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AUGUST 11, 2019

**Be like
servants
who
await
their
master's
return from
a wedding.**

LUKE 12:35



**Nineteenth
Sunday
in Ordinary
Time**

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ALPHA COMING TO ST MICHAEL'S SEPTEMBER 9

- Fr Carl on Alpha: Build a Relationship? — page 5
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- More frequently Asked Questions about Alpha—page 8
- Feast of St Michael Archangel—page 8

Unpack Today's Mass Readings



Jesus says, “For where your treasure is, there also your heart will be.” What this really boils down to is asking, “What are your priorities? What is most important in your life?” This is a very difficult challenge for people in our modern culture today because there are so many distractions and temptations that can easily take us away from what is most important.

Unpack the First Reading Wisdom 18:6-9

This passage comes from the third part of the Book of Wisdom (10–19), which is an interpretive poetic commentary on the way that Wisdom is disclosed in the history of Israel. This is contrasted to the foolishness of polytheism and idolatry. In

this case, the Egyptian idolaters are confounded by the secret sacrifices, the Passover Lamb, of the children of Israel. This unblemished young ram, the blood of which was placed on the doorposts of their houses to protect them from the death of the firstborn of Egypt, harkens back to the sacrificial ram that Abraham had been given to ransom or replace his firstborn son, Isaac, in Genesis 22.

So the Israelites had seen “beforehand,” not just the description of the conduct of the Passover ritual as God wanted to carry it out in Egypt, but they had

seen it beforehand in the actions of their ancient forebear Abraham, who had trusted God, saying to Isaac, “God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son” (Genesis 22:8, RSV). And so it was that “with sure knowledge of the oaths in which they put their faith, they might have courage.” Like them, we, too, have been given the oath (the Latin for oath is sacramentum) in which we put our trust, the Holy Eucharist, the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of

not yet see it. So faith has, as a constituent part of its makeup, that trust which enables us to strive for a promise without seeing it.

But the rest of this passage from Hebrews 11 shows us that this trust isn’t usually a blind trust for an entirely blind faith. God has given us many examples of faith to help us see in the past what remains unclear in our own future. Hebrews 11 is a chronicle of faith listing many characters

from Israel’s past who braved all kinds of trials to inherit the promise that only comes to be fulfilled in Christ. Here the examples given are Abraham and Sarah for whom God did the impossible, bringing forth fruit in two



the world” that we might have courage.

Unpack the Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

In this reading we see the famous definition of faith as “the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” The author of Hebrews connects it clearly to the virtue of hope, which the Catechism defines as that theological virtue “by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness.” That is, faith enables us to realize the eternal happiness we hope for, even though we may

who were well beyond child-bearing, and then of whom he asked the unthinkable in the offering of that son, Isaac, in sacrifice. Faith enables us to go forward in darkness, yes, but that is because God has thrown so much light behind us in the past heroes of faith, enabling us to hope in what we cannot yet see.

Unpack the Gospel Luke 12:32-48

Jesus here instructs his disciples on the skills required for being a watchman, someone who is prepared for the Lord’s return. First, we are to live in the kingdom, not

relying on earthly treasure but on that heavenly treasure that is won by almsgiving. We are also to be vigilant, awake, dressed, and attentive for his coming. The Catechism says that vigilance at prayer is “custody of the heart” (CCC 2849) and that “in prayer the disciple keeps watch, attentive to Him Who Is and Him Who Comes, in memory of his first coming in the lowliness of the flesh, and in the hope of his second coming in glory” (CCC 2612).

And for those who are entrusted with the “stewardship” of the Church, or what Jesus calls, “all [the master’s] property,” they must also be sure to be vigilant in supplying the needs of the other servants, “to distribute the food allowance at the proper time” and in not abusing the privileges of office or those over which they exercise it. The whole of Christian history, the history of the Church, is the story of the great night watch. At this point in our collective journey through time, “salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed” and “the night is far gone, the day is at hand,” (Romans 13:11-12, RSV). We can’t be sure if we are “in the

second or third watch” of that night, but the proper Christian stance in any age is that of watchfulness, of earnest Christian living in faith, hope, and love.

Reflect & Discuss

Watch the Opening the Word video “True Treasure” on StMichael.FORMED.org

In the Gospel reading, Jesus says, “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” What things in your life do you truly treasure; in other words, what do you spend most of your time, energy, and attention on? Do these things that you treasure—that you spend time and energy on—reflect what is truly most important in life?

In the video, the biblical understanding of almsgiving was presented as giving a loan to God [“He who has compassion on the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his good deed.” Proverbs 19:17]. How is almsgiving like giving a loan to God and what does God do with your “loan”? What does Jesus promise to do to those who generously

give him a loan to help the poor and those in need?

The Call to Almsgiving

“But if we are not able to give to those who must depend on the charity of others for their sustenance, it is an act of Christian piety, as well as a means of avoiding idleness, to procure by our labor and industry what is necessary for the relief of the poor. To this the apostle exhorts all by his own example. For yourselves, he says to the Thessalonians, know how you ought to imitate us; and again, writing to the same people: Use your endeavor to be quiet, and that you do your own business, and work with your own hands, as we commanded you; and to the Ephesians: He that stole, let him steal no more; but rather let him labor working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have something to give to him that suffers need.”
—Council of Trent, 1563

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

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

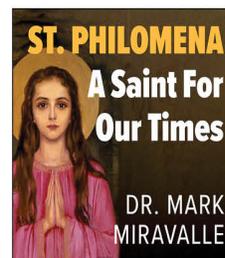
Saint Philomena

By Dr. Mark Miravalle

Wonder Worker and Advocate

Martyred for her purity and fidelity to Christ, Saint Philomena is truly a saint for our times. Learn why so many love this young saint, the only one ever to be canonized solely on the basis of the profound miracles attributed to her intercession.

Watch free at
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“It’s amazing that this saint withstood so much torture with such holy determination even at the young age of 13!”

—Anne Marie, Scarsdale, NY



Pray Throughout the Week



Mass Intentions

Saturday 8/10

8:30am Mary Ann Gorospe Zamora †
5:00pm Josefa Osejo †
7:00pm Cuc Nguyen

Sunday 8/11

6:45am Sofia Hernandez †
8:00am Joseph Herrera †
9:30am Bustos & Gutierrez Families
11:00am James Kane
12:30pm Patricia Mendoza & Family
6:00pm Mass for Our Parish

Monday 8/12

8:30am Ricardo Roque †

Tuesday 8/13

8:30am Frydendal Family

Wednesday 8/14

8:30am Al Dhanaswamy †
7:00pm Patricia Mendoza & Family

Thursday 8/15

All Mass for Our Parish
Masses

Friday 8/16

8:30am Kenneth & Joyce Gels

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

The customary donation of \$10 goes to the priest celebrating the Mass.



Prayer Meditation

Place yourself in the scene of the Gospel reading. Imagine that Jesus is coming up to you and asking, "What is your treasure?" How do you respond? Now imagine that he says to you, "Sell your belongings and give alms." What is your first reaction to his words? Are you excited? Scared? Angry? Sad? Thrilled? Ask Jesus to open your heart to him and fill it with his love and generosity to enable you not only to better see those who are in need but also to give generously to them.

Resolution

What can you begin to do this week to share your treasures with those in need, both through financial gifts and the other gifts God has given you?

Weekly Prayer for Alpha

For our parishioners, that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen us in shifting our culture to one of radical hospitality. That God may put the name of one person in our hearts and minds that He wants us to invite to Alpha on September 9.

For all of our soon-to-be guests at Alpha, that God may continue to direct them toward our dinner events where they will encounter Jesus.

For our Alpha team, that they may empty themselves so as to only do God's will in inviting souls to Him.

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



Alpha: Build a Relationship

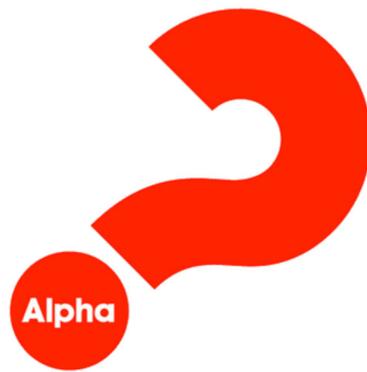
I'm sure we all can picture the worst example of a Christian evangelizer. That guy on the street corner who yells at pedestrians that the world is about to end. That person who is rude, judgmental and so very fond of being "right" all the time. These examples are not true methods of Christian evangelization, because they come from a place of anger and bullying and narcissism. Sadly, as Christians, we have falsely lumped all forms of evangelization into this one negative category.

True Christian evangelization begins from a place of love and respect, prayer and trust.

Firstly, we must shift our perspective to seeing other people as uniquely created in God's own image. No matter what circumstances the person is in, no matter what choices he or she has made. Christian love is loving like Christ. It's seeing not through stereotypes and profiling but noticing their true human dignity. We must respect that – no matter how many flaws – that Jesus loves this person enough to die for. And Jesus certainly knows better than any of us do!

Secondly, we must be dedicated to our prayer life, and keep a constant conversation going with God. We must faithfully receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, always striving to grow in holiness. When we do, our spiritual ears

will be tuned to hearing the Holy Spirit's voice. It is through Him that we will know when to speak about our faith and to whom. It is the Holy Spirit who will guide us when to act. Then we must trust in Him that He will do the job of converting. Our job is only to invite and share our story and joy of how we were before encountering Jesus, and how we are now because of Him.



Lastly, leading with love and respect, prayer and trust requires a relationship. We need to care enough about someone to listen to them, to get to know them. We need to let them speak without interruption or correction. We need to show kindness and interest. Only after we do these things will we earn the right to be listened to.

Alpha is the place to do just this.

Alpha Dinner is free. Our Alpha team members are the most joyful, fun people who just enjoy meeting someone new. After socializing and eating a great meal, we'll watch a video on a topic of the most basic gospel

message. Then we will listen to what our guests have to say - without correcting, bible-thumping, teaching, judging, we will give them the respect of allowing them to be heard. Meanwhile, our prayer team will be spending the time actively praying for our guests, trusting that the Holy Spirit will come to do what He does so well.

If our guests decide that Alpha isn't for them, then that is okay. No one will force them to come back. But if they do come back, each Alpha dinner and video will dig a little deeper into the Gospel message. And over time, a level of trust is built. Their hearts will become open to an encounter with God.

I urge you to pray fervently that God may use you to bring a soul to Him. Ask Him to put the name of a person in your thoughts, an image of a face in your mind. All you have to do is invite this person to dinner on Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm in the Hall here at St Michael's or Sunday, September 8 at 5:00 pm at St Charles. That's it! They may say no. That doesn't matter. We measure success by how many we invite, not by how many agree to come. You get a free meal too!

Who will you invite?

Fr Carl, Pastor

StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha

Living and Growing as Disciples



*Solemnity of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

**Holy Day of Obligation
Mass Times**

Wednesday, August 14

6:00 pm English and 7:30 pm Spanish

Thursday, August 15

7:00 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm and 6:00 pm in English
and 7:30 pm in Spanish



**REFER PEOPLE
WHO ASK FOR
MONEY TO:**

The St Vincent de Paul Food Locker, located behind St Michael's, is open Monday through Thursday 7-8 pm.

The St Vincent de Paul Help Desk, located at 1817 Second Street, assists people in crisis with utilities, rent and more.



Programs for Kids & Teens

Registration for fall Faith Formation programs for children and teens closes on August 31. Download registration packets for all programs for kids age 3 through 12th grade at StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation

Teen Confirmation registration is *by appointment only*. Contact Joseph at Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com or 925-667-4093 to schedule an appointment ASAP!

JOIN THE ALPHA TEAM!

Alpha

Seeking people who are

Joyful and friendly
The life of the party
Quietly nurturing
Attentive and kind
An excellent host/hostess

Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com or
925-667-4051

CONVENT BACKYARD PROJECT

Thank you for your generous donations to the Convent Backyard beautification project. It is still a work in progress, but we are slowly making headway.

We need HELPERS to work in the backyard garden! Please contact Jacqueline in the Church Office at 925-447-1585 for work party dates.



Save These Dates!



Mass in Tagalog Sunday, August 18 at 3:30 pm

Join our Filipino community in celebrating Mass in Tagalog, followed by a potluck at the hall.

ON FIRE NorCal Jam Register Before August 22 Event on September 14

Enjoy this Catholic gathering of high school youth through 30-something age young adults at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom.
Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com

Portuguese Celebration of Our Lady of Help Sunday, August 25 11 am Mass

Following Mass, join the procession with Portuguese Marching Band (Recreio do Emigrante Portugues). Enjoy lunch in the Hall and a concert, auction and a "white elephant" bazaar.

Adult Confirmation Prep Classes Begin Thursday, September 5

Now is the time to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to complete your initiation and be filled with the Holy Spirit! This class is for you if you are at least 18 years old, are a baptized, practicing Catholic, have received First Holy Communion and have never been confirmed Contact Marjorie at 925-447-2925 or RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com

Alpha Dinner Mon, September 9 at 6:30 pm Large Hall

This is your opportunity to invite someone who doesn't identify themselves as Christian to a fun no-pressure dinner event. We will get to know each other, watch a video on the basics of the gospel message and then have an engaging conversation without judgement. Who will you invite?
StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha

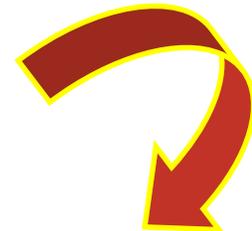
Feast of St Michael the Archangel September 20-28

Save the dates as we celebrate our patron saint with a novena of Masses, dinner auction, parish raffle and ministry fair. All proceeds benefit the repair of the parking lots at our church and school. See next page for details.

Stop by the Church Office Foyer and pick a "leaf" off the Gift Card Tree! All donated gift cards will be used as prizes at the Feast of St Michael the Archangel.

Pick Up Bishop Barron's Book: Letter to a Suffering Church In the Church Office

\$2.00 suggested donation. Details below.



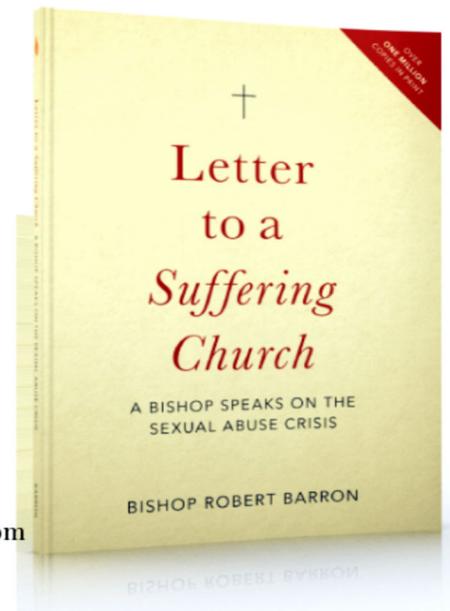
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A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis

At-Home Study on Bishop Robert Barron's New Book
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October 2 - October 30

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Sign up to receive videos by emailing TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com or by clicking the link in the Friday Flocknote.



explore

life
faith
meaning

How much does Alpha cost?

Nothing! But if you would like to offer a donation, we would gratefully accept.

Do I have to talk and share my thoughts?

Nope. You may remain silent if you wish.

I'm afraid I won't know anyone.

By the end of the course, most people become good friends. Alpha is a great way to meet new people, both from the parish and outside the parish!

Do I have to register?

It would be helpful if you did, so that we know how much food to prepare.

Who will you invite?

Mondays at 6:30 pm

Starting September 9

at 6:30 pm in the Hall

**Register you and your friend at
StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha**



Feast of St Michael the Archangel

September 20 - 29, 2019

Novena of Masses

September 20 - 28

9/20 8:30 am (English)

9/21 5 pm (English) 7 pm (Spanish)

9/22 All Sunday Masses

9/23 7 pm (English)

9/24 7 pm (English)

9/25 7 pm (Spanish)

9/26 7 pm (Spanish)

9/27 7 pm (English)

9/28 8:30 am (English)

Parish Raffle

Tickets will be on sale soon, and great prizes will be announced. Raffle drawing to be held at the Dinner & Auction. Proceeds go toward repairing the School and Parish parking lots

Dinner & Auction

September 28 at 6 pm

Outdoor seating at St Michael School grounds

Ministry Fair

September 29

9 am - 6 pm in the Church parking lot. Food, Music, Ministry Booths, Entertainment

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8/4/19 Collection	\$20,062.74
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Month Goal	\$87,058.82
Percentage Reached	23%
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Maintenance (for Month)	\$6,015.22

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“Episodio 11: La asunción”

Serie La Biblia y la Virgen María

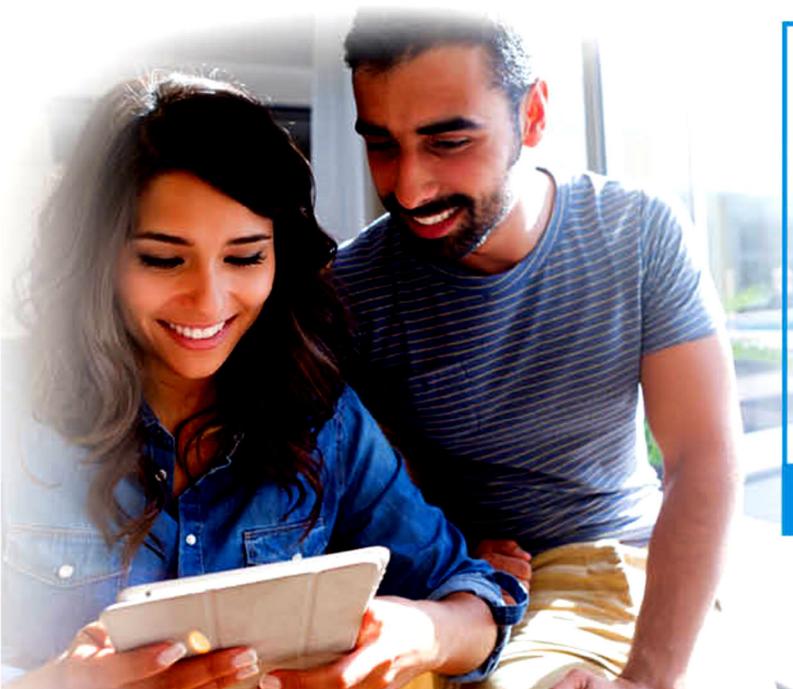
La Biblia y la Virgen María es una serie dinámica de videos en doce partes que bellamente explican las verdades católicas sobre Nuestra Señora, que muestra cómo ella ha sido una parte del plan de Dios para traer la salvación al mundo desde el comienzo del tiempo.

RECOMENDACIONES ADICIONALES

- Un camino hacia Dios (Read)
- Hermano Zeferino: Los Santos (Watch)

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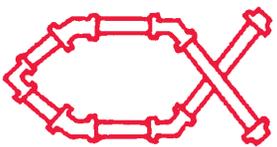
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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

First Friday | Primer viernes
12:00 pm

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

Traditional Latin Mass

2nd Sun, 8:00 am

Tagalog

3rd Sun, 3:30 pm

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

Monday & Friday in the church |

Lunes y viernes en la iglesia

7:30 am in English & español

Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel

2:30 pm

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

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Adoración Eucarística

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours
access code, call 775-772-6369.

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 9:00 am—5:00 pm

(Closed 12:00 pm—2:00 pm)

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor

Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar

Rev. David Staal, Associate

Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired

Rev. Bento Tamang, in residence

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Pastoral Council |

Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair:

Mike Pereira

PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Fidelis

Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Frank

Draschner, Jeff Andersen, Cynthia

Garay, Alison Wilke and Glenda

Dubsky.

Finance Council |

Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair:

Edna McComb

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Edna

McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa

Suarez and Erleene Echon

St. Michael School |

Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

Faith Formation in

English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos

Ministerio Hispano

Veronica:

Hispano1@StMichaelLivermore.com

Ricardo:

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