



# ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, March 15, 2020 | Third Sunday in Lent



A woman of Samaria came to draw  
water. Jesus said to her,  
“Give me a drink.”

John 4:7

## 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  
Sat: 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 at 11:00 am

Traditional Latin Mass  
2nd & 4th Sun at 8:00 am

Mass in Tagalog  
3rd Sun at 3:30 pm

Mass in Vietnamese  
4th Sun at 3:30 pm

Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples, Bring Christ to People

## STUDY

In ancient times, access to a reliable well was essential. Without a steady supply of clean water, life would be difficult, if not impossible. In this week's Gospel, we see Jesus sitting by a well in the country of Samaria. It's noon, and we can assume that he is hot and tired. We know he is thirsty, because he asks a woman who is there drawing water to give him a drink.

This woman, known to us as the Samaritan Woman at the Well, has a checked past. The upstanding women of the community drew their water early in the day; she doesn't want to be seen so she comes at an off-hour. When Jesus, who is a Jew, speaks to her, she is taken aback. Jews didn't usually speak with Samaritans. In fact, a little later when his disciples join him, they aren't too keen on the fact Jesus was chatting with a Samaritan woman either.

In this week's study, we will see that this Gospel scene has a kind of nuptial quality about it because a well is where a groom would come to meet his bride. Like a bridegroom lovingly seeking his bride, Jesus ardently desires this Samaritan woman (and her people whom she represents) to be reunited with God. The Samaritan woman has been a bride five times, and Jesus points this out. But then he goes beyond reminding her of her failure by reaching into the recesses of her deepest wounds

of rejection and lack of love to tell her that he is, indeed, the long-awaited one, the Messiah—the one who will fulfill her deepest thirsts and longings. Through her, Jesus invites the Samaritan people, who were separated from the people of



Israel, to return to their true bridegroom. By extension, he also invites all of us who come to him with open, thirsting hearts to join him at every Mass—at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb—so that we might say with the Samaritans: "This is truly the savior of the world!"

### First Reading Reflection Exodus 17:3-7

Better the slavery you know than the freedom you don't—that could be the theme for this reading. Though the Israelites have just left a life in Egypt that has been described as "the whole cruel lot of slaves," they seem to have forgotten this when saying to Moses, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?" We'd think the answer would be obvious. But human nature is such that our memories are short, and our threshold for discomfort is low.

This reading presents us with a wonderful metaphor for the spiritual life—that of thirst. In the desert, the Israelites long for the more easily accessible waters of Egypt. Yet God shows them that if they trust him, they can be sure of water anywhere. With

God, one isn't forced to fearfully hug the banks of the Nile like slaves to stay alive; one may chart a course straight out of the desert with faith confidently knowing that he will provide. In this desert of modern life, we may likewise be certain that God will

give us the living water we need to survive. Certainly he's the source of living water that we can count on—even in the desert places.

### Second Reading Reflection Romans 5:1-2,5-8

St Paul expresses the fulfillment of the promise given by Christ in our Gospel reading of streams of living water that will become a "fountain within...leaping up to provide eternal life." St. Paul writes to the church at Rome that "the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

It was from the pierced side of Christ, which flowed blood and water, that the saving tide began to flow. St. Paul identifies that saving death as the source of the gifts of faith, hope, and charity, which transform god-

less, powerless, sinners into children of the Father. He implicitly reminds us that if any boasting is to be done, it's in "the grace in which we now stand." Grace, of course, means "gift." So if any glory is to be given, it should rebound to God who gives—not to the undeserving who receive it, among whom St. Paul includes himself.

## Gospel Reflection John 4:5-42

At the time of the Messiah's coming, Rome held Israel in its imperial grip. Yet despite its many struggles, Israel knew that "salvation is from the Jews," as Jesus says to the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel. That phrase suggests that salvation is intended to be passed "from" Israel to all nations. This scene points to the future extension to all nations of the salvation won by Christ. Samaria represents the first step in spreading the Gospel to the whole world.

Jesus points ahead to "an hour" when worship "in Spirit and truth" will be offered to God not merely "on this mountain nor in Jerusalem," but everywhere in the

world. Although the Jews are God's firstborn, we see in this passage that in Jesus, God's plan is for the whole world, for every soul.

Jesus encourages his disciples to look at the world anew and to see beyond the borders of Israel and beyond the national and racial limits of Jacob (Israel). "Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest!" he exclaims. The universal purpose of God's saving work in Christ is given its last word in the last line of this reading, appropriately spoken by the Samaritans: "This is truly the savior of the world!"

## Reflect & Discuss

Please take a few minutes now to watch the Opening the Word video (at FORMED.org) about Jesus as he talks with the woman at the well. Listen for ideas that you might not have ever considered before as the presenter speaks.

What does the presenter say happened at wells in ancient times?

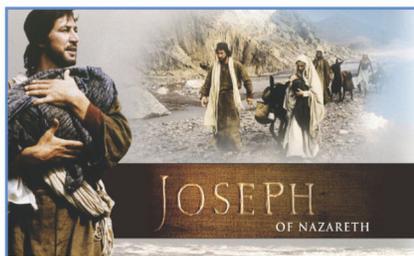
Why do you think that Jesus chose the Samaritan woman to reveal he is the Christ, the Messiah?

## Digging Deeper The Samaritans

The Samaritans were a group of people who claimed to be the direct descendants of two tribes of Israel who survived the destruction of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria in 722 BC. They claimed that they had preserved the true religion of the Chosen People, and the religion as practiced by the Jews had been changed and altered during the Babylonian exile. Both Samaritan and Jewish rabbis taught that it was immoral to have contact with the other group and neither was to enter the other's land. For Jesus to not only be traveling in Samaria, but to be talking to not just a Samaritan, but a woman in addition, would have been utterly scandalous.

*Reprinted from the Opening the Word Leader guide with permission from Augustine Institute.*

# FORMED® PICK OF THE WEEK



## Joseph of Nazareth

As Joseph is informed by God's messengers about trusting and following his plan, this film presents beautiful vignettes of these and other powerful scenes in the life of Christ and the Holy Family that are authentic and inspiring.

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# PRAY

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 3/14

8:30am Violet Stratman †  
5:00pm Mr & Mrs Juan Agcang †  
7:00pm Paula Ledesma †  
Gonzalo Pulido

### Sunday 3/15

6:45am Mike Buencousejo  
8:00am Daniel Figueredo †  
9:30am Russel Mueller  
11:00am Virginia Bettencourt  
12:30pm Jose Malajon Leon  
Elena Leon Patiño  
6:00pm Van Pham †

### Monday 3/16

6:45am Judith Friedley  
8:30am Frank Megue †

### Tuesday 3/17

6:45am Maria Zaczek †  
8:30am Mary Slater †

### Wednesday 3/18

6:45am Souls in Purgatory  
8:30am Annie Smith  
John Mitchell  
Carlos Luguin

### Thursday 3/19

6:45am Joseph Marlett  
Seoane Family  
8:30am Russel Mueller

### Friday 3/20

6:45am Thomas Ketterhagen †  
8:30am Mr & Mrs Andrew Loyola †



## Prayer

Prayerfully consider what you thirst for in life—what you spend your time and energy pursuing most. Perhaps it is success at work, the success of your kids, your favorite sport, entertainment, being liked, financial security. Now imagine Jesus saying specifically to you: “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” How do these words apply to you? Reflect in prayer on your own experience of how your pursuits for the things of this world leave you “thirsty again” and on how only Jesus can fulfill your deepest thirsts.

## Resolution

Ask Jesus how you can turn to him more this week to find your deepest thirsts quenched in him instead of turning to the things of this world.

## Special Intentions

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

For Catholics who are returning to the faith this Lent.

For the repose of souls (for upcoming funerals, please check [StMichaelLivermore.com/Funerals](http://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](mailto:Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com)

## FROM FR CARL

Dear St Michael Family,

As we continue our journey of understanding the pillars of the Lenten season, we now turn our attention to abstaining and fasting.

Abstinence in the Catholic context means we refrain from eating meat, but dairy and seafood are permitted. Fasting means we limit the amount of food we eat during the day. For Catholics, this is defined as one simple meal with up to two "collations", light snacks sufficient to maintain strength but not adding up to the equivalent of a full meal.

### **When do we abstain and fast?**

Catholics age 14 and older must abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on every Friday of the year that is not a solemnity (a liturgical feast day of the highest rank); but in each country the episcopal conference can deter-

mine the form it is to take, perhaps replacing abstinence with other forms of penance. Every person between the age of 18 and 59 (beginning of 60th year) must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Dispensation is given to those who for medical reasons cannot fast.

### **Other ways to fast**

However, aside from fasting and abstaining from food or meals, it is also a good practice to fast and abstain from things that delight us. Examples are drinking alcohol, smoking, a favorite hobby, shopping for extras, vacations, watching our favorite shows on television or listening to our favorite music. There are many other ideas!

### **What's the Point?**

The point of fasting and abstinence is to discipline our will and mind to focus only on the Lord,

who provides for all the things that we need. We purposefully deny the things that we like most so that the Lord will be the center of all and eventually fulfill our call to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and entire being. It is strength training for our will, much like strength training for the body. We need to strengthen our will "muscle", for we cannot follow our own will, how can we follow God's will?

I hope that you are participating in our Lent and Easter study, Consoling the Heart of Jesus. This week, please take the time to watch episode 5. If you have fallen behind, that's okay! Use this week to catch up. If you are having technical difficulty accessing or playing the videos, please contact Tina Gregory at 925-667-4051, and she will assist you.

God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

## Consoling the Heart of Jesus: Episode 5

### **Episode 5: Obstacle 2—Our Weaknesses, Sinfulness, & Attachments**

Have you ever had the experience where, when it came time to pray, you found yourself dragging your feet? For instance, have you ever gone to your local parish for Eucharistic Adoration or a Rosary and found that the fliers posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule suddenly became irresistibly interesting? Of course, distractions in prayer are common, but have you ever gone through those times when you actually welcomed distractions so as to avoid Jesus? Why do we do that? Why do we sometimes avoid the Lord?

**Watch this week's episode on [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org).**



## 3 Reasons to Support the Bishop's Appeal 2020

Bishop's Appeal is an annual program that helps fund a variety of diocesan needs throughout the greater East Bay area. Every parish in our diocese is participating in this Appeal. Here are 3 reasons to support:



1. We are a part of a larger, Universal Church – sharing our gifts and sharing in one faith.
2. The needs of our diocese and its parishes are supplemented through the funds raised in the Bishop's Appeal.
3. Each of us is blessed in some way – It is up to us to share these blessings and our faith. The Bishop's Appeal gives us the opportunity to respond as faithful stewards of those blessings.

*Please take an envelope and bring it back and drop it in the collection over the next couple of weeks.*

## Funeral Planning Lunch & Learn

If you are still undecided about casket burial or cremation, have questions or just haven't yet made your pre-arrangements, Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services would like to buy you lunch!



CFCS is hosting a "Lunch & Learn" at Terra Mia restaurant on **March 19, March 31, April 16 and April 28 at 12:30 pm**. Space is limited, so please call Frank at 925-455-9696 to reserve your place.

## Cold, Flu and Coronavirus Precautions at Mass

As a precautionary measure during the cold and flu season and the coronavirus epidemic, please follow these safety measures at Mass:



- You are not obliged to celebrate Mass when you are sick. Please stay home and return when you are well.
- Shaking hands during the Sign of Peace is not required. A smile and a nod are sufficient.
- Using Holy Water upon entering the Church is not required. Making the Sign of the Cross is sufficient.
- It is the law of the Church that a communicant may choose to receive Communion on the tongue or in the hand. Ministers may not refuse Communion on the tongue. However, in your kindness and consideration, you are encouraged to receive in the hand during this time.

# INVITE



The  
first step in  
evangelization  
is simply to  
invite  
someone  
to an  
experience.

- Fr. Carl



## Drive Through Prayer

On Fridays during Lent, our trained prayer team is available to meet guests in their cars to pray for them. Simply drive up through the Courtyard and team members will meet you at your car window. You don't have to be Catholic or Christian or belong to any church. We pray for everyone!

## 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.

## Livermore Knights Fish Taco Fridays

Come to dinner on **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.

## Golden Friends Mass & Luncheon

Are you retired or are you free from work on Fridays or do you have friends and relatives who are? Bring them to our Golden Friends Luncheon to enjoy fellowship, entertainment and spiritual growth on **Friday, March 27** in the Large Hall. Mass starts promptly at 10:30 am. Call Mary at 925-784-1812 by noon Tuesday the 24th to reserve your spot!

## 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!

## Register 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

# LENT



## Confession

March 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

No confession available the week of April 3, so please plan ahead.

## 7 Last Words of Jesus at 7 Parishes

**Saturday, March 28**, join us for a local 7 parish Lenten pilgrimage, reflecting on the 7 last words of Jesus. Facilitated by the Missionary Families of Christ, there will be prayer and a talk at each parish.

9:00 am: St. Isidore (Danville)  
10:30 am: St Joan of Arc (San Ramon)  
11:30 am: St Raymond (Dublin)  
1:15 pm: St Elizabeth (Pleasanton)  
2:15 pm: St Augustine (Pleasanton)  
3:15 pm: St Charles (Livermore)  
4:15 pm: St Michael (Livermore)  
5:00 pm: Mass at St Michael

## 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.

## Order See's Candies for Easter

St Michael Catholic Daughters will be taking your Easter See's Candies orders next weekend, **March 21 & 22**, in the Courtyard after Mass or by visiting the Church Office. Funds raised benefit Catholic Daughters service projects at our parish.

# THANK YOU

## Collection Report

Thank you for your continued generosity in making financial offerings to St Michael Parish.

If St Michael's is your home parish and you have not yet set up regular offerings, please call the Church office at 925-447-1585. You can receive traditional offering envelopes or you can set up online giving at FaithDirect.net (church code CA602).

3/8/2020	\$15,988.55
Month-to-Date	\$32,905.01
Month Goal	\$106,176.47
Percentage Reached	31%
Faith Direct	\$0.00
Maintenance (for Month)	\$7,672.59

## Thanks, Catholic Daughters, for the Alpha Dinner!

"Taco Tuesday" just isn't enough. Our St Michael Catholic Daughters treated our Alpha guests to "Taco Monday" to rave reviews! Dessert was platters full of brownies and rice crispy treats. Guests at Alpha have been in awe of our hospitality. Thanks to all who have made that happen.

Como recordatorio, si está enfermo, se le exime de su obligación de celebrar la misa. Por favor, quédese en casa hasta que se sienta mejor. Además, use su mejor criterio al saludar a quienes lo rodean y durante el Signo de la Paz.

**A medida que comenzamos nuestros esfuerzos para recaudar fondos para la Diócesis de Oakland** a través de la Campaña 2020, recordemos que nuestros obsequios individuales, cuando se combinan con los de los feligreses de toda la diócesis, hacen una diferencia significativa en las vidas de tantas personas que confían en nuestra Iglesia para sus necesidades espirituales, pastorales, educativas o humanas. Por favor, tome un sobre de la Campaña del Obispo "Reconstruir mi Iglesia" y tráigalo de nuevo para colocarlo en la colecta durante las próximas dos semanas.

## Confesión

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.

No hay confesión disponible la semana del 3 de abril, así que planifique con anticipación.

Estamos invitando a todos aquellos que deseen ser Lectores que atiendan a cualquiera de los dos entrenamientos 10 y 12 de marzo a las 7:00 pm cualquier información habrá una mesa en el pasillo después de Misa. O comuníquense con Rodolfo Rojas al tel. 925 399-2750 O con Anita Jimenez al tel. 209 666-5257

**Oportunidades adicionales de reconciliación de Cuaresma:** los lunes 16 y 23 de marzo a las 7:00 pm El Santísimo Sacramento estará expuesto, varios sacerdotes estarán disponibles para la Confesión, terminando con la Bendición. Por favor vea el boletín para más detalles.

Para todas las personas que se anotaron para el Viacrucis se les invita a participar de las prácticas que son los martes y jueves en el hall de la Iglesia a las 7pm No falten los esperamos!

## Via Cruces durante la Cuaresma

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

## 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.



## José de Nazaret

Primera película, acerca de la historia de San José, carpintero, esposo de María y padre adoptivo de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Las Sagradas Escrituras lo describen como un "hombre justo" y nos hablan como Dios le encomendó la tarea más desalentadora, que se le haya pedido a un hombre: ser el esposo de la mujer que daría a luz al Mesías, ser el padre y protector de la Sagrada Familia. Con esto él sería el hombre más cercano a Cristo.

**Mira la película en FORMED.org**

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by my right hand." Psalm 73:23

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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 /  
capilla del convento

## 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 the  
night access code, or to sign up  
for a regular Holy Hour, call  
775-772-6369

## Clergy / Clero

Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor  
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  
Suarez and Erleene Echon

## Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños  
925-344-7150 Adultos

## Ministerio Hispano

Veronica Carrillo  
Ricardo Garcia  
Hispano1@  
StMichaelLivermore.com

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Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com  
925-667-4057

Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen  
Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com  
925-667-4053

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes  
DeaconD@StMichaelLivermore.com  
925-447-1585

Eric Hom  
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Alison Wilkie, School Principal  
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Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper  
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925-667-4097

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Tina Gregory, Communication  
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JaNet Hancock, Music Director  
Music@StMichaelLivermore.com  
925-292-5071

Marjorie Melendez, RCIA  
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925-447-2925