



# ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, March 15, 2020 | Third Sunday in Lent



“The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went there and washed and was able to see.”

John 9:11

## 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

Sunday 3:30 pm  
1st, 2nd, 5th Sunday in English  
3rd bilingual English/Tagalog  
4th bilingual English/Vietnamese

Sign Language  
1st Sun at 11:00 am

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

Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples, Bring Christ to People

# STUDY

## Summary

On the surface, today's Gospel would appear to be about the physical healing of a blind man, but underneath lies a play on the word "sight." In this event, Jesus is challenging those around him, including his own disciples, to "see" the world in a new way. He points out to them...and to us...that it is entirely too easy to operate with a set of false assumptions; to be "blind" to the things of God in our lives. Like those in this account, we can think we are seeing clearly, but in fact we are blinded by our own assumptions, prejudices, and egos. Of all the characters in the story of the blind man, the only one who has the gift of true sight is the blind man himself who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah.

In this reading, we are called to ask ourselves if we see things the way God sees them or if we are looking through the eyes of the world; to examine where we might be blind spiritually; where we are looking at appearances, not reality. As God says to the prophet Samuel in the first reading: "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." This Gospel reminds us that the way we see best is through the eyes of faith, for then we see the world the way God sees it. But first we have to recognize that without Jesus, we are truly blind.

## First Reading Reflection Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In this passage, God directs Samuel to take up his horn of oil and go to Bethlehem where he will point out the future King of Israel. The horn was in itself loaded with significance. The ram's horn was blown as a signal in war and to announce religious events. Jewish lore suggests that its use in signaling the morning and evening sacrifices stems from Genesis 22 where Abraham finds a ram



caught in a thicket, which God has provided as a substitute sacrifice for his son, Isaac. The horn is also a symbol of authority for the prophets Zedekiah and Zechariah. David was anointed from the horn of Samuel and then received the authority of kingship.

In the Gospel of Luke, Zechariah is struck dumb for doubting the prophecy of the Messiah and doesn't speak again until the birth of John. At this time, he says, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he...has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David" (Luke 1:68-69). The anointing

from the horn of the prophet Samuel of the first king of the house of David is loaded with significance for those of us who profess Jesus as the horn of our salvation and the anointed one of God.

## Second Reading Reflection Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul explains in this passage not simply a Christian perspective toward immorality but a universal psychological principle.

St. Ignatius makes a similar point in his Spiritual Exercises in saying that the devil will always tempt us to keep our sins secret. Sins that go unconfessed tend to grow in us.

What remains in the dark cannot be seen for what it is. Of course, neither Paul nor Ignatius would say that our sins should be made public. No Christian is required to make a public confession of sins. Some choose to do so as part of a healing process or to make restitution with a public witness of their repentance because they've been public in their sin.

Confessing sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is good for the soul because it dissipates our exaggerated illusions as to either the insignificance or the gravity of our sins. When confessed, all sins appear for what they are, too miserable to

weigh us down. Some sins are slight, some are grave; but when we hide them we lose the capacity to judge which is which. The very light that we shine on our sins in confessing them purifies us and turns us away from sin. As St. Paul says, “All that then appears is light.”

## Gospel Reflection John 9:1–41

This section of John’s Gospel focuses on the division that Jesus has engendered among those who follow him and those who don’t. The argument between the factions runs like this: Because Jesus had supposedly violated the Sabbath by making clay, which he used to smear the man’s eyes, the Pharisees claim that Jesus couldn’t be from God. That is, if Jesus is a sinner, he shouldn’t be able to work mira-

cles. They question the man born blind and his parents and find that he was indeed born blind. So they must call into question that it was Jesus who gave him sight. Failing in that, they can only throw the formerly blind man out of the synagogue since they can’t deny that Jesus must have healed him and therefore must be God.

Some say this story would’ve spoken directly to the position of the Jewish Christians who’d been put out of the synagogues themselves at the time that John’s Gospel was written. This story would’ve given them hope that their separation from the synagogue wasn’t a sign of their having been cut off from God, but the necessary result of Jesus’ mission “to make the sightless see and the seeing blind.”

## Reflect & Discuss

Let’s take a closer look at how blindness can be both physical and spiritual as we read about one of Jesus’ more controversial cures—the healing of a blind man on the Sabbath. Please watch this week’s Opening the Word video on FORMED.org

What are some of the false perceptions the disciples had about the blind man?

What are some of the ways that the characters in this story were blind? The disciples? The Pharisees? The neighbors?

What are some of the ways that you might be blind?

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

## FORMED While Social Distancing

During this time of coronavirus precautions and social distancing, stay connected and enriched in our Catholic faith through unlimited access to content on FORMED.org. St Michael’s has purchased a parish wide subscription, so you can set up an account free. Click “sign up” then “I belong to a parish”. Search for St Michael’s by using zip code 94550. Get creative! Get friends to watch the same program, then discuss it in a group chat or live video. Turn this time into a gift to grow closer to Jesus.

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# PRAY

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 3/21

8:30am Josefina Rodriguez †  
5:00pm Marsha Becker †  
7:00pm Fernando Suarez Medina †

### Sunday 3/22

6:45am James Jehram Pimentel †  
8:00am Daniel Figuieredo †  
9:30am Theresa Filman † & family  
11:00am James Kane †  
12:30pm Belito Garcia  
Anali Palo  
6:00pm Francis & Mary McMahon †

### Monday 3/23

6:45am Alan Alwing †  
8:30am Jacqueline Garcia

### Tuesday 3/24

6:45am Bernarda Sharkey  
8:30am Richard Manha †

### Wednesday 3/25

6:45am Martha Seinfeldin †  
8:30am Polly VanBuren  
Garcia Silva Family

### Thursday 3/26

6:45am Fr Stanislaus Poon †  
8:30am Jacqueline Aguilar †  
Ramona Cruz †

### Friday 3/27

6:45am Thomas Hayden †  
8:30am Alicia Lopez Tapia †



## Prayer

Imagine that you are with the blind man who was cured when Jesus comes to find him. You hear Jesus ask, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” and you hear the man respond, “I do believe, Lord.” Now see Jesus turn toward you and ask you the same question. Do you believe that Jesus is truly the Son of Man? How do you respond to Jesus? What do you think he might say to you in return?

## Resolution

We all need to ask ourselves the hard questions about our beliefs so that we can grow and mature in our faith. This week, consider Jesus’ question, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” and ask that he help you come to a greater understanding of who he really is and that you live your life more in union with him.

## Prayer & Technology

Stay spiritually close while we are physically distant. Pray together with a friend over the phone. Use Facetime, Google-Hangout, Zoom, Microsoft TEAMS or other video platform. Let’s use this time to get more creative and more prayerful!

## Coronavirus Novena

Fr Carl invites us all to pray a novena of 10 Hail Marys, the Memorae and the St Michael prayer each day for nine days.

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,

We are all feeling the concern and worry over the Coronavirus pandemic. Know that I am praying for you and your families. Please join with me in praying for all who have been affected by this illness. Please also review the precautions listed on the next page. Be sure to check [StMichaelLivermore.com](http://StMichaelLivermore.com) for any updates that may have occurred during printing.

God has a way of taking the most difficult of times and transforming them into something beautiful. Hence, I encourage you to use this time of social distancing as an opportunity to deepen your faith.

### 7 Social Distancing Faith Tips

1. **Learn to Pray the Rosary**, or discover new reflections on the mysteries. Explore rosary podcasts or apps. Find an audio rosary on iTunes or GooglePlay.

2. **Binge Catholic Video Series.** St Michael's has paid for a parish-wide subscription, so that you can have unlimited free access. If you have not yet set up your account, go to [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org), click "sign up" then "I belong to a parish". Search for St Michael by zip code 94550. Enjoy countless movies, video based study series, audio talks and dramas, ebooks and more.

3. **Have a Word on Fire Watch Party.** If you receive Flocknote messages from the parish, you have access to ALL Bishop Robert Barron's video series. Go to [Flocknote.com](http://Flocknote.com), login with your email and click "create password". Once you're in, click on Bishop Robert Barron's picture. Invite friends to watch the same videos, and then talk on the phone about it later.

4. **Stream EWTN.** If you don't have cable, you can listen or

watch all programming live at [ewtn.com/tv/watch-live](http://ewtn.com/tv/watch-live) Enjoy Mass, rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy as well as excellent talk shows.

5. **Practice Silence.** See what it's like to spend an hour in your home in silence. Just sit quietly, or journal, or listen to peaceful music. Allow the Lord to speak to you.

6. **Take a Prayer Walk around your neighborhood.** Each block focus your prayer on a different person or intention.

7. **Write thank you notes.** Have everyone in the family think of someone to thank. Write notes, decorate cards and send them.

May God reassure you and console you during this time of uncertainty.

Fr Carl

## Consoling the Heart of Jesus: Episode 6

### Episode 6: Obstacle 3—Fear of Suffering, Again

In an attempt to knock down the obstacle "fear of suffering," I'm going to give it a one-two punch. In other words, I'm going to treat it in two parts. In the first part, we'll see that the best possible way to console Jesus is so simple and easy—there's nothing to fear. In the second part, we'll come to understand just how powerful this best possible way is—there's everything to gain.

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



## Virus Precaution at St Michael's

New policies take effect immediately, as guided by the Alameda County Health Department and the Diocese of Oakland.

For current updates, visit [StMichaelLivermore.com/VirusPrecautions](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/VirusPrecautions)

Dear St Michael Family,

Due to the spread of the coronavirus, all the counties in the Bay Area – including Alameda County - have issued a “Shelter in Place” order, prohibiting all gatherings through April 7, 2020. This includes church services. At St Michael’s this means the following:

- All Masses are suspended effective immediately.
- The Adoration Chapel is closed effective March 16 at 6:00 pm, and the Blessed Sacrament reposed.
- Our Lenten Reconciliation services that were scheduled for March 16 and 23 are also suspended.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation will be only offered on a case-by-case basis or if there is danger of death.
- Anointing of the Sick will be strictly for those in danger of death. The emergency number for the sick and dying is 925-521-4117.
- The parish administrative office will be available to assist you remotely only: via live chat (see [StMichaelLivermore.com](http://StMichaelLivermore.com) or Facebook), email ([Office@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Office@StMichaelLivermore.com)) or phone (925-447-1585).
- For any questions regarding spiritual and pastoral care during this time of crisis, please email [Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com).
- St Michael School office and the parish Faith Formation office will be closed until further notice.

### Spiritual Communion

I ask that you join with me in offering a Spiritual Communion, as my brother priests and I celebrate Mass privately in the Adoration Chapel, Monday through Saturday at 6:45 am and 8:30 am and Sun-

day at 6:45 am, 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Scheduled Mass intentions will be offered at this time. During these hours, please pray the Act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace  
You as if You were already there and unite myself  
wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated  
from You.  
Amen.

### Church Open for Private Prayer

In cooperation with Bishop Michael Barber's most recent recommendations, St Michael Church will remain open for private prayer and solace every day until further notice, from 6:00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Proper hygiene and social distancing will continue to be emphasized per CDC guidelines. While in public, remain 6 feet away from others

### Be Not Afraid!

Brothers and sisters, I know this is a trying time, and many are frightened. Please follow all the commonsense guidelines as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Then, put the rest of your worries at the foot of the Cross. Let Jesus in his love and mercy be your refuge. Use this time to reconnect with your family and with your God. We will get through this together.

With prayers for your good health and God’s mercy,  
Fr Carl

# Holy Week

## Palm Sunday Vigil: Saturday, April 4

Begins in the Courtyard with the Gospel and blessing of palms.

5:00 pm Vigil Mass in English  
7:00 pm Vigil Mass in Spanish

## Palm Sunday: Sunday, April 5

Regular Mass schedule: 6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish), 6:00 pm.

## Holy Thursday: April 9

8:30 am Morning Prayer (no Mass)  
6:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper in English  
8:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper in Spanish

## Good Friday: April 10

8:30 am Morning Prayer (no Mass)  
12:00 pm Adult service in English  
2:30 pm Family Service in English  
4:00 pm Youth Way of the Cross in English  
5:30 pm Way of the Cross in Spanish  
7:00 pm Service in Spanish

## Holy Saturday: April 11

8:30 am Morning Prayer (no Mass)  
9:30 am Blessing of Easter Food in the Church  
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass (multilingual)

## Easter Sunday: April 12

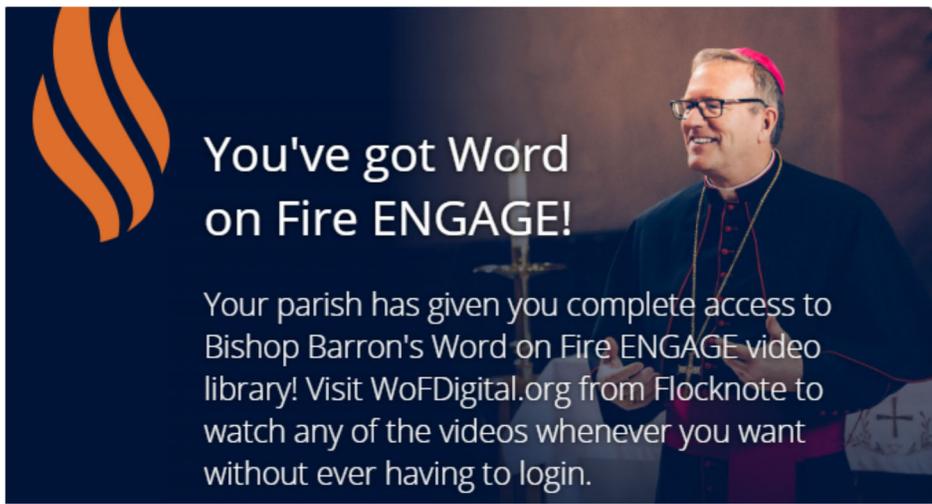
Mass in the Church

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

Mass in the Hall

8:15 am, 9:45 am and 11:15 am (Spanish)

# RESOURCES



## Access ALL of Bishop Barron's Video Series!

Self-isolating during the coronavirus pandemic has an upside: a chance to grow in faith with Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire video series. If you have ever received any Flocknote message from St Michael's, you have access. Here's how to get in:

1. Go to Flocknote.com and log in with your email or mobile phone.
2. If you never created a password, click "create password".
3. Once you are logged in, click Bishop Barron's picture. You will be taken to the entire catalog of Word on Fire programs.

Need help? Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com or 925-667-4051

## Confession

Due to the "Shelter in Place" order, our Lent Reconciliation services are suspended as are regular Confession times.

Confession will be available in emergency situations.

Please watch our parish Facebook, Instagram, Flocknote and website for any changes.

## Give Online

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

Although we are not celebrating Mass due to the coronavirus, please prayerfully consider mailing your weekly offering to St Michael Church at 458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

Additionally, you can set up online giving at FaithDirect.net (church code CA602). Thank you!

## Coronavirus Novena

Fr Carl invites us to join him in a novena for the protection of all people from the coronavirus pandemic, for strength for all caregivers and for a cure. For the next nine days: Pray 10 Hail Mary's, 10 Memorares and 10 St Michael Prayers

This is a great time to memorize the Memorare, if you haven't already done so:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

## Collection Report

3/15/2020	\$13,505.12
Month-to-Date	\$54,642.13
Month Goal	\$106,176.47
Percentage Reached	51%
Faith Direct	\$8,232.00
Maintenance (for March)	\$9,513.59

. Querida familia de San Miguel

Todos sentimos preocupación por la pandemia de coronavirus.

Sepa que estoy orando por usted y sus familias. Únase a mí para orar por todos los que han sido afectados por esta enfermedad. Por favor, también revise las precauciones enumeradas en la página siguiente. Asegúrese de consultar StMichaelLivermore.com para ver si hay actualizaciones que se hayan producido durante la impresión.

Dios tiene una manera de tomar los tiempos más difíciles y transformarlos en algo hermoso. Por lo tanto, le animo a que use este tiempo de distanciamiento social como una oportunidad para profundizar su fe.

7 consejos de fe de distancia social

Aprenda a rezar el rosario o descubra nuevas reflexiones sobre los misterios. Explore los podcasts o aplicaciones del rosario.

Encuentre un rosario de audio en iTunes o GooglePlay.

Mire una serie de videos católicos. St Michael's ha pagado una suscripción en toda la parroquia, para que pueda tener acceso gratuito ilimitado. Si aún no ha configurado su cuenta, vaya a FORMED.org, haga clic en "registrarse" y luego "pertenezco a una parroquia". Busque St Michael por el código postal 94550. Disfrute de innumerables películas, series de estudios basadas en videos, charlas y dramas en audio, libros electrónicos y más.

Mire la palabra en fuego. Si recibe mensajes de Flocknote de la parroquia, tiene acceso a TODAS las series de videos del Obispo Robert Barron. Vaya a Flocknote.com, inicie sesión con su correo electrónico y haga clic en "crear contraseña". Una vez que esté dentro, haga clic en la imagen del obispo Robert Barron. Invite a sus amigos a ver los mismos videos y luego hable por teléfono sobre esto.

Transmitir EWTN. Si no tiene cable, puede escuchar o ver toda la

programación en vivo en ewtn.com/tv/watch-live Disfrute de la misa, el rosario, la corona de la Divina Misericordia y excelentes programas de entrevistas.

Practique el silencio. Vea cómo es pasar una hora en su casa en silencio. Simplemente siéntese en silencio, o escriba un diario, o escuche música tranquila. Deje que el Señor le hable.

Haga una caminata de oración por su vecindario. Cada bloque enfoque su oración en una persona o intención diferente.

Escriba notas de agradecimiento. Haga que todos en la familia piensen en alguien a quien agradecer. Escribir notas, decorar tarjetas y enviarlas.

Que Dios le tranquilice y consuele durante este tiempo de incertidumbre.

P. Carl



## Reflexiones de Cuaresma 2020

Serie de Reflexiones de Cuaresma de corta duración con el Padre José Román Flecha. Año Litúrgico A.

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*"Yet I am always with you; you hold me 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

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Ricardo Garcia  
Hispano1@  
StMichaelLivermore.com

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Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com  
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925-292-5071

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