



ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, March 1, 2020 | First Sunday in Lent

**JESUS WAS LED BY
THE SPIRIT INTO THE
DESERT
TO BE TEMPTED BY THE
DEVIL.**



MATTHEW 4:1

CONTACT

458 Maple Street
Livermore, CA 94550
StMichaelLivermore.com
Parish: 925-447-1585
School: 925-447-1888
Emergencies: 925-521-4117

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily

Mon-Fri: 6:45 am and 8:30 am
Saturday: 8:30 am
Wed: 7:00 pm (español)
First Fri: 12:00 pm

Weekend

Sat Vigil: 5:00 pm (English),
7:00 pm (español)

Sun: 6:45 am, 8:00 am,
9:30 am, 11:00 am,
12:30 pm (español), 6:00 pm

Sign Language

1st Sun, 11:00 am

Traditional Latin Mass

2nd & 4th Sun, 8:00 am

Mass in Tagalog

3rd Sun, 3:30 pm

Mass in Vietnamese

4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples, Bring Christ to People

STUDY

Summary

We begin our Lenten readings in a most appropriate place: the desert. In the desert, life is stripped to basics and everything, including our weakness, is exposed. We are forced to stand alone and vulnerable before God.

Our faith is put to the test. Little wonder, then, that Jesus went to the desert to fast and pray before plunging into his public works. It's there, amid the rocks and reptiles, that the devil comes to him with three temptations. When we read about the temptations, it's easy for us to dismiss them as having no relevance to our own lives. When was the last time you were tempted to change stones to bread, for instance?

While the specifics of the temptations don't resonate with us, the lure of pushing God aside, of making him secondary in our lives, lies at their heart—and that is a common temptation for all of us. For example, when we struggle with daily concerns of how to pay our bills or provide for our families, we are tempted to turn from God's way and pursue our own path. That's, in a sense, what the devil was suggesting to Jesus when he told him to turn stones to bread.

The same is true with the other two temptations. The devil was urging Jesus to prove his divinity by jumping off a building. We often want God to prove he is

God by giving us exactly what we want, when we want it. And just as the devil tempted Jesus with the glory and power of this world, so he tempts us, deep down, to crave power, wealth, and fame and the lifestyle they provide. We are drawn to the ways of the world and both covertly and overtly deny our faith if we think we can get away with it.



This Lent, we are called to remember the primacy of God and to turn to him in our moments of weakness and need.

First Reading Reflection Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7

It is fitting that on the First Sunday of Lent we hear about the first sin of mankind. Adam and Eve exhibit shame and try to avoid God's presence after they eat the forbidden fruit. But within eight verses of the story of the Fall, we see the fruit of that first sin in the murder of Abel by Cain. The whole flow of the Old Testament describes the consequences of the Fall. The repeated interventions by God in human history are explicitly aimed at rectifying the subsequent disobedience and sin and building

a renewed relationship between God and Israel and amongst the Israelites themselves through what's called the Covenant. It was this sense that something was amiss that gave rise to the messianic longings of the people of Israel. The people had to be delivered, even if they weren't quite sure what to call the thing that oppressed them.

So we struggle with sin as sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. That struggle didn't end with the coming of Christ. Although God has promised us the grace to combat sin in our lives, we're still Israel, a name which means "struggle." Lent is that time during the liturgical year when we take up that struggle with special earnestness.

Second Reading Reflection Romans 5:12–19

St Paul's correlation between Adam and Christ is far more than just a description of the mechanics of salvation (i.e., Adam broke it and Jesus fixed it). St. Paul's experience of the risen Lord on the road to Damascus apparently set working in him a complete reassessment of the whole of biblical history in light of the remarkable event which was Christ. Once he recognized Christ as the fulfillment of his Judaism, Paul began to see Christ everywhere in the Old Testament.

That tendency to read the Old

Testament in the light of Christ is something that the Church has done ever since. Those associations are made particularly in the liturgy which pairs the readings from the two Testaments to draw parallels between Christ and the figures and events from Israel's history. In the liturgy we, too, are incorporated into that unification of all things in Christ that St. Paul recognized as the center of the Good News. We repeat and share in the trials and triumphs of the Old Testament from Adam to Ezra as we read those stories and then apply to ourselves the victory of Christ over sin through the sacraments he left us.

Gospel Reflection **Matthew 4:1–11**

Matthew is intent on showing us that Jesus is the fulfillment of Jewish hopes and prophecy. And the Church has specifically paired our first reading and this Gospel passage to highlight certain parallels between the Old and New Testaments. The most obvious is that both are tempta-

tion scenes: the first successful (Adam and Eve), and the second unsuccessful (Jesus defeats Satan). But if we look a little closer, we can see another close parallel.

Both Eve and Jesus are tempted with food, death, and power. This threefold temptation bests Eve in the absence of Adam. But in the second temptation, the new Adam is the subject of the temptation and the future Eve, the Church, is at a safe distance. Interestingly, in chapters 26, 27, and 28 of Matthew, Jesus will successfully give food to his followers in the Eucharist, will go to his death on the Cross, and receive power from the Father in his Resurrection. What Jesus refused to the devil at the beginning of Matthew's Gospel, he gives freely at the end of his Gospel. Ironically, what Satan promised to Eve and could not deliver, Jesus offers freely to the new Eve, the Church, in the Paschal Mystery.

Reflect & Discuss

In this week's Opening the Word video (available free on FORMED.org), we will see how the temptations of Jesus are really the same kind of temptations we all face. You may want to take some notes on what the presenter is saying for your discussion.

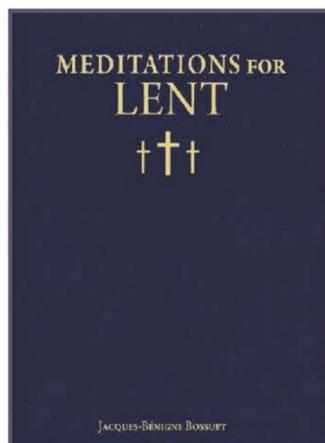
In the first temptation, the devil urges Jesus to turn stones to bread. What is this temptation really all about?

In the second temptation, the devil tells Jesus to throw himself off the temple and let angels rescue him. What is this temptation really all about?

In the third temptation, the devil tells Jesus he can have all the power of the world if he will bow down in worship. What is this temptation about?

Reprinted with permission from Augustine Institute from the Opening the Word Leader Guide available on FORMED.org

FORMED® PICK OF THE WEEK



Meditations for Lent by Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet

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Dr. Christopher Blum has selected fifty remarkably powerful meditations from Bishop Bossuet's works that complement the daily readings at Mass during the Lenten season, thus offering to us the perfect companion for a thoughtful, fruitful Lent.

PRAY

Mass Intentions

Saturday 2/29

8:30am Mr & Mrs Amporiano †
5:00pm Sally Bystroff †
7:00pm Luis Carreon †
Ramon Fierro †
Ricardo Carreon †

Sunday 3/1

6:45am Russel Fox
8:00am Manuel & Ilda Rosa †
9:30am Dalia Moreno †
11:00am Emilie Coyne †
Aiden Jairo David †
Nolasco David †
Adelaida & Ricardo David †
Tom McMahon †
Sheila Dobbins †
12:30pm Mung Tran †
6:00pm Joseph Pham Duy Hien †

Monday 3/2

6:45am Rolando Custodio †
8:30am Shirley Jean Hall †

Tuesday 3/3

6:45am Georgia Megue †
8:30am James Kane †

Wednesday 3/4

6:45am Elaine Howard †
8:30am Mr Sammy Arizo †
Gustavo Carillo †

Thursday 3/5

6:45am Emilie Coyne †
8:30am Zvonko Gelo

Friday 3/6

6:45am Faye Stratman
8:30am Lee, Ferrol & Tim Phipps †



Prayer

Picture Jesus sitting beside you and saying the same three responses he gave to the devil. He says: “One does not live on bread alone, / but on every word that comes forth / from the mouth of God.” “You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.” “The Lord, your God, shall you worship / and him alone shall you serve.” Which of these three responses of Jesus speaks the most to you and your life right now? How so?

Resolution

Considering the statement of Jesus that relates most to your life now, find at least one practical way to implement Jesus’ teaching this week.

Special Intentions

For our teen Confirmation candidates who are on retreat, that they may encounter Christ as they prepare to be sealed in the Holy Spirit.

For our 65 Alpha guests who are meeting on Mondays to explore the Christian faith, that they may grow in relationship with Jesus.

For the repose of souls (for upcoming funerals, please check StMichaelLivermore.com/Funerals)

Our Parish Prayer Team has over 600 members! When you join the team, you will receive a weekly email with the prayer requests of the community. Send your prayers or join the team by emailing Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

FROM FR CARL

Dear St Michael Family,

During the season of Lent, we think about the Sacrament of Penance (also called Reconciliation or Confession). As Catholics, this is one of the sacraments that we can receive frequently to restore our marred relationship with God. Amazingly, God has designed this sacrament for us as a fount of His Mercy, a refuge for the brokenhearted and source of peace. In Confession, Jesus wipes away our sins and restores our relationship to the Father. He also gifts us with graces that strengthen us against temptations to sin again.

The Church, in the Second Precept, requires that "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." Strictly speaking, we only need to take part in the Sacrament of Confession if we have committed a mortal sin, but the Church urges us to make frequent use of the sacrament. At the very minimum, we are to re-

ceive it once each year in preparation for fulfilling our Easter Duty.

This Sacrament was instituted by Christ Himself after He resurrected:

"He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:20-23)

My invitation for you all is to avail yourselves of the Sacrament during Lent.

Take the opportunity. God is waiting to heal you, forgive you, embrace you and give you

peace. Please check the following dates and times of our confessions:

March 9, 16 and 23 at 7:00 pm

Mondays & Fridays at 7:30 am

Wednesdays at 2:30 pm
(Convent)

Saturdays at 9:15 am, 3:45 pm,
6:15 pm

Confession is not available the week of April 6, so please plan ahead.

I hope you are enjoying our parish video study so far and that it is helping you experience a powerful Lent. Please watch episode 3 this week (see below).

God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

Consoling the Heart of Jesus: Episode 3

Obstacle 0:

How Can We Console Jesus if He Is Happy in Heaven?

You may be one of those people for whom the testimony of St. Margaret Mary (and other mystics of the Church) is enough. You may be one of those people who say, "I believe that Jesus revealed the deep and ongoing sorrow of his Sacred Heart through St. Margaret Mary, and I want to console him." If, however, you're one of those people for whom the very idea that we can console Jesus raises difficulties, then this session is primarily for you.

Watch this week's episode on FORMED.org. For a complete episode list, see StMichaelLivermore.com/FORMED



Rebuild My Church: Bishop's Appeal 2020

This year the Bishop is continuing the theme of Rebuild My Church. As we begin our efforts to raise funds for the diocese and our parish through the 2020 Appeal, let us remember that our individual gifts, when combined with that of parishioners from across the diocese, makes a significant difference in the lives of so many people who rely upon our Church for their spiritual, pastoral, educational or human needs. *Please take an envelope and bring it back and drop it in the collection over the next couple of weeks.*

Save the Dates for Vacation Bible Camp

Start dreaming of sunny days and save the dates now while you're thinking of it: Vacation Bible Camp will be July 20-24 from 9:15 am -12:15 pm for kids in pre K-6th grade. Register early: VBC@StMichaelLivermore.com

Pray for the Repose of Souls

Please check our funeral page at StMichaelLivermore.com/Funerals often and pray for the repose of souls. Also pray for comfort and consolation for those who are grieving.

Job Opportunities at St Michael Cemetery

St Michael Cemetery on East Avenue is looking to hire a part-time groundskeeper from now through September. Hours are 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Must be 21 years or older. For more information, please call Frank at 925-455-9696.

St Michael Cemetery is also looking to hire a part time funeral assistant to perform a variety of funeral and memorial service tasks. Hours are flexible. Must be 21 years or older. For more information, please call Rachael at 925-455-9696.

First Friday & First Saturday

This Friday is the First Friday of the month. Join us in celebrating Mass at 12:00 pm noon as part of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar until 3:00 pm.

This Saturday is the First Saturday of the month. Join us for Mass at 8:30 am as part of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Following Mass and anointing of the sick, we will pray the rosary and sing hymns.

Livermore Knights Fish Taco Fridays

Come to dinner on February 28, March 20 (followed by Shamrock Bingo) and March 27 at 5:00 - 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Tickets at the door: \$8 per adult, \$4 per child, \$28 for family of 4 or more.

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest

Invite friends who are handy with fabric to be of service by helping make simple dresses for girls in poverty-stricken countries. The next Dress-a-Girl sew fest is Saturday, March 7 from 9 am—3 pm in the Hall. Contact Suzanne Beck at 925-352-8447 for more information.

Drive Thru Prayer

Invite your friends to drive up to our courtyard, Monday through Friday, March 2 through April 3, between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Prayer teams will meet them at their car window, listen and pray for them right there.

St Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Invite friends to toast Ireland's favorite saint on Sunday, March 15 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall! Tickets will be sold by mail only. Pick up the order form in the rectory office foyer.

Mass in Tagalog

Invite your Filipino friends to attend Mass in Tagalog on March 15 at 3:30 pm. Reception to follow.

Shamrock Bingo

Bingo is fun for all ages! Invite friends to play on March 20 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall: \$10 adults, \$6 kids.

Portuguese Steak Dinner Dance

Invite your friends to join you at the Steak Dinner Dance, featuring music by Gilberto Amaral, on Saturday, March 28 at 6 pm in the Hall. Only \$25 for adults, \$12 for children 6-12. Please call or text Maria 925-216-3953 or Lucia 925-699-5633 or email IDESLP@outlook.com to reserve your seat!

LENT

Into the desert

Extra Daily Mass During Lent

Extra 6:45 am Masses, Monday—Friday to allow people to celebrate Mass before work or school. Mass will be a prompt 20 minutes.

Our regular 8:30 am daily Mass will continue as scheduled. At both Masses, there will be a collection box for offerings to support our parish ministries.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

Gather in the Church for the traditional devotion of Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:00 pm in English, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Spanish.

Confession

March 9, 16 and 23 at 7:00 pm
Mondays & Fridays at 7:30 am
Wednesdays at 2:30 pm (Convent)
Saturdays at 9:15 am, 3:45 pm, 6:15 pm

THANK YOU

Collection Report

Thank you for your continued generosity in making financial offerings to St Michael Parish. You can always make offerings online at FaithDirect.net (church code CA602).

2/23/2020	\$17,988.97
February to date	\$84,915.70
Month Goal	\$84,941.18
% Reached	100%
Faith Direct	\$11,371.25
Maintenance (for February)	\$8,989.05
Hospitality Collection	\$2,432.71

Thanks, Golden Friends, for the Alpha Dinner!

Our Golden Friends group sponsored a delicious comforting baked potato bar dinner for our 60+ guests at Alpha last week. Everyone loved it! Thanks also to the RCIA team for washing dishes.

Thank You from St Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks the parishioners of St. Michael's for their continuing generosity. We received around \$5600 in the 5th Sunday collection on Dec. 31. In the fourth quarter of 2019 we distributed 286 food bags and helped 746 people. Our major expenses for that period were \$7625 in food purchases, \$4416 for help with utilities, \$2622 in rental assistance and \$191 for emergency shelter/motels. We also spent about \$1413 on clothing and household items from the SVdP store, and another \$383 on travel aid. For more information, contact Janet Graham (janet.graham@comcast.net) or Paul Kuzmenko (kuzmenko@att.net).

Querida familia de San Miguel,

Durante la temporada de Cuaresma, pensamos en el Sacramento de la Penitencia (también llamado Reconciliación o Confesión). Como católicos, este es uno de los sacramentos que podemos recibir con frecuencia para restaurar nuestra relación estropeada con Dios. Sorprendentemente, Dios ha diseñado este sacramento para nosotros como fuente de Su Misericordia, un refugio para los quebrantados de corazón y fuente de paz. En la confesión, Jesús limpia nuestros pecados y restaura nuestra relación con el Padre. También nos regala gracias que nos fortalecen contra las tentaciones de pecar nuevamente.

La Iglesia, en el Segundo Precepto, requiere que "confieses tus pecados al menos una vez al año". Estrictamente hablando, solo necesitamos participar en el Sacramento de la Confesión si

hemos cometido un pecado mortal, pero la Iglesia nos insta a hacer un uso frecuente del sacramento. Como mínimo, debemos recibirlo una vez al año en preparación para cumplir con nuestro Deber de Pascua.

Este sacramento fue instituido por Cristo mismo después de resucitar:

"Les mostró las manos y el costado. Entonces los discípulos se alegraron cuando vieron al Señor. Jesús les dijo de nuevo: "La paz sea con ustedes. Como el Padre me ha enviado, así yo los envío a ustedes ". Y cuando hubo dicho esto, sopló sobre ellos y les dijo: "Recibid el Espíritu Santo. Si perdonas los pecados de cualquiera, ellos son perdonados; si retienes los pecados de cualquiera, ellos son retenidos". (Juan 20: 20-23) Les invito a todos a aprovechar el Sacramento durante la Cuaresma.

Toma la oportunidad. Dios está esperando para curarlo, perdonarlo, abrazarlo y dartle paz. Por favor, consulte las siguientes fechas y horas de nuestras confesiones:

9, 16 y 23 de marzo a las 7:00 p.m.

Lunes y viernes a las 7:30 a.m.

Miércoles a las 2:30 pm (Convento)

Sábados a las 9:15 a.m., 3:45 p.m., 6:15 p.m.

La confesión no está disponible la semana del 6 de abril, por favor planifique con anticipación.

Planee asistir al Retiro de Cuaresma el 21 y 22 de marzo de 8:30 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. en el Salón.

Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias.

P. Carl



Via Cruces durante la Cuaresma

Los viernes a las 7:00 pm en inglés, los miércoles a las 7:00 pm en español.

Misa a las 6:45 am

Habrà una misa adicional a las 6:45 am en inglés, de lunes a viernes, para permitir que la gente celebre la misa antes del trabajo o la escuela. La misa durará 20 minutos.

Retiro de Cuaresma

Usted está invitado a asistir al Retiro de Cuaresma los días 21 y 22 de marzo de 8:30 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. en el Salón Parroquial de San Miguel. Venga a adorar a Jesús por su sacrificio e inspírese con nuestros oradores invitados.

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SCHEDULES AND DIRECTORY

Office Hours horas de oficina

Mon-Fri / L-V:
9:00 am—5:00 pm
(Closed / cerrado 12:00 pm—2:00 pm)

Confession Confesión

Saturday / Sábado:
9:00 am, 3:45 pm and
6:15 pm

Mon & Fri / L y V:
7:30 am

Wed / X:
2:30 pm Convent Chapel /
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Rev. Alfonso Borgen,
Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Ryan Dellota, resident
Rev. Deacon Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer,
Retired

Pastoral Council Consejo Pastoral

Mike Pereira (chair),
Fidelis Atuegbu (vice chair), Fr
Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Jo
Anne Lindquist, Frank
Draschner, Jeff Andersen,
Cynthia Garay, Alison Wilke
and Glenda Dubsy.

Finance Council Consejo Financiero

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom,
Kathy Hawkins, Travis Cox,
Analy Palomino, Vanessa
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