Needed

Are you ready to boost your relationship with Christ in 2017? Sign up for a regular weekly hour to pray in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel.

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.



Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday, December 31

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

Sunday, January 1

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

Adoration Chapel Closed

Sat, Dec 31 at 6 pm. Resumes Mon, Jan 2 after 8:30 am Mass.

Parish Offices Closed

Monday, December 26
Monday, January 2

No 7:00 am Mass

Monday, December 26
Monday, January 2

Events

Small Group Bible Study Registration Deadline

Jan 15

Study the Mass, the Blessed Mother or journey through the narrative thread of the entire Bible. Groups meet in member's homes. Join with your friends or join individually to be placed in a group.

See the flier in the church for details or register online at
StMichaelLivermore.com/BibleStudy

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 News

Save the Date: Jan 25

There will be no monthly Golden Friends luncheon for month of January, but will resume on Feb 24.

Save the date for the Thunder Valley Casino Trip on Wed, Jan 25. More info in next week's bulletin.

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.

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.



Knights of Columbus 44th Annual Crab Feed

February 11

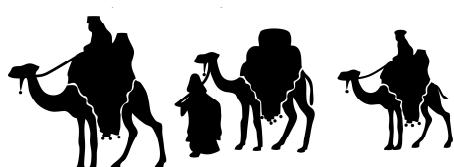
Enjoy crab and pasta dinner in town while supporting a worthy charitable cause on Feb 11 at Robert Livermore Community Center at 4:30—11:00 pm. No host bar - wine, beer and cocktails, live entertainment and dancing, door prizes and raffles, live & silent auctions.

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".





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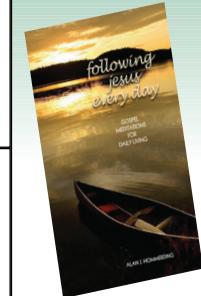
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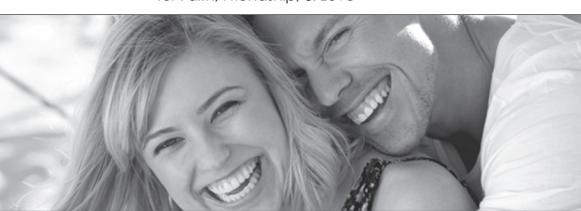
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Noticias Parroquiales

ESPERANDO EN LA OSCURIDAD

Isaías escribe intensamente en la oscuridad y en la penumbra, con las cargas y sacrificios que los judíos han soportado por años y años. Su espera, su miseria se difícil y prolongada. Y aún así ellos continúan esperando. En la carta de Pablo a Tito, la comunidad cristiana también está esperando, no por el nacimiento del Salvador sino por el regreso de ese Salvador. Pablo nos recuerda "la bendita esperanza" que sostiene nuestra espera. En Lucas escuchamos la ya conocida historia de María y José, el embarazo y el alumbramiento, el bebé, el Hijo. Él es aquel por el que todos han esperado. Su venida, tan anhelada, tan anticipada, es una realidad. Otra historia que conocemos y que menciona Lucas es la de los pastores, ellos tuvieron miedo. A ellos también se les dice las mismas palabras que el ángel le dijo a María quien le anunció que daría a luz a un hijo: "no tengas miedo".



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 26 de diciembre

Lunes 2 de enero

No habrá misa de 7:00 am :

Lunes 26 de diciembre

Lunes 2 de enero



FELIZ NAVIDAD

LA FAMILIARIDAD ENGENDRA CONTEMPLACIÓN

¿Pero cómo no podríamos tener miedo? Una jovencita y madre dando a luz en un establo. Pastores viendo ángeles. No necesitamos tener miedo porque estas historias son conocidas y familiares. Muchos de nosotros podríamos contarlas de memoria, casi palabra por palabra. Son como las historias que nuestros hijos insisten les leamos cada noche aún cuando ya se conocen la historia de memoria. Esas historias son familiares no porque las escuchemos repetidamente cada año durante la Navidad sino porque son historias de nuestra preparación diaria, nuestra anhelada espera, nuestro miedo, cansancio, miseria y nuestra esperanza y alegría. Su misma familiaridad significa que no tenemos que preguntarnos lo que va a pasar. Ya lo sabemos. Sabemos que a pesar de las circunstancias del nacimiento de Jesús, hijo de María, él transforma la oscuridad en luz. Su Hijo trae alegría, paz. Sabemos que a pesar de nuestro cansancio y miedo, también la paz espera por nosotros.

Día Santo: María, Madre de Dios

Sábado, 31 de diciembre
Misa de Vigilia

5:00 pm en inglés
7:00 pm en inglés

Domingo 1 de enero



6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am en inglés, 12:30 pm en español y 6:00 pm en inglés



La Parroquia de San Miguel

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

458 Maple St
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Contáctenos

Secretario de habla en Español
Viernes 9-6 y Lunes-Jueves 4-7
Office@StMichaelLivermore.com

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

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oración y para el capitán de horas,
llame a Elsa al 925-339-6411

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Ana Fregoso: 925-344-7150

Formacion de Fe

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Bautismos, Quinceañera, Matrimonios, Confirmación

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25 de diciembre de 2016 • Navidad



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