



ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, April 26, 2020 | Third Sunday of Easter

Special Shelter in Place Edition: Week 5



And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him...

Luke 24: 30-31

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

Monday—Saturday
9:30 am in English

Wednesday
7:00 pm in Spanish

Sunday Mass
6:45 am in English
9:30 am in English
12:30 pm in Spanish

Recordings uploaded to
[YouTube.com/
StMichaelLivermore](https://www.youtube.com/StMichaelLivermore)

Drive Up Confession

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

Adoration

Livestream Monday—Saturday
6:45 am

Drive Up Every Day
8:30 am and 6:00 pm

Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples, Bring Christ to People

A Message from Deacon Dave

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? - Psalm 27

On Sunday February 23rd at the 6:00 pm Mass, I mentioned that I would not be seeing you, the wonderful people of St Michael Parish, for several weeks. I announced to the assembly that I would finally be having hip replacement surgery on Tuesday February 25th, the day before Ash Wednesday. It would be a slam dunk, I thought. Surgery one day and home the next. Wow! Little did I know that the hip replacement surgery would be a success, but the aftermath and other complications would lead me to a total of three surgeries in less than two weeks. Little did I know that two months later, I would only just be getting weaned off of using a cane. Little did I know that a pandemic would descend upon us all. So much can happen in the blink of an eye!

These are challenging times: grocery shortages, cleaning supply shortages, business closures, furloughs, job loss. Our anxieties make up a long list: missing seeing our ageing parents and grandparents, struggling to pay our mortgages or rent, worrying for our friends and families on the front lines. The list goes on and on in these troubled times.

But also sheltering in place has brought about lifestyle changes. Spouses and families are taking walks together and parents are creatively keeping children entertained. Some people learned how to cook and others learned how to Door Dash!

The building of St Michael Church (the House of God) has locked doors, but the Mass and other devotions are "livestreamed" for us to take part from our homes. There is an emptiness felt from not being together as a parish

family and a longing for the Eucharist. Also there is a renewed sense of unity in our community.

Will life ever return to normal and what we had before Coronavirus? Maybe. Maybe not. One thing is certain: the Lord is walking with us and has not abandoned us.

"The Lord is my light and salvation; whom should I fear?" Sisters and brothers in Christ, if we truly believe the Lord is our light and salvation, we as the people of God have NOTHING TO FEAR! We need to turn to prayer, meditation and heartfelt conversation with our Heavenly Father. Remember the Easter message of the empty tomb. Jesus gives us life in the Spirit. He sends the Holy Spirit upon us to help us navigate life's troubled waters. It is Jesus that calms the churned waters and restores faith, hope and love to the Christian community. If you drive by the House of the Dove at 352 Hillcrest Ave (my home) you will see the Holy Spirit Dove on the roof with all the white lights on. It is a sign of hope and a reminder of God's never-ending love for us.

Please know that your priests and deacons are praying for you, and we ask that you keep us, your clergy, in your prayers. I do really miss seeing all of you and will proclaim "Alleluia" when we can all come together again at Mass.

God bless you all.

Deacon Dave Rezendes



Monday - Saturday

6:45 am - 7:15 am

Livestream Adoration & Benediction only (no Mass)

8:30 am - 9:00 am

Drive Up Benediction in the Courtyard

9:30 am

Livestream Mass in English, followed by Adoration & Benediction

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Drive Up Confession in the Courtyard (Bilingual)

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Drive Up Confession in the Courtyard (English)

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Drive Up Benediction in the Courtyard

7:00 pm

Livestream Mass in Spanish, followed by Adoration &

Sunday

6:45 am

Livestream Mass (English), followed by Adoration & Benediction

8:30 am - 9:30 am

Drive Up Benediction in the Courtyard

9:30 am

Livestream Mass (English), followed by Adoration & Benediction

12:30 pm

Livestream Mass (Spanish), followed by Adoration

6:00 - 6:30 pm

Drive Up Benediction in the Courtyard



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Thank You for Supporting St Michael's!

A special and heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you who have continued - and increased! - your offerings to St Michael Parish during this difficult time. Because of you, we're able to keep moving forward with Christ's mission here in Livermore and beyond.

We still have a way to go to meet our April goal and our Easter Season goal. If you have not made an offering yet and would like to, here are ways you can donate:

1. Text any dollar amount to (925) 258-2969 and follow the steps.
2. Mail your offering to 458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550.
3. Drop off your offering at the secure mail slot at the church, located just past the St Michael statue or in the box after Drive Up devotions.
4. Go to FaithDirect.net and use church code CA602 Thank you!



Collection Report

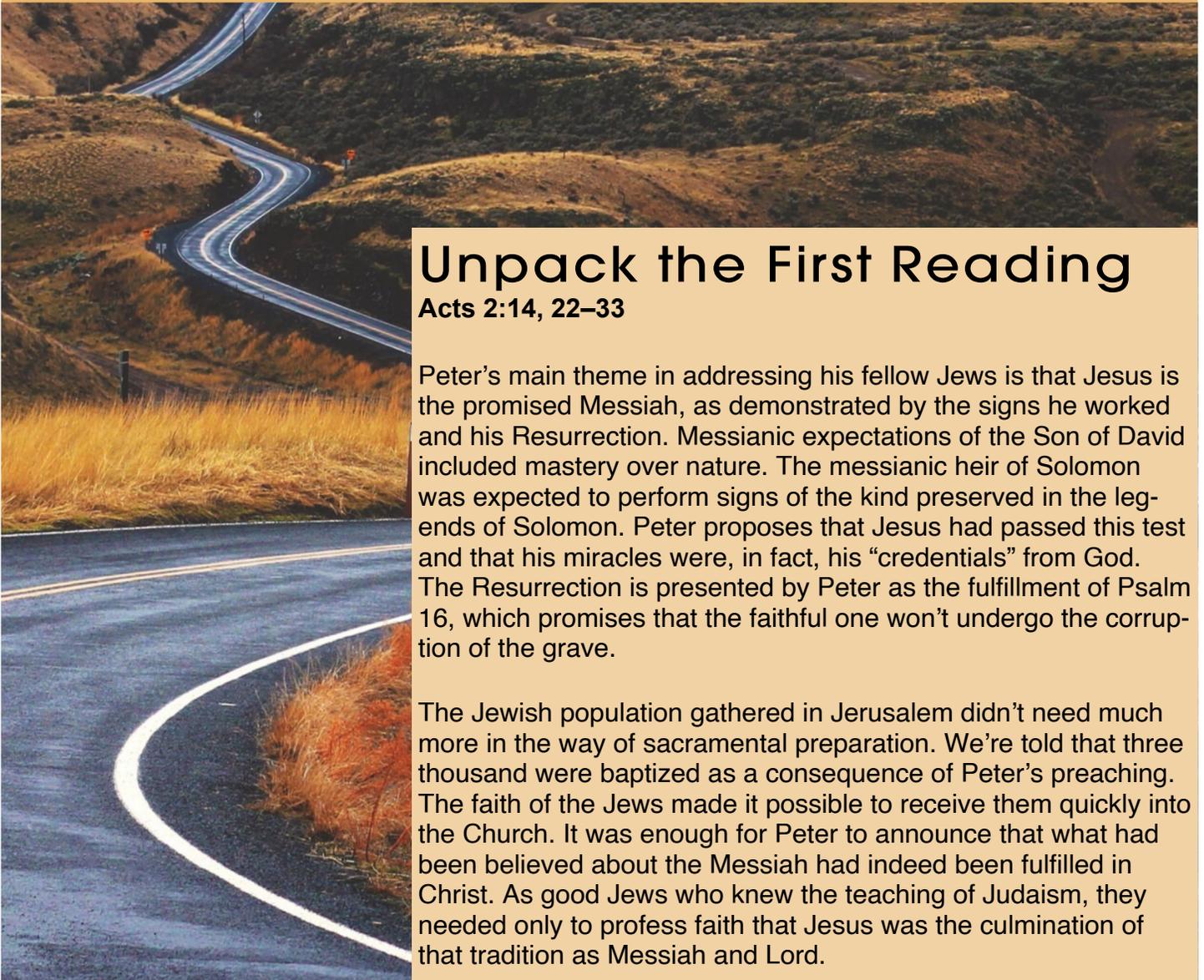
April 19 collection	\$7,776.15
April collection to date	\$57,302.96
April goal	68,068.63
Percentage of April goal reached	84%
Amount needed by April 30	\$10,765.67
Easter donations to date	\$24,920.24
Easter Goal	\$45,000.00
Percentage of Easter goal reached	55.4%
Amount needed by May 31	20,079.76
Faith Direct donations	\$15,580.38
Maintenance donations for April	\$4,998.00

Our Emmaus Road

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus in today's reading came to know the Lord in the "breaking of the bread"—the Eucharist. We can see that their encounter with Jesus that day parallels the way Jesus comes to meet us in every Mass.

First, just as Jesus spoke to the two disciples on the road about the Scriptures, so Jesus speaks to us through the Scriptures in the Liturgy of the Word. Then, just as Jesus explained the Scriptures to the disciples on the road, so do we have those words interpreted for us by the priest so that we can begin to understand what they mean for our lives. The first half of the Mass, like the first half of the journey to Emmaus, focuses on the Word of God.

Then, as we experience the "breaking of the bread," Jesus gives us his very self, his Body and Blood. At that moment, our eyes can be opened and we are able to see Jesus in our midst. When we receive the Lord with an open and receptive heart, we know that he is alive . . . and with us. We begin to have a glimpse into the awesome plan of God for our own lives. The second half of the Mass, like the second half of the Emmaus story, centers on meeting and recognizing Jesus.



Unpack the First Reading

Acts 2:14, 22–33

Peter's main theme in addressing his fellow Jews is that Jesus is the promised Messiah, as demonstrated by the signs he worked and his Resurrection. Messianic expectations of the Son of David included mastery over nature. The messianic heir of Solomon was expected to perform signs of the kind preserved in the legends of Solomon. Peter proposes that Jesus had passed this test and that his miracles were, in fact, his "credentials" from God. The Resurrection is presented by Peter as the fulfillment of Psalm 16, which promises that the faithful one won't undergo the corruption of the grave.

The Jewish population gathered in Jerusalem didn't need much more in the way of sacramental preparation. We're told that three thousand were baptized as a consequence of Peter's preaching. The faith of the Jews made it possible to receive them quickly into the Church. It was enough for Peter to announce that what had been believed about the Messiah had indeed been fulfilled in Christ. As good Jews who knew the teaching of Judaism, they needed only to profess faith that Jesus was the culmination of that tradition as Messiah and Lord.

Unpack the Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17–21

We hear in this reading a much more mature Peter than we heard in the first reading. This letter is believed to have been written thirty years or more after that first proclamation of the Gospel in Acts. The themes are remarkably the same, however. The Gospel still revolves around the basic idea that Jesus was the chosen one of God who suffered, died, and was raised. By that Resurrection we're given cause for a faith and hope, which save us from the "futile" way of life we would otherwise live. That faith makes us strangers or exiles on this earth and aware of the just judgment that the Father will pronounce on those who don't conduct themselves with the reverence due him. The mercy we receive through his Precious Blood doesn't exempt us from his justice; rather, it demands that we act reverently and with mercy. So reverently, in fact, that our status as aliens in this land is manifest to those who don't share our faith.



Unpack the Gospel

Luke 24:13–35

In this reading, we see Jesus seeking two disciples who are leaving Jerusalem in despair over Jesus's death and apparent failure. Jesus's meticulous care in gathering up and confirming his disciples in faith after his Resurrection ought to give us great confidence in his love for all, even those who have walked away from him. The lesson for us is that without the gift of faith, even the obvious can seem obscure. This story in Luke also gives us some direction as to where to find the grace necessary to overcome our ignorance. We're told that in the "breaking of bread" they recognized him. That term is widely considered to have been a kind of code term in the early Church for the celebration of the Eucharist.

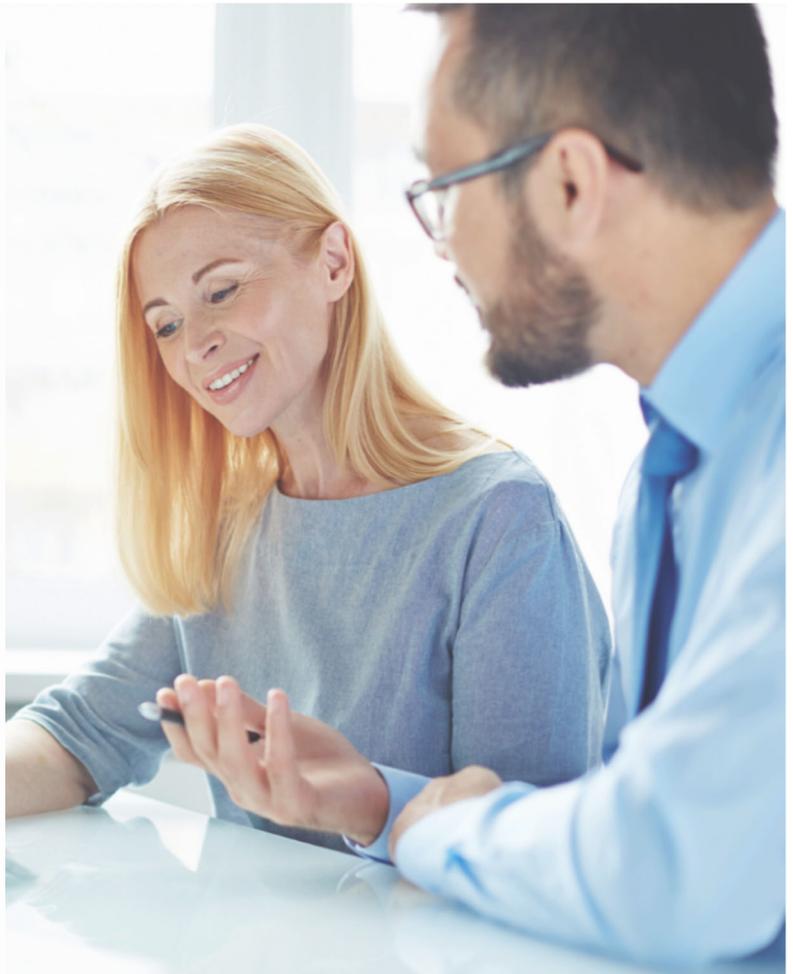
This narrative itself exhibits a form like that of the Mass. It begins with a Liturgy of the Word: "Beginning, then, with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures." It closes with the "breaking of the bread," as happens in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Through the Sacraments generally, and the daily Sacrament of the Eucharist particularly, the Church learns to see clearly what was formerly obscure.



Reflect & Discuss

Please watch this week's Opening the Word video on FORMED.org. The presenter talks about the encounter with Jesus the two disciples had on the road to Emmaus. With a friend—over the phone, FaceTime, Zoom meeting or with the members of your family— pray together, reflect and discuss the following questions:

1. The story of the two disciples meeting Jesus gives us a template for how we encounter Jesus in the Mass. How does the Liturgy of the Word begin our meeting with Jesus?
2. How is the Liturgy of the Word in the Mass like the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus?
3. Why do you think the disciples were unable to recognize Jesus before the Breaking of the Bread?



Elements of the Catholic Mass is designed to help the faithful better appreciate the beauty of the Mass. Featuring Fr. Douglas Martis, former director of the Liturgical Institute, the program consists of thirty-one beautifully produced short (3-minute) videos.

Because each episode comes with a discussion guide with references, ***Elements of the Catholic Mass*** is ideal for personal faith formation or group discussion.

Digging Deeper

Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word consists of eight parts:

1. The First Reading from either the Old Testament or the Book of Acts
2. The Responsorial Psalm
3. The Second Reading from the New Testament (excluding the Gospels)
4. The Gospel Alleluia
5. The Gospel Reading
6. The Homily
7. The Profession of Faith in the Creed
8. The Prayers of the Faithful

Learn more about the Mass in the ***Elements of the Catholic Mass*** series on FORMED.org. These 31 short 3-minute videos that explore the liturgy can be found under "Programs" then "Faith Formation".

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