



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2017

*Peter asked,
“Lord, how often
must I forgive?
As many as
seven times?”*

Matthew 18:21



Forgiven Debt

First Reading

Remember the commandments and hate not your neighbor (Sirach 27:30 -- 28:9).

Today's First Reading reminds us we must first forgive others from our hearts in order to receive forgiveness ourselves. Mercy isn't a magic formula that allows us to break God's covenant of love while still receiving its reward. Mercy isn't unconditional; God's love is unconditional, but his mercy requires that we be merciful. His demand that we be merciful is itself an expression of his love. Love is demanding; it isn't satisfied with the sins of the beloved. When we love someone, we can't bear to see him harm himself.

Sirach tells the sinner to beware: there's an internal principle to hatred that makes it self-destructive. It isn't simply because of the psychological harm it does to us. There's a principle of justice at work also which means that when we fail to forgive others, we close ourselves off to God's forgiveness. God is perfect Justice and perfect Mercy, and so his Mercy is just and his Justice is merciful—and we are called to live in imitation of him. If we don't forgive, we won't be forgiven. Even Jesus who is mercy incarnate says so.

Second Reading

Whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9).

St. Paul answers the question that innumerable saints and Doctors of the Faith have pondered with an

almost casual assurance: Why did Jesus die and rise? "That he might be Lord of both the dead and the living." By assuming our humanity, including our capacity to die, Christ saved everything that's human.

The early Fathers go much further than that. The natural things that Jesus touched, used, and experienced were made holy by his contact with them. The dynamism of the Person of Christ causes everything he touches to take on a kind of sac-



ramentality. St. Jerome said, "Everything that Jesus does is a sacrament." He goes on to explain that because Jesus walked, sat, slept, and ate, these actions have gained a saving aspect for us, too. Jesus had to die to be the Lord of the dead; that is, having mastered or taken authority over this final human act, Jesus became Master, Savior, of the dead. In him, even death becomes a gateway to blessing.

Gospel Reading

Forgive one another from your heart (Matthew 18:21-35).

Jesus, the Master Teacher, doesn't simply say in this reading that we should forgive others if we wish to receive mercy; he shows us what it would look like if someone were forgiven who refused to forgive others. St. Peter asks how often we should forgive those who offend us and Jesus says, "Seventy-seven times." Jesus then illustrates his point with a striking story: "That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to...."

The example gives the instruction about forgiveness extra weight. By the time the story is reaching its climax, Peter is likely feeling real disgust for the actions of the unforgiving official and real pity for the servant that got "throttled." Then, when the evil has been made evident in the actions of the corrupt official, Jesus delivers the personalized moral message. No doubt we join Peter when we react to the moral of the story with a desire to be merciful like the master and avoid the corruption—and punishment—of

the unforgiving servant. The Master Teacher has gently introduced the concept of Divine Mercy to Peter and to us.

An *Opening the Word* reflection by FORMED.org and printed with permission from Augustine Institute.

Download this week's *Opening the Word* prayer journal at FORMED.org

Grow in Discipleship

Forgiveness is never easy. We can identify with Peter, who wonders how many times he has to forgive someone who harms him. He had to be shocked when Jesus says seventy-seven times, meaning an unlimited number of times.

Since most of us have trouble forgiving even once or twice, such a standard is hard to comprehend. To help Peter, and us, understand that we are to forgive so much because we have been forgiven so much, Jesus tells the parable of the servant who owed a great debt to his master.

When we hear this story, we often miss the magnitude of it because we don't understand the currency. The first servant owed 10,000 talents, which would be about 3.6 billion dollars! When he says he would pay back the debt, Jesus' audience would have realized that was ridiculous. No one could ever repay such a debt. In contrast, the servant himself was owed 100 denari, which would be about \$6,000, a not insubstantial amount, but something that could be repaid in time.

Jesus wants us to realize that our debt to God is like 10,000 talents—utterly unpayable—and yet God willingly and lovingly forgives us our debt. The things people do to us are like the debt of 100 denari—hurtful and challenging, but not insurmountable. Jesus is telling us that if God can forgive us our enormous debt, we must be willing to forgive the much much smaller debts owed to us by those who have hurt us.

When we refuse to forgive, as we learned last week, the grudges we hold become chains that bind us. The more we cling to our unforgiveness, the tighter the chains wrap us and, like the servant who was handed over to the torturers in this week's Gospel, we too are handed over to the torture created by the hardness of our own hearts.

Discussion

Watch the short Opening the Word video on FORMED.org

What effect does the generosity and compassion of the master have on

the first servant? What effect should God's generosity and compassion have on us?

Digging Deeper: Reconciliation with God and with Man

Another aspect of this Sunday's Gospel is its illustration of two levels of reconciliation: with God (the master), and with man (the fellow servant). The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that every sin is an offense against both God and neighbor (CCC 1849–1850). In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we find healing for our relationship with God as well as our relationship with the rest of his Body, the Church:

“The confession (or disclosure) of sins, even from a simply human point of view, frees us and facilitates our reconciliation with others. Through such an admission man looks squarely at the sins he is guilty of, takes responsibility of them, and thereby opens himself again to God and to the communion of the Church in order to make a new future possible.”

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

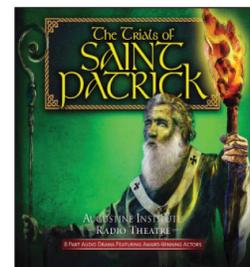
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There's More to Saint Patrick than Shamrocks and Snakes

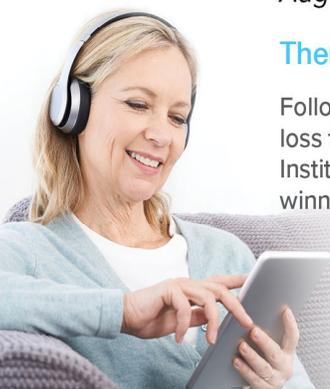
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To request a Mass intention, please visit
the church office.
Mass

Intentions

Saturday 9/16

8:30am Anita Fredrickson †
Reinaldo Bustos †
5:00pm Andrew P. Porter
Louis Alvarez †
Nina Tolentino †
7:00pm Ruben Gonzalez
Gonzalo Contreras Martinez †

Sunday 9/17

6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am Melanie Maher †
Steve & Ramona Silva
9:30am Connie Segundo Chavez †
Will & Lyn Macedo
11:00am Leona Perez †
Connie Chavez †
12:30pm Sofia, Helen and Mike
6:00pm Richard & Peggy Boerger

Monday 9/18

8:30am For the Families of 9/11
Catherine Brehm †

Tuesday 9/19

8:30am Arselio Bettencourt
Mary Ann Zamora
Fatima Montana
Betty Taylor †

Wednesday 9/20

8:30am George Dumanon †
John Ramos †
7:00pm Mr & Mrs Urrutia †
Merdes & Edra †

Thursday 9/21

8:30am Fr Augustine Koilparampil †
Gus & Lucile Beach †

Friday 9/22

8:30am Don Stoker †
Mary Ly Cao †
Richard Gandolfo, Jr. †

Prayers & Devotion



The theme of today's Gospel is God's incredible mercy to each of us. Let's consider that gift together now in prayer.

Prayer

We all know that we have sinned. As you think about your life and areas where you have failed to do the good you know you could have done, imagine Jesus reaching out and saying to you, "My dear Servant, I have paid this debt for you. It is completely erased, taken off my Father's books. It is no longer held against you. As the Father has forgiven you, now, go and do the same to anyone who has harmed or offended you." As you consider this, offer your own prayer of gratitude to the Lord.

Resolution

Is there someone you need to forgive? Set aside some time this week to spend before the Blessed Sacrament—either in an Adoration Chapel or before or after Sunday Mass—thanking Jesus for having paid the debt of your sins and asking for the grace to forgive those who have sinned against you.

Parish Prayer Requests

For the victims of the recent hurricanes.

For those who are homeless and mentally ill, especially those in our community.

For the intentions of David and Kim Romero.

For the repose of the souls of Herbert DiGrazia, Sylvia Griggs and Donald Scullion.

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

News & Announcements

Another Successful St Mary's Center Dinner

My heart is full, and I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our parishioners who made the St Mary's Dinner in Oakland an enormous success. Thank you to everyone from the bottom of my heart. We served chicken adobo, sweet potato casserole with pecan topping, country mixed greens with ham hocks, macaroni salad, green salad, red grape clusters and an abundance of home-made cookies. People came in for seconds - and fifths! - and practically licked the pots clean. It was a joy to see how much everyone enjoyed home-cooked comfort food. Thank you again for your help in serving the very low income people at St Mary's Center in the heart of Oakland.

By popular demand, we will be preparing and serving an additional meal on Sunday, January 7. If you would like to volunteer to cook and/or serve, please contact me, Lisa Malone, at 925-455-0508.

CounterPoint: Support Group

CounterPoint is a support group for people who have loved ones who have addictions. We meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in Room 21 at St Michael School for prayer, education and support. You don't have to struggle alone. Let's bear this together. Contact Rachel at 510-501-1411

Parish Staff on Retreat

St Michael Staff members will be on retreat, September 25-27, to be rejuvenated by God's grace as they re-commit themselves to serving our parish community. Please keep the staff in your prayers!

Sign Up for the Knights' Blood Drive

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. The Livermore Knights of Columbus and St Charles Borromeo Health Ministry are sponsoring a Blood Drive on Sat, Oct 14.

Please schedule your donation appointment after Mass this weekend, or 1-800-RED-CROSS and enter sponsor code 94550.

Collection for Hurricane Relief

The destruction in Texas and Florida as a result of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma is catastrophic. In response, the Catholic bishops of the USA are organizing a special collection in all the churches.

At St Michael's, we are asking for your financial help this weekend. The funds collected will be distributed through Catholic Charities USA to help those in areas affected by hurricanes and flooding. 100% of the funds raised will go directly toward disaster recovery efforts. Please make your offering using the special envelopes placed in the pews this weekend.



Sponsor the Fun Run!

Promote fitness and help raise funds for much needed curriculum materials at St Michael School!

On October 20, 2017, St. Michael School will be holding our 4th annual Fun Run Fundraiser and we are hoping that you will help provide support for our school. This Fun Run Event promotes fitness and healthy habits, as well as being a major fundraiser for St. Michael's, including providing needed curriculum materials for our STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math) Program.

To sponsor this event, contact Therese Crossett
therese.crossett@gmail.com

Details at Bit.ly/SMSFunRun

Collection Report

9/3 Collection	\$18,237.41
9/10 Collection	\$18,876.82
Month-to-Date	\$37,114.23
Month Goal	\$86,274.51
% Reached	43%
Sept Faith Direct	
Sept Maintenance	\$9,052.98

This Week

MONDAY, SEPT 18

Readings: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10

Suggestion:

Set aside time this week to spend in the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Jesus, fully present in the Eucharist, is exposed on the altar for you. Spend a few minutes, an hour or more. If you need the after-hours code, contact 775-772-6369

TUESDAY, SEPT 19

St. Januarius

Readings: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17

Events:

St Michael's Got Talent! Try outs from 4-5:30 pm in Room 26 at St Michael School.

CounterPoint meets at 7 pm in Room 22

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 20

Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions

Readings: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35

Events:

Adult Confirmation Prep Classes meet in the Convent at 7:30 pm. Call Marjorie at 925-447-2925

THURSDAY, SEPT 21

St. Matthew

Readings: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Events:

Coping with Grief Workshop at St Charles at 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Register clairelascola@gmail.com

FRIDAY, SEPT 22

Readings: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3

Events:

No Golden Friends Luncheon in September, but will resume in October.

SATURDAY, SEPT 23

St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Readings: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15

Suggestions:

Watch *Padre Pio: Miracle Man* on FORMED.org, under "Watch"

SUNDAY, SEPT 24

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Events:

High School Students! Come to LifeTeen Mass at 6:00 pm and then meet us in the Convent across the street after. You won't be disappointed.

Envy and God's Generosity In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, we are confronted with what we might consider an unfair situation. The owner of the vineyard goes out and hires workers, starting in the early morning and ending close to sundown. But no matter what time of day the workers are hired, all get the same daily wage.

Parish Wide Study

SESSION 2: DIVINE REVELATION
GOD SEEKING US & THE COMPASS FOR OUR LIVES

If God, the all-powerful Creator of the Universe, loves us, then how does he communicate with us? The answer is surprising, yet it establishes an essential part of what we believe as Catholics.

This week, watch the 30-minute video *Symbolon: Knowing the Faith, Session 2*. Download the participant materials located just under the video for your own reflections or to discuss with a friend.

Access the Symbolon video study series free from any browser at FORMED.org. Get your free account using parish code **P4XNPZ**

Upcoming

Train to Become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Oct 3 OR Oct 17

Attend either Tuesday, October 3 after 8:30 am mass until about 10:30 am **OR** Tuesday, October 17 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Please RSVP to Debbie Pizzato at Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com

KofC Family Movie Knight Friday, October 6

Join us at St Michael's for a FREE viewing of Disney's UP at 7:30 pm.

Contact dwarnold@gmail.com
925-337-6155

100th Anniversary of Fatima Celebration Saturday, Oct 14

100 years ago, on October 13, Our Lady appeared in Fatima, Portugal, declaring herself to be "the Lady of the Rosary". What followed was a miraculous event of the sun "dancing" before thousands of on-lookers. Join us in celebration!

12:00 pm Public Rosary at Carnegie Park, on the 4th Street side

4:30 pm Rosary in the Church

5:00 pm Mass in English

Marian Procession

Blessing of Rosaries in the Courtyard

7:00 pm Mass in Spanish

KofC Blood Drive Saturday, Oct 14

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. That means more than 38,000 blood donations are needed per day. Currently, less than 38% of the population is eligible to give blood, with only 3 out of every 100 Americans actually donating.

The Livermore Knights of Columbus and St Charles Borromeo Health Ministry are sponsoring a Blood Drive

St Charles' Hall, 1315 Lomas Avenue
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9:00 am - 2:00 pm

To schedule your donation appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS and enter sponsor code 94550



St Michael School at Mass

St Michael School, founded in 1913 as an extension of St Michael Parish, is committed to providing quality Catholic education for the diverse students we serve. Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered environment as a means to foster the growth of each student as a lifelong disciple of Christ.

As part of this mission, several classes of St Michael School Students will be at Mass every Friday at 8:30 am. Also, St Michael's "Family Masses" will be held at 9:30 am on Sunday, October 1, November 5, December 3, January 28, February 4, April 15 and May 6.

Please offer a warm smile of encouragement to our St Michael School students, staff and families!

For more information about St Michael school, please visit smliv.org or call 925-447-1888 to arrange a tour.



The Best FOODIE Experience in Livermore...

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Need More Raffle Tickets?

Stop by the church office or at the table after Mass to buy more!



St Michael's Got Talent!

We welcome acts of all shapes and sizes; dances, gymnastics routines, instrument pieces, magic tricks, skits, singing groups, joke-telling, poetry recitation, martial arts routines, basketball rhythm dances, and more!

AUDITIONS

A committee of parish staff, SMS school faculty and parishioners will observe tryouts and select the acts on Tues, Sept 19 from 4-5:30 pm in Room 26 at St Michael School.

Gift Card Tree

Pull a Leaf, Donate a Gift Card! Stop by the Gift Card Tree in the church office lobby. Pull a leaf and buy the gift card indicated. Return it to the church office. Gift cards will be used as prizes at the Fall Festival.

Order Your Festival T-Shirt

All proceeds from t-shirt sales go toward our parish's maintenance fund to repair our aging facilities and for our faith formation programs.

Volunteer to Staff a Booth

<https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/kffte>

Bake a Cake for the Cake Walk

Sign up to bake a cake for the cake walk at Festival@StMichaelLivermore.com

Noticias Parroquiales



Si Dios, el Creador Todopoderoso del Universo, nos ama, entonces ¿cómo es que se comunica con nosotros? La respuesta no es solamente sorprendente, sino que también establece una parte esencial de lo que creemos como Católicos.

ESTA SESIÓN CUBRIRÁ:

- La Revelación Divina: Por qué y cómo se revela Dios a nosotros
- Jesús como el cumplimiento de la Revelación de Dios
- La Transmisión de la Revelación Divina a través de las Sagradas Escrituras y la Tradición
- El Magisterio como el intérprete autorizado de las Escrituras y la Tradición

Esta semana, mira el Symbolon video de 30 minutos: conocer la fe, sesión 2. Descargar los materiales participantes situados justo debajo del video de tus propias reflexiones o a discutir con un amigo.

Accede el Symbolon serie estudio video libre desde cualquier navegador en FORMED.org. Obtenga su cuenta gratis usando código parroquial **P4XNPZ**



Inscripciones voluntarias después de la misa de cada Domingo de agosto!

No pierda la oportunidad de ayudar en el Festival de Otoño para que sea un gran éxito. Hay trabajos de todas las formas y tamaños!

- ¿A su ministerio o grupo le gustaría patrocinar una cabina?
- ¿Recibo sus boletos de rifa por correo?
- ¿Registro el 30 de septiembre y el 1 de octubre en su calendario?

¿Tiene más preguntas? Festival@StMichaelLivermore.com

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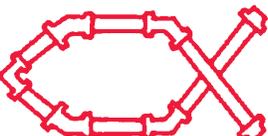
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Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

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

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Van Dinh, Pastor

Rev. Alfonso Borgen, 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

Pastoral Council | Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair: Mike Pereira
michaelpereira@comcast.net

Fr. Van, Eric Hom, Ricardo Echon,
Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist,
Dave Parks, Frank Draschner, Ken
Varallo, Irving Garcia, Cynthia Garay
and Glenda Dubsy.

Finance Council | Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair: Dave Ruth
daveruth@alrinc.com

Fr. Van Dinh, Eric Hom, Cynthia
Garay, Edna McCombe, Analy Palo-
mino, Vanessa Suarez

St. Michael School | Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-453-6494 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos

Boletín en Español

510-691-2864



New Direct Phone Numbers!

Fr Van Dinh, Pastor	925-667-4057
Fr Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar	925-667-4053
Eric Hom, Business	925-667-4052
Deacon Bill Archer	925-667-4056
Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper	925-667-4058
Church Front Office	925-447-1585
School Front Office	925-447-1888
Lourdes Kay, Faith Formation	925-667-4096
Priscilla Stutzman, DRE	925-667-4097
Joseph Garcia, Youth Minister	925-667-4093
Tina Gregory, Communication	925-667-4051
JaNet Hancock, Music	925-292-5071
Debbie Pizzato, Liturgy	925-667-4095
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA	925-447-2925
Ana Fregoso, RICA	925-344-7150