



ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, March 8, 2020 | Second Sunday in Lent



“This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.”

Matthew 17:5

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

We tend to believe good times will last forever. (Just look at what happened before the Great Recession of 2008.) While it's nice to be optimistic in that respect, we tend to worry that the bad times will last forever as well. The truth is that life is a series of contrasts—mountaintop experiences followed by deep valleys.

This week's Gospel, about the Transfiguration, clearly shows us that we all live amid contrasts. The disciples are so excited by what they have witnessed that they want to build tents to commemorate the event, and then, almost immediately, they are nearly paralyzed by fear. The same is true for us, especially when it comes to our faith. At times we have bright moments when all seems so clear and obvious, and then we begin to experience doubts and uncertainty. Sometimes it even seems as if God himself has withdrawn from us.

We must not be surprised by these contrasting experiences, but instead we should use this week's reading as preparation for what we will do when the contrasts occur. For us, as for Abraham in the first reading, the disciples, and all who have gone before us in faith, it is only when we listen attentively to God's beloved Son that we will have the courage and grace to deal with all that life is sure to hand us.

First Reading Reflection Genesis 12:1–4a

This reading for the Second Sunday of Lent continues our tour of the peaks of salvation history. One could say that this passage represents God's mission statement. The general intent expressed is to provide Abraham—and through him, "all the communities of the earth"—with a land, blessing, and a great name. All of this depends, of course, on his generating an



heir. Without the birth of Isaac, there could be no nation, land, blessing, or the passing on of his name.

Abraham does receive these promises. That we're still reading about Abraham four thousand years after the events recounted here is largely due to the fact that these promises made to him in Genesis 12 were fulfilled. Our faith is that they were fulfilled in a far more fantastic way than Abraham could've ever imagined. The land promised has been extended, by the mission of the Church received from Christ, to include the whole world. The blessing is given to all who come to her

sacraments. The name is that of Jesus, the only name under heaven by which we're saved.

Second Reading Reflection 2 Timothy 1:8b–10

Hardship is something we naturally seek to avoid, but St. Paul has given us some reason for embracing the thing our natural inclinations reject. God has saved us, he says, "and called us to a holy life." To be holy is to do what we see Christ doing. If he suffered for the sake of the Gospel, then so should we. The salvation which comes to us as a consequence of the suffering of Christ is the fruit of the Father's plan, which included (even required) suffering. In other words, our hard-

ship is part of the plan of our salvation, won by Christ through suffering and appropriated by us through our share of his suffering in and for the Body of Christ—the Church. What was unredeemed before Christ has become a tool in the hand of God to shape us in conformity with his plan for the kingdom.

In this way, he has "destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." One of the revolutions that the Gospel brings about is this reversal of fortunes in which the greatest misfortunes—even death itself—is made an instrument of eternal life.

Gospel Reflection

Matthew 17:1–9

This Gospel reading represents a confluence of themes from the Old Testament. Mt. Tabor has been spoken of as a second Mt. Sinai—where the Ten Commandments and the ceremonial law of the Old Covenant were received. This fits nicely into Matthew’s theme of Jesus as the new Moses. Several elements in this narrative also suggest a connection with the Jewish Feast of Booths (Sukkot). It’s significant that Jesus’ coming to Mt. Tabor also results in a manifestation of God’s glory and the presence of a cloud, both of which are associated with the Feast of Booths. Jesus is thereby simultaneously portrayed as the new Law, the new manifestation of God, and the new Temple; all of which were elements of importance in the Jewish celebration of the Feast of Booths. It’s sometimes overlooked that Moses and Elijah were the only two figures in the Old Testament who spoke directly with God, both on Mt. Horeb (another name for Mt. Sinai). If Tabor is intended to represent a new Sinai, then we ought to consider the possibility that Matthew is showing us that

Jesus is more than simply a new Moses or Elijah; he’s also the God who spoke to Moses and Elijah on Mt. Horeb—as he’s now shown doing on Mt. Tabor.

Reflect & Discuss

Please watch the Opening the Word video for the for Second Sunday of Lent on FORMED.org. Then reflect upon these questions and discuss them with a friend:

What are some of the contrasts that the presenter talks about in today’s Gospel account of the Transfiguration?

How can this week’s reading help prepare us to live with the contrasts that occur in the Christian life?

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

Reflection from JaNet Hancock

The following reflection was distributed to all members of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) for the second Sunday of Lent by our director of Music, JaNet Hancock:

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” Matthew 17:5

Each year on the 2nd Sunday of Lent, we hear the Gospel of the Transfiguration (also proclaimed on the Feast of the Transfiguration). This has been both a curiosity and a challenge for me, sparking my curiosity as to why the Church would want us to hear this Gospel so often. And challenging me to genuinely hear the words of Jesus, to recognize and respond to his voice.

I find myself relating to Peter. I have been to the mountaintop and heard his voice. But, did I really hear? Was I truly changed? Or like Peter, am I impulsive and impatient? easily distracted? preoccupied with my own agendas?

This Gospel comforts me when I am aware of my human failings as both a faithful Catholic and parish musician. The yearly repetition is a reminder to me that even though I struggle to hear his voice, Jesus still reaches out to me, guiding me to him. To quote today’s Psalm – “May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have put our hope in you.”

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



Ready Reasons

Was Jesus’ Sacrifice Enough?

The Catholic teaching on penance is often rejected because they think it implies Jesus’ death on the cross was not enough. Learn why that is not actually the case.

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PRAY

Mass Intentions

Saturday 3/7

8:30am Bernadeth Albino
Carolyn MacArdle
5:00pm Brenda Collins & Family
7:00pm Jose Luis Guttierrez
Vanessa Gomez

Sunday 3/8

6:45am Patrick Allen †
8:00am James & John Sweeney †
9:30am Ruth Gutierrez †
Ernesto Torres †
11:00am Virginia Freie
12:30pm Malagon Zabedra family
Javier Vera Guerrero
6:00pm Rachel May Hussey

Monday 3/9

6:45am Hilda Heckenburger †
Gebhard Heckenburger †
8:30am Thomas Heise †

Tuesday 3/10

6:45am Vicky Palazzotto †
8:30am Russel Mueller †

Wednesday 3/11

6:45am Soledad Voss †
8:30am Jerry Fahnhorst
Jan Fahnhorst

Thursday 3/12

6:45am Lillian R. Kupski †
8:30am Mathilde & Anton Gapp †

Friday 3/13

6:45am Cyril Lacaba †
8:30am Delia Elisa Penza †

To request a Mass Intention, please visit the parish office. It is customary to offer a \$10 donation per intention for the priest celebrating the Mass.



Prayer

Imagine that you are with the disciples when Jesus is transfigured. You see him appear with Moses and Elijah. What goes through your mind as you witness this event? What do you feel? Excitement or fear? How does seeing Jesus in his glory change your idea of who he is? How does it change your life?

Resolution

This week, think about areas in your life that need to be “transfigured” by the power of the Holy Spirit. Choose one, and ask God to help you begin to work on that area for the remaining weeks of Lent.

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)

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,

As we focus on prayer in this season of Lent, allow me to share the types of prayer in the tradition of the Church.

Prayer, St. John Damascene wrote, "is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." At an even more basic level, a prayer is a form of communication, a way of talking to God or to the saints, just as we talk to family or friends.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, however, not all prayers are the same. In Paragraphs 2626-2643, the Catechism describes five basic types of prayer. Here are brief descriptions of each type of prayer, with examples of each.

1. Adoration and Worship

In prayers of adoration or worship, we exalt the greatness of God, and we acknowledge our dependence on Him in all things.

The Mass and the other liturgies of the Church are full of prayers of adoration or worship, such as the Gloria (the Glory to God).

2. Petition

Outside of the Mass, prayers of petition are the type of prayer with which we are most familiar. In them, we ask God for things we need—primarily spiritual needs, but physical ones as well. Our prayers of petition should always include a statement of our willingness to accept God's Will, whether He directly answers our prayer or not.

3. Intercession

Prayers of intercession – praying for others – is another form of petition, but they are important enough to be considered their own type of prayer. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes (# 2634), "Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did." In a prayer of intercession, we're not concerned with our needs but with the needs of others.

4. Thanksgiving

Perhaps the most neglected type of prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving. While praying "Grace" before meals is a good example of a prayer of thanksgiving, we should get into the habit of thanking God throughout the day for all the good things that happen to us and others. Consider including the Grace After Meals prayer as an excellent practice.

5. Praise

Prayers of praise acknowledge God for what He is. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (# 2639) notes, praise "lauds God for his own sake and gives him glory, quite beyond what he does, but simply because HE IS. It shares in the blessed happiness of the pure of heart who love God in faith before seeing him in glory." The Psalms are perhaps the best-known example of prayers of praise.

God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

Consoling the Heart of Jesus: Episode 4

Episode 4: Obstacle 1 - Fear of Suffering

For many of us, the word "reparation" is a like a big, red stop sign that puts an end to our drawing close to the Lord's Heart. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if some of us, on hearing this word, might respond to the Lord by saying: "Well, Lord, I do want to help you and be your friend and all, but I don't know about this reparation stuff. It sounds like there's a lot of suffering and sacrifices involved and, well, as you remember from the beginning of the retreat, I'm one of the little ones." Perhaps this is what part of us is saying. Thus, we come to the first obstacle to living our principle and foundation: fear of suffering. But don't worry, for the Lord says to us: "Be not afraid. Listen. I am meek and gentle of heart."

Watch this week's episode on FORMED.org.



Rebuild My Church: Bishop's Appeal 2020

Some examples of the work done last year in the diocese are the following:

- 1) Support for 15 men in priestly formation in University, Seminary, and pastoral training.
- 2) 750 volunteers trained to be Catechetical leaders.
- 3) CYO Athletics had over 16,000 participants and 2,400 coaches enjoy the program.
- 4) Provided case management, care advocacy, and resources for 50+ retirees priests.

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**. These are small groups of just two or three couples socializing and enjoying lunch, with no pressure to purchase. Space is limited, so please call Frank at 925-455-9696 to reserve your place.

Cold, Flu and Coronavirus Precautions

As a precautionary measure during the cold and flu season and the coronavirus epidemic, we will receive Eucharist in the form of the Sacred Body (host) only at Mass and not the Precious Blood (cup). Additionally, please follow these safety measures:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly.
- Alcohol hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick (and keep sick children home from school).
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. If you use a tissue, wash your hands afterwards.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Drive Thru Prayer

Invite your friends to drive up to our courtyard, on **Fridays, March 6 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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

3/1/2020	\$16,807.46
Month-to-Date	\$16,807.46
Month Goal	\$106,176.47
Percentage Reached	16%
Faith Direct	\$0.00
Maintenance (for Month)	\$7,064.09
Ash Wednesday (YTD)	\$8,884.79

Thanks, Filipino Community, for the Alpha Dinner!

Our guests were treated to a wonderful traditional Filipino dinner at Alpha on February 24. Also thanks to YLI members for setting up and greeting guests.

Thank You from St Vincent de Paul Society

Recently a single mother came to us with a medical bill that had gone to collections. She had no medical insurance, and because the bill was almost the amount of her monthly income from her part-time job, it was highly unlikely that she would have been able to pay it any time soon. Through your generosity, we were able to pay the bill and clear her credit record with the collection agency.

Is God calling you to be a Vincentian? Would you like to serve the Lord by serving the poor? For more information on the Society and what we do please contact Janet Graham (janet.graham@comcast.net) or Paul Kuzmenko (kuzmenko@att.net). Thank you for helping us help others.

Querida familia de San Miguel,

Mientras nos concentramos en la oración en esta temporada de Cuaresma, deseo compartir los tipos de oración en la tradición de la Iglesia.

La oración, escribió San Juan Damasceno, "es elevar la mente y el corazón de uno a Dios o pedirle cosas buenas a Dios". En un nivel aún más básico, la oración es una forma de comunicación, una forma de hablar con Dios o con los santos, tal como hablamos con familiares o amigos.

Como señala el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, sin embargo, no todas las oraciones son iguales. En los párrafos 2626-2643, el Catecismo describe cinco tipos básicos de oración. Aquí hay breves descripciones de cada tipo de oración, con ejemplos de cada una.

1. Adoración

En las oraciones de adoración exaltamos la grandeza de Dios y reconocemos nuestra dependencia de Él en todas las cosas. La misa y las otras liturgias de la Ig-

lesia están llenas de oraciones de adoración, como el Gloria (la Gloria a Dios).

2. Petición

Fuera de la misa, las oraciones de petición son el tipo de oración con el que estamos más familiarizados. En ellos, le pedimos a Dios las cosas que necesitamos, principalmente necesidades espirituales, pero también físicas. Nuestras oraciones de petición siempre deben incluir una declaración de nuestra voluntad de aceptar la Voluntad de Dios, ya sea que Él responda directamente a nuestra oración o no.

3. Intercesión

Las oraciones de intercesión, orar por los demás, es otra forma de petición, pero son suficientemente importantes como para ser consideradas dentro de su propio tipo de oración. Como señala el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (# 2634), "La intercesión es una oración de petición que nos lleva a orar como lo hizo Jesús". En una oración de intercesión, no nos interesan nuestras necesidades, sino las necesidades de los demás.

4. Acción de gracias

Quizás el tipo de oración más descuidado es la oración de acción de gracias. Si bien rezar "Gracias" antes de las comidas es un buen ejemplo de una oración de acción de gracias, debemos acostumbrarnos a agradecer a Dios durante todo el día por todas las cosas buenas que nos suceden a nosotros y a los demás. Considere incluir la oración de gracias después de las comidas como una práctica excelente.

5. Alabanza

Las oraciones de alabanza reconocen a Dios por lo que es. Como señala el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (# 2639), el elogio "alaba a Dios por su propio bien y le da gloria, más allá de lo que hace, pero simplemente porque EL ES. Comparte la bendita felicidad del puro de corazón que ama a Dios con fe antes de verlo en gloria ". Los Salmos son quizás el ejemplo más conocido de oraciones de alabanza.

Dios lo bendiga a usted y a su familia.

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.

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 /
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

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Kathy Hawkins, Travis Cox,
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Suarez and Erleene Echon

Catecismo en Español

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925-344-7150 Adultos

Ministerio Hispano

Veronica Carrillo
Ricardo Garcia
Hispano1@
StMichaelLivermore.com

Rev. Father Carl Arcosa
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
Business Manager
Business@StMichaelLivermore.com
925-667-4052

Jacqueline Garcia, Church Secretary
Office@StMichaelLivermore.com
925-447-1585

Alison Wilkie, School Principal
awilkie@csdo.org
925-447-1888

Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper
Books@StMichaelLivermore.com
925-667-4058

Aimee Gonzalez, Faith Formation
Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com
925-667-4096

Priscilla Stutzman, Religious Ed
DRE@StMichaelLivermore.com
925-667-4097

Joseph Garcia, Youth Ministry
Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com
925-667-4093

Tina Gregory, Communication
Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com
925-667-4051

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

Marjorie Melendez, RCIA
RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com
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