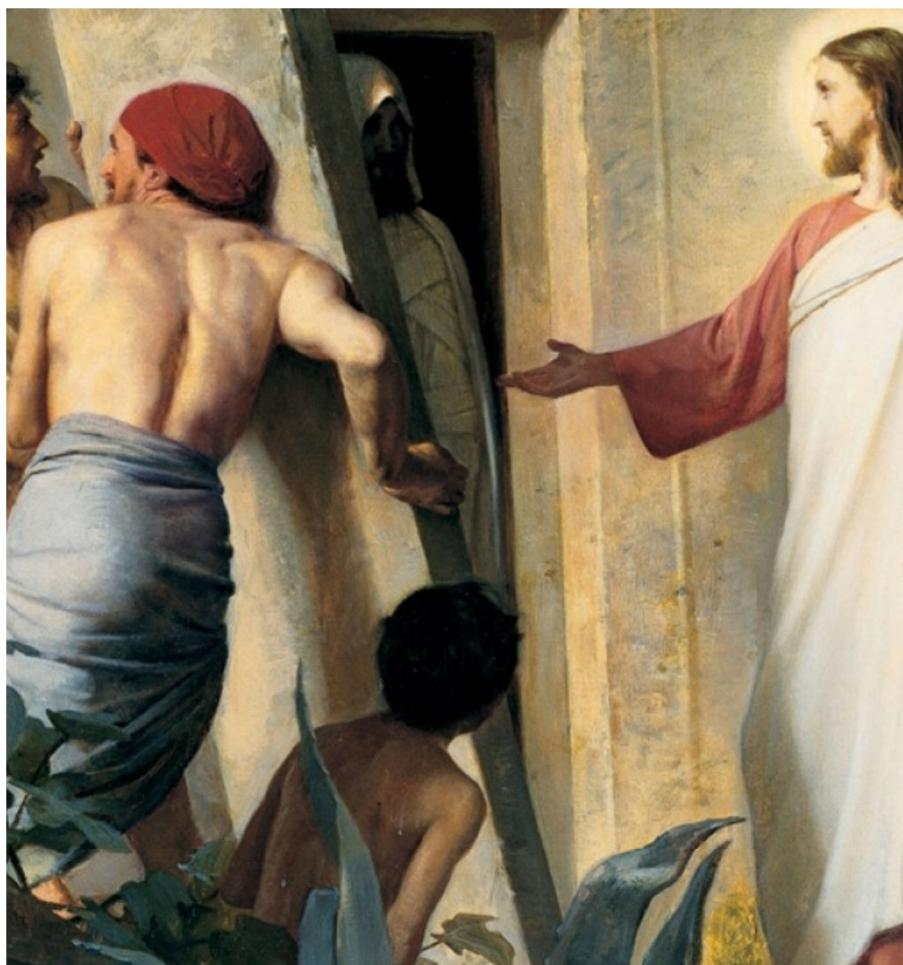




ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, March 29, 2020 | Fifth Sunday in Lent

Special Shelter in Place Edition: Week 1



He cried out in a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come out!”
The dead man came out...

John 11:43-44

Mass Livestreamed
[Facebook.com/
StMichaelParishLivermore](https://Facebook.com/StMichaelParishLivermore)

Daily Mass
6:45 am in English

Sunday Mass
9:30 am in English
12:30 pm in Spanish

Drive Up Confession

Every Day
11:00 am—12:00 pm (Bilingual)
3:00 pm—4:00 pm (English)

Drive up to the courtyard and stay in your car. A priest will greet you from outside your car. Call the number displayed to confess with privacy. One person per car per Confession.

Parking Lot Benediction

Every Day
8:30 am and 6:00 pm

Park in the parking lot, turn off your car and remain inside your car. Adore Jesus as the clergy pass with the Eucharist. We must remain in our cars.

Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples, Bring Christ to People

FAQ During COVID 19 Shelter in Place ...



What about Masses?

All public Masses have been suspended until further notice.

Is there a livestream of Mass?

Yes! Join us on Facebook for daily Mass at 6:45 am in English and Sundays at 9:30 am in English and 12:30 pm in Spanish.

Will there be confessions offered?

Our regular confession format has been suspended at this time. However, our clergy is offering “Drive Up Confession” every day, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Bilingual) 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm (English). Only one occupant per car during confession. If you have passengers, they must step out briefly while one person confesses at a time. Drive up to the courtyard driveway and remain in your car. A priest will keep a 6-foot distance from your car window to hear your Confession and absolve you.

What about receiving the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?

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.

What about baptisms?

Baptisms are still possible based on pastoral urgency.

What about funerals?

Please call Holy Angels Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services at 925-455-9696 or Callaghan Mortuary at 925- 447-2942. They will walk you through all the necessary decisions during this difficult time. They will be in contact with St Michael's parish office.

What about ministry to the sick and homebound?

In compliance with the Shelter in Place order from Alameda County, ordinary in-person visits to the sick and homebound have stopped for the duration of this emergency.

To Keep Us All Safe

How can I continue to support our parish offertory if all our Masses are being cancelled?

May God bless you for your generous planning! You have two options to continue your offertory.

Option #1: Mail in your weekly offertory to St. Michael Catholic Parish, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

Option #2: Make donations online through FaithDirect: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/ca602>

Option #3: Drop off your donation envelope in the secure mailbox located on the door just past the St Michael statue.

What is Parking Lot Benediction?

Parking Lot Benediction is an innovative way to come together – safely in our individual cars – and be gazed upon by Jesus, present in the Eucharist. It is offered twice every day at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm. If raining, please drive through the courtyard driveway. A priest with the Blessed Sacrament will be positioned under a canopy for you to adore as you slowly drive by.

Park in St Michael's parking lot and **remain in your car**. Our clergy will process with Jesus present in the Eucharist and pass by your car. While in your car, pray this prayer three times:

O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All praise and all thanksgiving, Be every moment Thine.

Is the Church open for private prayer?

Yes, the Church is open every day, 6:00 am – 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm and is a quiet and peaceful place to be with our Lord present in the tabernacle. Please remain 6 feet from others and follow all the health guidelines. Only ten people may gather at a time. The Church will be professionally cleaned during the break each day.

Is the Church Office Open?

The parish administrative office will be available to assist you remotely only:

Via Live Chat:
on Facebook or on the home page of StMichaelLivermore.com

Email:
Office@StMichaelLivermore.com

Phone: 925-447-1585



At Home Scripture Study

Especially since we cannot celebrate Mass in person together, please use this guide to study this Sunday's Mass readings.

The Raising of Lazarus

The story of the raising of Lazarus is more than just an account of a miracle. The raising and unbinding of Lazarus sheds light on how God wants to heal the dead areas of our lives and free us from whatever sins, burdens, or wounds prevent us from living life to the fullest.

When Jesus arrives at the tomb, he has the stone rolled away and calls Lazarus to come out. Lazarus emerges, although he is still bound in the burial cloths. We are often like Lazarus. We have areas in our lives that are dead and need to be enlivened again by Christ. But we also may be bound either by our own sins or by the hurts others have inflicted on us. We may carry great burdens or worries or dysfunctional patterns of relating to others that bind us down and keep us from peace and happiness. Jesus wants to free us from those wounds; he wants us, like Lazarus, to be unbound.

This week's Gospel shows us Jesus wants us to let him into all those places that have been rendered dead by sin. He wants to weep with us in his humanity, but also to reveal his divinity and bring about a total healing. He wants our better selves to step forward as he says to each of us, "Come out." Even if our situation seems hopeless—and certainly Lazarus' death seemed

hopeless for his many mourners—nothing is impossible for God. All we need to do is surrender our lives to him and trust in him, for him to be able to bring us to new life.

First Reading Reflection **Ezekiel 37:12–14**

This passage follows Ezekiel's famous vision of the dry bones in the first half of chapter 37. The prophet is shown a dry valley full of bones and is commanded to prophesy. When he does, the bones come together and are covered with flesh. Again he prophesies, and the breath of life comes into the bodies. Ezekiel, whom the Spirit of the Lord addresses as "son of man," is told that this scene represents the resurrection of Israel, which is now in exile in Babylon. The "son of man" who speaks and causes Israel to rise from exile points liturgically to the "Son of Man" who will speak and cause Lazarus to rise. Ezekiel paves the way for the extension of the Covenant to the Gentiles by expanding the Jewish conception of God's providence to extend it into all nations.

We who live in the New Covenant in Christ recognize in this reading not only the resurrection of Israel but the resurrection of Jesus, the new Israel. Jesus is both the prophet of the resurrec-

tion, the new Ezekiel and Son of Man, and also the subject of the resurrection. We see our own resurrection to life in Christ as members of the Body of Christ in this prophetic vision of Ezekiel.

Second Reading Reflection **Romans 8:8–11**

It's easy to assume that the term "flesh" denotes something essentially evil in this short passage. However, flesh is good in that it has its origin in God, and is still further ennobled when our flesh is assumed by Christ.

Adam exclaims that Eve is flesh of his flesh when shown her by God, in an expression that suggests the deepest communion of love. In the Hebrew conception, body and soul are united in a personal being. Paul uses the term in the Hebrew way; he's not making a distinction between body and soul in which the body is evil and the soul is good. Rather, he's making a distinction between life with Christ versus life without Christ.

In essence, Paul is saying that if we remain merely earthly creatures—in the flesh—we remain outside the dying/rising salvational scheme that Christ gave us. This scheme is effected in us by the grace of Baptism, in which we're anointed and made Christians. When we cooperate

Reflect & Discuss

with that grace, we “are not in the flesh.”

Gospel Reflection John 11:1–45

We might find it shocking that the greatest miracle that Jesus performed to define his saving mission as one to free mankind from death is the catalyst that causes the Jewish authorities to plot his death. The very act of life-giving ends in death-dealing. By definitively showing that he is “the resurrection and the life,” Jesus precipitates his own death. The same act that causes Mary, Martha, and many of the Jews who had come to visit them to have faith in Jesus causes the opposite reaction in the Jewish authorities. There’s no halfway in John’s Gospel. One can walk in darkness or light, one is blind or sighted, one is alive or dead; no middle ground exists.

Lazarus will die again, of course. But by that time there will be no death at all for those who believe. And it seems unlikely that Lazarus would ever be able to

doubt Christ after this episode. Those who believe will have their faith confirmed by this event, and those who won’t will find their resistance hardened by it. In no other episode in the Gospel story is Jesus shown so clearly for what he is: the resurrection and the life.

Video Reflection

This week’s presenter helps us see how the story of the raising of Lazarus is relevant to our own lives today. Feel free to take notes as you watch the short *Opening the Word* video available on FORMED.org

How does the story of the raising of Lazarus show both Jesus’ human and divine natures? How do sins that others have committed bind us? How can Jesus free us from them?

Digging Deeper Jewish Burial Customs

In New Testament times, burial was often on the day of death. Unlike some of their pagan



neighbors, Jews never practiced cremation. Bodies were usually placed in a tomb carved out of rock or a natural cave, which frequently contained the bodies of several family members. The entrance to the tomb was closed by a large stone. After desiccation (about a year), the bones were permanently placed in an ossuary.

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

Remote Study Group Ideas

1. **Call a friend.** Watch the short *Opening the Word* video together and discuss the above questions over the phone.
2. **Facetime.** If you have an Apple device, Facetime is a great way to feel like you’re in person when you’re not.
3. **Zoom.** Zoom is a group video conferencing platform to get several people in a “room” to discuss topics. Look it up!
4. **Microsoft Teams.** Teams has video conferencing like Zoom, with the added file sharing and chat features to share your thoughts.
5. **Walk at a Distance.** You and a friend can go for a walk and chat about Scripture. Just remain 6 feet apart as you discuss.
6. **Email.** Share your thoughts and pose your questions on a group email!

PRAY

Mass Intentions (livestream & private)

Saturday 3/28

Marsha Becker
Jose Villazon
Alice Lopez Tapia †

Sunday 3/29

Priscillano Lacabra †
Daniel Figuieredo †
George O'Brien, Jr †
Jim O'Reilly
Sharon & Art Baroody
Matilde Perez †
Jerry Filman & Family

Monday 3/30

Pat Harvey †
Annie Smith †
John Mitchell †

Tuesday 3/31

Emil Peter Cigliuti †
Teresa de Rivera

Wednesday 4/1

Mary Schaefer
Leann Minehart

Thursday 4/2

Jovina Quinto †
Jesus & Concepcion Llacer †

Friday 4/3

Nick, Alice & Tomas Sanchez
Tootie Stoneham †
Deacon Dave Rezendes

All Mass Intentions will be offered by St Michael's clergy on the scheduled day at their private or livestreamed Masses.

Send Your Prayer Requests

During this difficult time, let us support each other in prayer. Please send your prayer requests via email to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com. Also let us know if you want to be on the email list to receive weekly prayer requests.

Parking Lot Benediction

Join us every day in the St Michael Parking Lot at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm as our clergy processes with Jesus, present in the Eucharist. The procession will stop periodically for you to adore from your car. PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR CAR. Additionally, as you drive away, wave and smile to your fellow parishioners. Spread the joy of Jesus, especially in a time of uncertainty!

Private Prayer in the Church

The Church is open every day, 6:00 am – 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please remain 6 feet from each other.

Prayer Meditation

Think back over your life and choose a moment where, through your sin or the sin of another, you might have become spiritually dead and entombed like Lazarus. Feel the way the sin binds you, entrapping you in ways that prevent you from being the whole and holy person God created you to be. Take a few moments to consider that sin and all the ways it has hindered your life. Ask God to forgive you if it is a sin you committed. If the sin has been committed against you, ask God to forgive that person and to help you let it go. Imagine Jesus calling your name and saying to you what he said to Lazarus: "Come out!" Hear him say that you are now untied and free.

Resolution

This week, ask Jesus to release you from any sin or hurt that might still be binding you. Consider receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for forgiveness and for the grace to be unbound.

PLENARY INDULGENCE



Dear St Michael Family,

On 20 March, the Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting plenary indulgences to “the faithful suffering from the Covid-19 virus, commonly known as coronavirus, as well as to healthcare workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.”

The Decree grants a plenary indulgence to coronavirus patients quarantined by health authorities

in hospitals and in their homes if, “with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite themselves spiritually through the media to the celebration of the Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion.”

The plenary indulgence can also be obtained by the faithful if they at least “recite the creed, the Lord’s Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfill the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy father’s intentions), as soon as possible.”

A plenary indulgence is also granted to healthcare workers, family members and all those who, “exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick” under the same conditions stated above.

Also, the faithful who offer a “visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or read the Holy Scriptures for half an hour, or recite the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy” while praying for an end to the pandemic will be granted a plenary indulgence.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, an indulgence is “a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven.” Indulgences are either partial or plenary depending on if they remove part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.

For the full article, visit
www.vaticannews.va

May God bless you and your families,

Fr Carl

Consoling the Heart of Jesus: Episode 7

Episode 7: Obstacle 4—The Sensitivity of the Lord's Heart

Recall how easy it is to console Jesus: it simply takes our trust. Now recall how easy it is to hurt the Lord: it simply takes our lack of trust. That last part often presents an obstacle to our going to Jesus. The sensitivity of the Lord's Heart is like a double-edged sword. On the one side, it makes consoling him so simple and easy. On the other side, it makes hurting him just as simple and easy.

Watch this week's episode on FORMED.org.



SUPPORT

Support Your Parish

People have asked, "How can we continue to support our parish offertory if all our Masses are canceled?" You have three options to continue your offertory:



Option #1: Mail in your weekly offertory to St. Michael Catholic Parish, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

Option #2: Make donations online through FaithDirect: Membership.FaithDirect.net/ca602

Option #3: Drop off your donation envelope in the secure mailbox located on the door just past the St Michael statue.

May God bless you for your generous planning!

Thank you for your continued support.

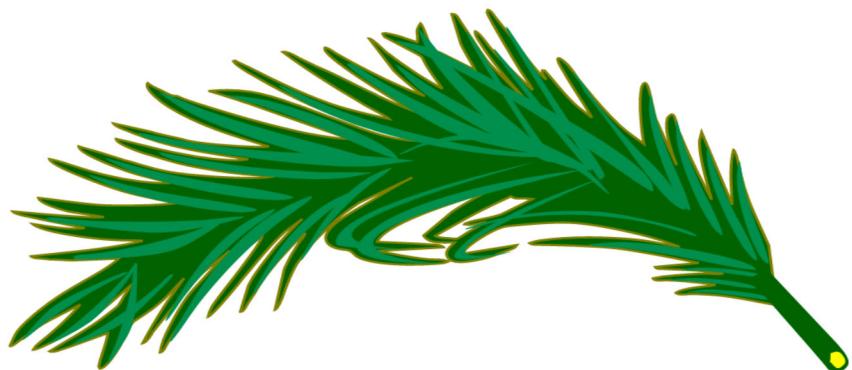
Collection Report

3/22/2020 Collection	\$3,660.00
Month-to-Date	\$63,049.26
March Goal	\$106,176.47
Percentage of March Goal Reached	59%
Faith Direct	\$12,889.13
Maintenance (for Month)	\$10,028.59

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday will be livestreamed from St Michael's Chapel on Facebook. You do not need to have a Facebook to view. Simply go to [Facebook.com/StMichaelParishLivermore](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelParishLivermore).

About Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday [next weekend] is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.

Palm branches are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday.

The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war. A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.

[Normally] palms are distributed to parishioners who carry them in a ritual procession into church. The palms are blessed and many people will fashion them into small crosses or other items of personal devotion. These may be returned to the church, or kept for the year. Because the palms are blessed, they may not be discarded as trash. Instead, they are appropriately gathered at the church and incinerated to create the ashes that will be used in the follow year's Ash Wednesday observance.

Reprinted from www.catholic.org/lent/palmsunday.php

Preguntas frecuentes: COVID 19 Refugio en su lugar

¿Qué hay de las misas?

Todas las misas públicas se han suspendido al menos hasta el 7 de abril

¿Hay una transmisión en vivo de la misa?

¡Si! Únase a nosotros en Facebook para la misa diaria a las 6:45 a.m. en inglés y los domingos a las 9:30 a.m. en inglés y a las 12:30 p.m. en español

¿Habrá confesiones ofrecidas?

Nuestro formato de confesión regular ha sido suspendido en este momento. Sin embargo, nuestro clero ofrece "Confesión de Drive Up" todos los días, del 19 de marzo al 7 de abril, de 11:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m. (bilingüe) de 3:00 p.m. a 4:00 p.m. (en inglés). Cancelado si llueve. Solo un ocupante por automóvil durante la confesión. Conduzca hasta la entrada del patio y permanezca en su automóvil. Un sacerdote mantendrá una distancia de 6 pies de la ventana de su automóvil para escuchar su Confesión y absolverlo.

¿Qué hay de recibir el Sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos?

La unción de los enfermos será estrictamente para aquellos en peligro de muerte. El número de emergencia para los enfermos y moribundos es 925-521-4117.

¿Qué hay de los bautismos?

Los bautismos todavía son posibles basados en la urgencia pastoral.

¿Qué hay de los funerales?

Llame a los Servicios funerarios y cementerios católicos de Holy Angels al 925-455-9696 o al

depósito de cadáveres de Callaghan al 925- 447-2942. Le guiarán a través de todas las decisiones necesarias durante este momento difícil. Estarán en contacto con la oficina parroquial de San Miguel.

¿Qué pasa con el ministerio a los enfermos y confinados?

En cumplimiento de la orden de Refugio en el Lugar del Condado de Alameda, las visitas ordinarias en persona a los enfermos y confinados en sus hogares se han detenido durante la duración de esta emergencia.

¿Cómo puedo seguir apoyando a nuestro ofertorio parroquial si todas nuestras misas están siendo canceladas?

¡Que Dios te bendiga por tu generosa planificación! Tienes dos opciones para continuar tu ofertorio.

Opción n.º 1: envíe su ofertorio semanal a la parroquia católica St. Michael, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

Opción # 2: haga donaciones en línea a través de FaithDirect:
<https://membership.faithdirect.net/ca602>

Opción n.º 3: deje su sobre de donación en el buzón seguro ubicado en la puerta justo al pasar la estatua de San Miguel.

¿Qué es la bendición del estacionamiento?

La bendición del estacionamiento es una forma innovadora de reunirse, de manera segura en nuestros automóviles individuales, y ser contemplado por Jesús, presente en la Eucaristía. Se ofrece dos veces al día, del

19 de marzo al 7 de abril, si el clima lo permite, a las 8:30 a.m. y a las 6:00 p.m.

Estacione en el estacionamiento de San Miguel y permanezca en su automóvil. Nuestro clero procesará con Jesús presente en la Eucaristía y pasará por todos los autos. Mientras esté en su automóvil, haga esta oración tres veces:

Oh sacramento santísimo,
Oh sacramento divino,
Toda alabanza y acción de gracias, Sé cada momento tuyo.

¿Está abierta la Iglesia para la oración privada?

Sí, la Iglesia está abierta todos los días de 6:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m. y de 2:00 p.m. a 6:00 p.m. y es un lugar tranquilo y pacífico para estar con nuestro Señor presente en el tabernáculo. Permanezca a 6 pies de los demás y siga todas las pautas de salud. La Iglesia será limpiada profesionalmente durante el descanso cada día.

¿Está abierta la oficina de la Iglesia?

La oficina administrativa de la parroquia estará disponible para ayudarlo de manera remota solamente:

Vía chat en vivo:
en Facebook o en la página de inicio de StMichaelLivermore.com

Email:
Office@StMichaelLivermore.com

Teléfono: 925-447-1585

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by my right hand." Psalm 73:23

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