



St. Michael Catholic Parish

Where we celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples, and bring Christ to people.

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA
925-447-1585
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St Michael School
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**Jesus said,
“The kingdom of heaven
may be likened to a
man who sowed good
seed in his field.”**

Matthew 13:24

July 23, 2017

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**



Faith and Patience

First Reading

You taught your people that those who are just must likewise be kind (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19).

This part of the Book of Wisdom is sometimes called the “book of human folly,” where the author discusses our human waywardness. These verses show us the greatness of God’s mercy in the face of our folly. We have a decided tendency toward idolatries of all kinds, acting as though other things are “god,” rather than founding our lives upon the one, true God. But he has so arranged the world that it teaches us of him and slowly corrects our misplaced adoration—whether it be directed toward money, power, or honors—to show us that he is the sovereign Lord of the world whose right due is our worship.

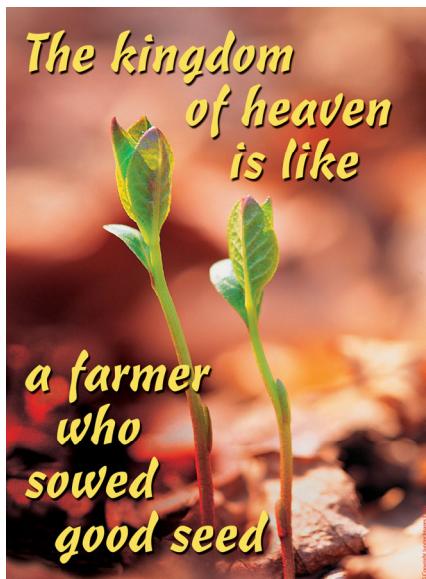
For many this is a lifelong process. In some cases, God gives us successes so that we will be moved by gratitude to thank him for his gifts. In others, he weans us from our false sense of security by depriving us of those things that gave us that false security. In all these things, God is acting as a gentle and patient Teacher who draws us along toward himself. So even when we find ourselves distraught over the loss of something, or even someone whom we found precious, we have “good ground for hope” that all of God’s lessons are intended for our good and to encourage the love we will share with him for all eternity.

Second Reading

The Spirit comes to aid us in our weakness (Romans 8:26-27).

God is so good! Not only does he enable us to enter into new life with him by a gratuitous gift of grace that

we could not hope to merit on our own, but he also supplies everything that we may need on the journey upon which that grace directs us. Here St. Paul tells us that the presence of God in our souls that we receive by Baptism is not an inert presence that we are aware of and can gaze at, as if it were a kind of museum exhibit, but a dynamic presence, always at work in us. The Spirit that comes to dwell in our souls attends to us so closely that he aids to the



extent of articulating our needs for us. Even when we don’t know what or how to pray to God for what we need, he will inspire in us the prayer he wants us to pray to him! He leaves nothing to chance. Just as a parent will fill in the blanks when a little child haltingly asks for things that he doesn’t know the name for, so the Spirit helps us name our needs and intercedes for us. Those who live in the Spirit will find that they gain a new kind of articulateness in their mediation for others, too—the Spirit guiding them in their intercessory prayers for brothers and sisters in need.

Gospel Reading

Jesus proposes parables to the crowds, teaching them of the reign of God (Matthew 13:24-43 [24-30]).

In this Gospel passage we find corroboration of what we saw in the readings from previous Sundays, also from Matthew’s Gospel. At verse 34 of Matthew 13 we read, “He spoke to them only in parables.” The parables that Jesus tells function almost like medical heart monitors. When told, they register our state of heart, based upon how we respond to them. The weeds and the wheat, the mustard seed, the yeast that leavens the whole batch of dough ... these are figures that represent the mysteries of the Kingdom to those to whom they are addressed. To be able to “hear” them for what they tell us, we must have hearts that are open to the proclamation of that Kingdom. To hear them requires that we be open to the grace to do so.

And how do we gain this grace, the grace to hear? Matthew tells us that those to whom “it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom” (Matthew 13:11; RSV: 2CE) are those who “went into the house.” This simple locution speaks volumes. At the beginning of chapter 13 Matthew reports, “The same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.” He tells the parables that follow outside of this house and he explains their meaning inside the same house. The house of Jesus is the Church. If, having heard the proclamation of the Kingdom, we wish to know its secrets, we must enter the house of Jesus. Jesus is both the Word spoken in the world and the very interpretation of that Word. But to hear it fully, we must go and abide with him where he will reveal to little ones the secrets of his Kingdom.

Grow in Discipleship

This week we read three of Jesus's most famous parables: the sower and the seed, the mustard seed, and the yeast in the three measures of flour. What do all of these have in common? You might say they are stories about faith and how it grows and develops. This is correct, but they also have something else in common: the theme of patience.

The farmer who sows the seed has to wait until both the wheat and the weeds mature before he can begin to sort them out. If he uproots the plants too early, he risks destroying his crop along with the weeds. The mustard seed, which is minuscule, eventually becomes a huge bush. But patience is required for the seed to take root and reach maturity. Finally, the woman who kneads the yeast into the flour has to wait for the bread to rise before she can bake it.

In all three cases, it's necessary to wait until you see the final result. You may know that there will be a crop of wheat, a large bush, and loaves of bread, but it takes time and patient

waiting before you can see them. You have to trust in the process.

The same is often true with our desire to share the Faith. We want people to embrace the Gospel right away; we want an immediate, enthusiastic response to the Good News of salvation. It didn't work like that in the time of Jesus, and it doesn't today. Most of the time (there are always exceptions), we have to sow the seed or mix in the yeast—and then sit back and wait. No matter how much we might want to rush things, we need patience as we wait for faith to develop ... from tiny seeds and grains of yeast.

DIGGING DEEPER: The Smallest of Seeds?

Mustard seeds are usually about one or two millimeters in diameter, which makes them very small, but not the smallest of all seeds. The mature plant is eight to ten feet tall, which makes it big, but not the largest of all plants. So was Jesus wrong? We have to remember that Jesus wasn't giving a botany lesson; he was telling a sto-

ry. Mustard seeds would have been the smallest commonly sown seed his audience would have known, and the mustard plant the largest commonly grown garden crop. The contrast between the tiny size of the seed and fully grown plant would have been striking, which was the point Jesus was trying to make.

Discussion

Jesus often taught in parables. Sometimes we don't fully understand the parables, but neither did his followers. Please listen to the short 7 minute Opening the Word presentation on FORMED.org. The presenter talks to us about three of Jesus's most famous parables.

What is the common theme in all three of Jesus's parables in this week's Gospel?

Which one of the three parables in today's Gospel (sower and seed, mustard seed, woman with bread) do you relate to the most? Explain how the parable might apply to your life.



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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 7/22

- 8:30am Asuncion Esto †
- 5:00pm Gerald McGrath †
Jennifer Thaete
- 7:00pm Mass for Our Parish
Charlotte & Walter †

Sunday 7/23

- 6:45am Melanie Maher †
- 8:00am Betty Hamstrong †
Juanita †
- 9:30am Antony Pham Van Hoi †
The Souls in Purgatory †
- 11:00am Cleotilde Alvarez
Eleanor Sahlin †
- 12:30pm The Valencia Vernal Family
- 6:00pm Captain David G. Mitchell †

Monday 7/24

- 8:30am Christopher Joseph Cortez
Paula Boyd †
Gerald McGrath †

Tuesday 7/25

- 8:30am Deceased members of the
Sheehan Family †
Julio, Isabel, Betty & Lynn †

Wednesday 7/26

- 8:30am Melissa Lamb
Ricardo Coelho †
Souls in Purgatory †

Thursday 7/27

- 8:30am For the Families of 9/11 †
Paolo Monjes †

Friday 7/28

- 8:30am James Dayton
Nilda Vitalicia †
John & Jeff Owens †

To request a Mass intention, please visit the church office.

Prayers & Devotion



Some of the most beautiful images in the Gospels come from Jesus's parables. Take some time to prayerfully consider one of them.

PRAYER:

Picture yourself in a kitchen. There is a large bowl of flour on the counter and a measure of yeast. Mix the yeast into the flour. Now imagine Jesus says to you, "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast." What thought comes to mind? Is there a question you would like to ask Jesus about this? What does he say?

RESOLUTION:

Think of at least two ways you might be "yeast" for the Kingdom in your family or your work. How important is it to you to be that yeast?

Use your journal to write down your thoughts and reflections and your resolutions.

Parish Prayer Requests

The Frydenal family sincerely thanks all who prayed and requested masses for their beloved Cornelius and Richard.

For the repose of the souls of Jacob Nathaniel Benson, Deacon Bill and Jayne Archer's grandson, and Fernando Castro.

*Please send your prayer requests to
Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com*

News & Announcements



Teen Confirmation: **August 21**

Faith Formation & First Communion: **September 6**

Middle School Edge Youth Ministry: **No Deadline!**

LifeTeen Youth Ministry: **No Deadline!**

StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation

5 Benefits of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

1. The Almighty God will reveal Himself to your children and begin a life-long relationship with them.
2. Your children will develop friendships based on common faith.
3. As your children learn about God, so will you!
4. Your children will begin to develop a solid bedrock of faith to get them through life's difficulties.
5. They will find their identity as precious children of God, an identity that the world can never take away.

Collection Report

Thank you for your generous gifts! It is only with your support that St Michael Parish can continue to celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples and bring Christ to people.

July 17 Collection	\$15,779.62
Month to Date	\$62,395.93
Monthly Goal	\$107,843.14
Percentage reached	58%
Maintenance for July	\$8,752.80
Faith Direct for July	\$10,711.50

Cemetery & Funeral Advance Planning Summer Promotion

Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services is offering a Summer Promotion at all of its locations. Together with the parish discount, all pre-need cemetery purchases are 10% off with extended financing terms at zero interest. In addition, there is a similar discount on pre-need funeral services. Please contact Frank Draschner at 925-784-6666 for details.

Promotion applicable July 1st thru Sept. 30, 2017.

Suicide Prevention & Awareness Workshop

All are welcome to this workshop for teens from middle through high school age and their parents, guardians or adult loved ones at St Augustine on Tuesday, August 1 at 7:30 pm. There will be two workshops running simultaneously. In St. Augustine Church, there will be a workshop for adults on Suicide Prevention and Awareness. In St. Augustine Hall there will be a workshop for teens who are incoming middle through high school age.

The goal of these workshops is to equip all of us with the tools we need to help someone at risk of dying by suicide and protect the sanctity of life.

This program is being presented by Crisis Support Services of Alameda County and hosted by the Catholic Community of Pleasanton.

Pick a Leaf...Buy a Card

Check out the Fall Festival Tree in the office foyer! Pick a leaf, buy the gift card and return it to the office. Gift cards will be used for prizes at the Parish Fall Festival!



This Week

MONDAY, JULY 24

St. Sharbel Makhluf

Readings: Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-6;
Mt 12:38-42

Suggestion:

Listen to Common Objections: The Saints audio talk by Dr. Scott Hahn on FORMED.org as he examines Church teaching.

THURSDAY, JULY 27

Readings: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dn 3:52-56; Mt 13:10-17

Events:

Safe Environment Training at 6:00 pm in the church, for volunteers who did not complete the online training.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 [44-46]

Choosing Higher Goods

Sunday's Scriptures will focus on comparing God's Word, law, commands, and will with earthly goods and riches. Psalm 119 tells us that while gold and silver are valuable, God's wisdom is even more valuable. The relative good of precious metals pales in comparison with the good to be found in God.

TUESDAY, JULY 25

St. James , Apostle

Readings: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28

Suggestion:

Listen to the Universal Letters Truth & Life Dramatized Audio Bible on FORMED.org St. James writes about faith!

FRIDAY, JULY 28

Readings: Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 13:18-23

Suggestion:

Watch this coming Sunday's Opening the Word on FORMED.org to prepare for Mass. Download the week's journal under "participant materials" below the video.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Ss. Joachim and Anne

Readings: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-28; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Suggestion:

Watch Mary of Nazareth on FORMED.org, an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

St. Martha

Readings: Ex 24:3-8; Ps 34:2-11; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Events:

New Parishioners Potluck at 6:00 pm in the Convent, 375 Maple Street. Come meet some new friends! Contact Marie at 510-301-8928

Saints Joaquin and Anne: Role Models for Parents

Saints Joaquin and Anne, the parents of the Virgin Mary, serve as role models for parents and both deserve to be honored and emulated for their devotion to God and Our Lady Mary, the Mother of God. Wednesday, July 26 is their feast day, and a fitting time to explore Catholic teaching on marriage and family.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

DR. SCOTT HAHN



Good relationships and marriages are of vital importance to individuals, the Church and society overall, but real effort and wisdom are indispensable to making them strong and lasting. In this focused presentation Dr. Scott Hahn shares key principles that he has lived out in his own life. His advice is practical, challenging, and sometimes requires sacrifice, but it is sure to bear good fruit and bring forth many blessings.

Find this free talk on FORMED.org under "Listen" then "Marriage & Family"
Create your free, unlimited access account using parish code P4XNPZ

Upcoming

Backpack Delivery Day Sat, August 12

If you are 18 or older you are eligible to deliver backpacks to kids at their homes. Meet us at the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church), 1501 Hillcrest Ave, Livermore, at 9 am on August 12.

Our very own Father Van will be with us to bless all 1400 backpacks, the children who will get them and you!

Thank you to those who donated money, to those who donated time, to those who carried, lugged, sorted, counted, packed and helped in so many ways!

Contact:
ernestina.shay@comcast.net or
lynnmacedo@icloud.com

Confirmation Preparation Classes for Adults Wed, September 6

If you are...

- at least 18 years old
- baptized, practicing Catholic
- have received your first Holy Communion
- living the marriage disciplines of the Church
- have never been confirmed

... then this is the group for you! Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm in the Convent. Call or email for more info, or just plan to attend on September 6.

Marjorie Melendez 925-447-2925
RCIA@stmichaellivermore.com

Deadline to Register for Teen Confirmation Mon, August 21

You NEED the Sacrament of Confirmation! Deepen your Baptismal call, grow stronger in your relationship with Christ and receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, courage, right judgement, counsel, reverence, and awe in the Lord's presence—to assist us in our mission and witness.

Classes for Teens will be on Mondays at 6:00—8:00 pm starting September 18, or Sundays at 2:00-4:00 pm starting September 24th.

Deadline to register is August 21 (second year students are automatically enrolled into the program and do not need to register again.)

Deadline to Register for Faith Formation & First Communion Wed, September 6

Give your child the gift of faith and a chance to meet new Catholic friends. Bonus: your child will bring YOU and your family closer to Christ and His Church!

Classes in English will be on Wednesdays at 4:00-5:30 pm or 6:00-7:30 pm, beginning October 4th. Classes in Spanish will be on Fridays at 5:00-6:30 pm, beginning October 6th.

Deadline to register is September 6. Download registration forms at StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation or at the church office, or faith formation office.

SAVE September 30 October 1

Come out and join us for the most delicious variety of ethnic food, representing our diverse community and fun and games for the whole family. We will be celebrating our patron, St Michael, and kicking off the Centennial Year for our church.

Hours of Operation: Saturday, September 30th from 11-9:30pm and Sunday, October 1st from 10-4pm.

Want to help make this year's Fall Festival a roaring success? Sponsor a booth, volunteer, donate to the auction, buy raffle tickets!

Email Festival@StMichaelLivermore.com to see how you can be a part of this historic event.



Noticias Parroquiales

La matriculación ya está disponible

Formación de fe grados 1-5

**Ministerio de la juventud de secundaria
confirmación de adolescentes**



Grados 1-5: Clases en inglés serán miércoles 4:00-5:30 o 6:00-7:30, comenzando el 4 de Octubre. Clases en Español serán los viernes de 5:00-6:30, empezar el 6 de Octubre. Fecha límite para inscribirse es el 6 de Septiembre.

Confirmación de adolescentes: clases serán los Lunes a 6:00 – 8:00 comenzando 18 de Septiembre o los Domingos comenzando el 24 de Septiembre. 2:00-4:00, Fecha límite es para inscribirse es el 21 de Agosto (segundo año los estudiantes están inscritos automáticamente en el programa y no necesita registrarse de nuevo.)

Ministerio de la escuela media: 6-8 ° grado secundaria borde Ministerio de la juventud reunirá el Jueves a las 6:30-8:00, a partir del 5 de Octubre. No hay plazos, sólo caer registrarse!

Formularios de inscripción en la oficina de formación de fe, oficina de la iglesia o descargar en
StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation

Tienes preguntas? Comunicarse con Lourdes en el 925-667-4096 Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com



¡Importante!

No habrá ninguna misa los miércoles por la noche durante el mes de julio.

El Rev. Alfonso Borgen, OFM Conv, será el nuevo Vicario Parroquial de la Parroquia San Miguel, Livermore Efectivo 1de Agosto del 2017



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Reflexiones

PARÁBOLAS

Estas son las semanas de las parábo-
las, y aunque ya las hemos escuchado
muchas veces, nunca pierden su fres-
cura, por siempre, si ponemos
atención, podemos percibir un ángulo
diferente.

La parábola del trigo y la cizaña, muy
sencilla en apariencia, es muy descon-
certante para los discípulos que tienen
que preguntar a Jesús que se las ex-
plique. En nuestros jardines, procura-
mos quitar la cizaña o yerba durante
todo el tiempo que crezca. Pero en la
parábola, la cizaña y el trigo crecen
juntos hasta el tiempo de la cosecha.
Si las personas buenas y las malas per-
manecen mezcladas durante la vida,
también nos desconcierta algunas
veces: ¿por qué las personas hacen
cosas malas y no son castigadas?

¿Cómo es que Dios permite que cosas
malas pasen a las buenas personas?

ESAS PEQUEÑAS CO- SAS

Nuestro Dios es en efecto un Dios po-
deroso; sin embargo, no es vengativo,
sino misericordioso. A cada uno se le
ofrece la oportunidad, muchas opor-
tunidades, para ser perdonado. Aún
una pequeña buena acción puede flo-
recer en algo maravilloso. La semilla
de mostaza del Medio Oriente es tan
pequeña que una persona difícilmente
puede agarrarla con los dedos.

(Aquellas personas que conocen el
programa de formación catequética
del Buen Pastor conocen esta parábo-
la maravillosa, y el pequeño plato que
contiene algunas de estas semillas y
que se guarda en el atrio para que los
niños las puedan contemplar). La leva-
dura hace que la masa fermente y
crezca para hornear deliciosos panes.
Todas estas maravillas tienen un ori-
gen muy pequeño, si es que estamos
listos para escuchar y entender estos
misterios.

También nuestra oración Dios la escu-
cha, aun cuando nosotros no en-
tendamos por lo que estamos rezan-
do: "pero nosotros no sabemos pedir
lo que nos conviene; pero el Espíritu
mismo intercede por nosotros con
gemidos que no pueden expresarse
con palabras. Y Dios, que conoce pro-
fundamente los corazones sabe lo que
el Espíritu quiere decir" (Romanos
8:26-27).

Así que, si nuestras pequeñas ora-
ciones son ofrecidas con un sincero
corazón, son escuchadas por Dios, aun
si no siempre sabemos lo que estamos
haciendo cuando oramos. ¿Estamos
alabando, glorificando a Dios, pidien-
do algo? El Espíritu lo sabe e intercede
por nosotros.

Lecturas de hoy:

Sab 12:13, 16-19; Sal 86 (85): 5-6, 9-
10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43
[24-30]

EXCEPTO el 30 de septiembre al 1 de octubre

Unase a nosotros para la más deli-
ciosa variedad de comida étnica, rep-
resentante de nuestra diversa comuni-
dad, con diversión y juegos para toda
la familia. Celebraremos a nuestro
patrón, St Michael y lanzaremos el
año del centenario de nuestra iglesia.
Horario de atención: el sábado, 30 de
septiembre de 11-21:30 y el domingo
1 de octubre de 10-16:00.

¿Desea ayudar en el Festival de otoño
de este año para que sea un éxito ro-
tundo? Puede patrocinar un stand,
ofrecerse como voluntario, donar a la

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val@StMichaelLivermore.com para
ver cómo puede ser parte de este
evento histórico.



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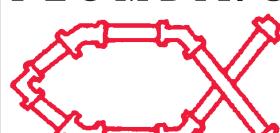


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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

Sat Vigil | Vigilia del Sábado

5:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm (español)

Sunday | Domingo

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

Sign Language | Lenguaje por Señas

1st Sun, 11:00 am
Primer domingo a las 11:00 am

Vietnamese | Vietnamita

4th Sun, 3:30 pm
Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

Confession | Confesión

Saturday, in the church | Sábado en la iglesia

9:00 am & 3:45 pm in English
6:15 pm en español

1st & 3rd Wed in the Convent Chapel,
at 2:30 pm in English

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 after hours
access code, call 925-980-4826 |
24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de
acceso después de las horas, llame al
925-980-4826

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Rev. Rafael Hinojosa, Parochial
Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence
Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer
Rev. Deacon Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes
Rev. Deacon Bob Vince

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