



# St. Michael Catholic Parish

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LUKE 16:13

No servant can serve two masters.

*Twenty-fifth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

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# Unpack Today's Mass Readings



Today's Gospel passage is one of the more confusing ones for many people. It tells the story of the dishonest steward who writes off part of his master's debts, in essence cheating his master of some of the money that was due him. And yet Jesus commends this dishonest man. What are we to make of this?

First of all, this is not a morality parable. Jesus is not telling us that we should become dishonest. Instead, the purpose is to show us that we must think ahead; we must plan for our eternal future, not just for our lives in the here and now. In the story, the rich master stands for God, who has entrusted much to each of us in the way of talents, financial resources, abilities, and more. Like the master, one day he will ask if we have used wisely what we have been given freely. However, unlike the master in the parable, God wants us to give away generously what we have been given generously. He wants us to give away his gifts to free others literally and figuratively. So, in commending the steward, Jesus is telling us that if we are like him, we will be generous with all we have been given.

Then, when we stand at the gates of heaven, there will be many friends who will speak up for us, just as those whose debts were forgiven spoke up for the steward.

Lying at the heart of this parable are two important questions: How am I stewarding the resources God has given me? What

am I doing now with what God has entrusted to me? Our response is vital, for, as Jesus is telling us so clearly, one day we will all be called to render an account.

## Unpack the First Reading Amos 8:4-7

The dire predictions of Amos may have seemed laughable to the wealthy inhabitants of the northern kingdom. The problem was that Israel had exchanged the worship of foreign gods for



the worship of sex, wealth, and power, and as a consequence, their official worship had become hollow and blinded them to the plight of the poor. Sound familiar?

Amos reminds us that religion isn't an insurance policy against our sins, especially those committed against the poor. The whole of the life of God's covenant people was supposed to be suffused with the Spirit of covenant love. This was to include not only their religious practice, but also their moral, political, and economic lives as well. Without a

real concern for the weakest among us, the blessing of wealth can be a curse of blindness in regard to our position before God. Before God none can boast of beauty, wealth, fame, or power. Before God we're all poor.

## Unpack the Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8

In his first letter to Timothy, St. Paul gives us a good account of the way in which our relationship with the state ought to be regulated. In Romans 13 he says that all authority has God as its origin and is for our good. So it isn't surprising that he counsels Timothy that prayers should be offered "for kings and for all in authority." If those in authority receive the graces we ask for them, public life will allow tranquility, piety, and dignity. These three societal attributes were cherished and sought after by the ancients.

The saints have always expressed these characteristics in their persons, and St. Paul suggests that a holy society, one that's made up of individuals who've been receptive to God's grace, will express the same characteristics. We ought to pray for the grace—and then strive to receive it—which makes our society a tranquil, pious, dignified community. We owe it to our neighbor to work for the best possible social system.

## Unpack the Gospel Luke 16:1-13

This week's Gospel reading

sometimes shocks readers with its practicality. Is Jesus counseling us to bribe people with ill-gotten gain? This may be if one doesn't understand the story of the bad steward. However bad a steward he was, there's no evidence that he was stealing or even cheating. We're only told that he was badly handling his master's goods. So Jesus isn't commending bad behavior in this parable. He's suggesting that even a bad manager knows how to get the most out of worldly goods when push comes to shove.

So we're being told that, if we want to be found worthy to be children of the Father, heirs of the wealth of the kingdom of God, we must first show ourselves to be

good servants of his household. If we're not first good stewards of the Master's goods, he won't give us our inheritance as adopted sons and daughters. If we treat the Master's goods as if they were our own, as did the bad steward, we may never receive a reward. But if we give up our profit for the benefit of the Master and his debtors, he will supply us with an everlasting reward in the kingdom.

### Reflect & Discuss

Take a moment watch the Opening the Word video on FORMED.org (direct link: [bit.ly/OTW9-22-19](http://bit.ly/OTW9-22-19))

Let's begin by looking at some of

the details of this Gospel reading. What was the steward's role or job? Why do his actions seem confusing at first glance? What is it about his actions that gains favor from the master?

At the heart of the message of today's Gospel reading is both a command to use our gifts wisely and a reassurance that God rewards those who do so. Why does the master commend and reward the steward for his actions? How is this analogous to our lives today? Why is it important that the steward was "making friends" with the debtors?

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# Pray Throughout the Week

## **Mass Intentions**

### **Saturday 9/21**

8:30am Communal Mass  
5:00pm Fr Gus Koilparampil †  
7:00pm Refugio Telles †

### **Sunday 9/22**

6:45am Phylis Roederer Johnson †  
8:00am Barbara Burnes  
9:30am Jack & Bernice Rooney †  
11:00am Jordan & Harrison Viera  
12:30pm Maria Domingues †  
6:00pm Mass for Our Parish

### **Monday 9/23**

8:30am Marie Ott  
7:00pm Communal Mass

### **Tuesday 9/24**

8:30am Marie Ott  
Janice Marino †  
7:00pm Communal Mass

### **Wednesday 9/25**

8:30am Donald G. Gardener †  
7:00pm Communal Mass

### **Thursday 9/26**

8:30am Lavon Bartlett  
7:00pm Communal Mass

### **Friday 9/27**

8:30am Lucia Carag †  
7:00pm Communal Mass

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



## **Prayer**

Drawing on the theme from the parable in today's Gospel reading, imagine you are a steward whom Jesus has entrusted with various gifts, resources, and talents. Picture yourself having to come before Jesus, the master of the house, to render an account of how you have used those gifts he has given you. Prayerfully consider whether you are using them in service for God and his people, or hoarding those gifts for yourself alone. What does Jesus say to you as you explain yourself? How do you feel about the way you have used your talents thus far?

## **Resolution**

After reflecting on two or three gifts God has entrusted to you, think of one concrete way you can use your gifts or "give them away" like the steward this week.

## **Weekly Prayer for Alpha**

For our Alpha guests who have made the decision to explore more meaning in their lives, that they may have a powerful encounter with the Lord.

## **Prayer Team**

Our prayer team of over 70 members receives prayer requests weekly. Please send your requests or join the team by emailing [Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com)



## Novena to St Michael the Archangel

***“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” - Colossians 3:17***

Dear St Michael Family,

Every activity or celebration that we enjoy should have prayer at the center. Putting God first is what orders everything in our lives. Our annual parish festival is no different. Yes, our Dinner Auction and raffle will be fun and exciting. Yes, our Ministry Fair will be a great opportunity to gather as a parish and discover what our groups do for the Lord. But without prayer, all our efforts will be useless.

Therefore, I am encouraging every parishioner, every family, to pray the Novena to St Michael the Arch-

angel, a nine-day prayer commitment, from September 20 through September 28. This year, our novena is offered for those who have fallen away from their Catholic faith and for those who do not know Jesus.

The novena booklet of prayers – in English or Spanish – will be available in church September 20-28. Please return the booklet after Mass for the next person. On the last day, you can take it home.

You can also view the prayers on your phone by visiting [StMichaelLivermore.com/Novena](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Novena) to pray the novena from anywhere. We will be praying this simple chaplet together at the Masses listed below.

If you cannot attend all the Masses, that is okay! Just continue pray-

ing each day at home, on your lunch break, in the Adoration chapel or your favorite prayer spot.

Don't stop there! This wonderful novena can be prayed any time throughout the year. It is my prayer that this practice will strengthen you in faith and give you comfort in the knowledge that you and your family are spiritually protected.

May our patron, St Michael the Archangel defend us in battle.

May God bless you and your families,

Fr Carl



FEAST OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

# Novena of Masses

September 20 at 8:30 am	September 24 at 7:00 pm
September 21 at all Masses	September 25 at 7:00 pm (Spanish)
September 22 at all Masses	September 26 at 7:00 pm
September 23 at 7:00 pm	September 27 at 7:00 pm
	September 28 at all Masses

Offering nine Masses for those who have fallen away from the Faith and those who do not know Jesus.



# NOVENA TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

# Special Reminders

## Accepting Mass Intentions on October 7

Our Mass Intentions book for 2020 will open on October 7. In order to accommodate all of our parishioners, we will gladly accept two Mass Intentions per person. It is customary to offer a \$10 donation per intention for the priest celebrating the Mass.

## Did You Notice...

Fr Carl's desire is to encourage greater reverence at Mass. Lectors are now pausing longer after saying "The Word of the Lord" to allow the assembly to rest with the Word. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are approaching and leaving the sanctuary in a manner that is less distracting. Per church rubrics, our cantors are not visibly leading the singing during the Eucharistic Prayer (the Holy, Mystery of Faith and Amen), to allow the assembly to fully enter the musical prayer.

## Collection Report

Thank you for your continued financial support of St Michael Parish.

9/8/19 Collection	\$20,746.11
9/15/19 Collection	\$14,000.54
Month-to-Date	\$61,682.12
Month Goal	\$108,823.53
% Reached	57%
Faith Direct	\$8,922.00
Maintenance (Sept)	\$8,466.21



## Our Golden Friends had a great time last week with "Art with Monique"

Golden Friends is a fun and prayerful group of young-at-heart seniors. The group gets together monthly for Mass or a prayer service followed by lunch. We usually are blessed to have entertainment, compliments of our St Michael School students. We plan frequent fun excursions for day trips too! Everyone age 55 and up are welcome to join us. If you feel "too young" to be a Golden Friend, bring your mom or dad with you and we'll be happy to feed you lunch.



Contact Mary Pineda at [mphawk@live.com](mailto:mphawk@live.com) or Joe Smith [jsmithlivermore@pacbell.net](mailto:jsmithlivermore@pacbell.net)

# Save These Dates!



## **Golden Friends Luncheon Friday, Sept 27 at 10:30 am Large Hall**

Mass begins at 10:30 am in the Hall followed by lunch and entertainment. If you would like to attend, please call Mary at 925-784-1812.

## **Feast of St Michael the Archangel Sept 20-29**

Novena of Masses.  
Parish Raffle.  
Dinner Auction.  
Ministry Fair.  
(See next page for details)

## **Parish Offices Closed Monday, Sept 30**

... after the festival!

## **Bishop Oscar Cantu on International Social Justice Thurs, Oct 3 at 9:00 am St Charles**

Bishop Oscar Cantu of the Diocese of San Jose will preside at Mass at 9:00 am at St Charles and speak from 9:45—10:30 am.

## **Blessing of the Animals Saturday, Oct 5 at 10 am Courtyard**

In honor of St Francis of Assisi, we will bless our beloved pets! Bring your animal buddy for a special blessing. In order to keep the peace, please keep dogs on leashes and small pets inside carriers.

## **500th Anniversary of Catholic Christian Evangelization in the Philippines Saturday, Oct 5, 8 am - 4 pm Church & Large Hall**

Bring your family and friends to this free Diocesan event at St Michael's, celebrating 500 years of Filipino Catholic culture, from the islands to the mainland. Celebrate Mass with Bishop Alejandro Aclan, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles. Hear an inspiring talk by Bishop Mylo Hubert Vergara, Ordinary of the Diocese of Pasig, Philippines. Lunch will be served. Please register in advance at [bit.ly/500thAnniversary](http://bit.ly/500thAnniversary)

## **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Monday, Oct 7 at 7:00 pm**

Rosary in 10 languages in the Parish Courtyard.

## **Mass of Remembrance Tuesday, Oct 8 at 7:00 pm Church**

All are invited to honor the memory of loved ones who have passed before us. Bring a small framed photo of your loved ones to place before the altar during Mass. This Ritual of Remembrance invites you to come forward with a rose, light a candle, and speak about the people we are remembering, if you wish. Roses and candles are provided. This Mass is offered by the Grief Support Ministry of St. Michael and St. Charles.

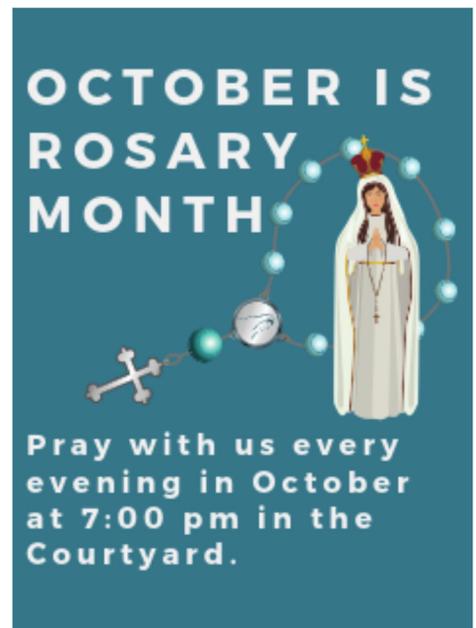
## **Homebound Ministry Training & Refresher Friday, Oct 11 at 6:00 pm Convent**

Is God whispering in your ear (again) to bring Christ to St Michael homebound parishioners? Current ministers, please attend for a refresher. New ministers come for your first training! For more information contact Sridhar Ramanathan, Chair of Homebound Ministry, at 650-219-4500.

## **Solemnity of All Saints Holy Day of Obligation**

*October 31 Vigil Masses*  
6:00 pm English  
7:30 pm Spanish

*November 1 Masses*  
7:00 am  
8:30 am  
10:30 am (School)  
12:15 pm  
6:00 pm  
7:30 pm (Spanish)



FEAST OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

# Hawaiian Dinner & Auction

Saturday, September 28 at 6:00 pm  
Seating Under the Sky  
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Dinner by 3D Catering | Raffle Drawing | Music & Dancing  
Tickets \$50 per person or \$400 per table Email: Claire at [duguid.knight@comcast.net](mailto:duguid.knight@comcast.net)  
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FEAST OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

## Parish Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 29  
9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Church Parking Lot



FREE Game Booths for Kids | Food Trucks | Entertainment  
Ministry Information | Fellowship & Fun



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## 2ND ANNUAL PARISH-WIDE PINWOOD DERBY

Sunday, September 29  
Entry fee: \$5 Check in: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Race time: 1:00 pm



FEAST OF ST MICHAEL  
THE ARCHANGEL

# Raffle!

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## Novena a San Miguel Arcángel

***“Y hagas lo que hagas, de palabra o de hecho, haz todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús, dando gracias a Dios el Padre por medio de él.” - Colosenses 3:17***

Querida familia de San Miguel,

Cada actividad o celebración que disfrutamos debe tener oración en el centro. Poner a Dios primero es lo que ordena todo en nuestras vidas. Nuestro festival parroquial anual no es diferente. Sí, nuestra cena, subasta y sorteo serán divertidos y emocionantes. Sí, nuestra Feria del Ministerio será una gran oportunidad para reunirnos como parroquia y descubrir lo que nuestros grupos hacen por el Señor. Pero sin oración, todos nuestros esfuerzos serán inútiles.

Por lo tanto, animo a todos los feligreses, a todas las familias, a rezar la Novena a San Miguel Arcángel, un compromiso de oración de nueve días, del 20 al 28 de septiembre. Este año, nuestra novena se ofrece para aquellos que se han alejado de la fe católica y para aquellos que no conocen a Jesús.

El folleto de oraciones de la novena, en inglés o español, estará disponible en la iglesia del 20 al 28 de septiembre. Por favor devuelva el folleto después de la misa para la siguiente persona. El último día, puede llevárselo a casa.

También puede ver las oraciones en su teléfono visitando **StMichaelLivermore.com/Novena** para rezar la novena desde cualquier lugar. Estaremos rezando esta corona juntos en las misas que se enumeran a continuación:

20 de septiembre a las 8:30 a.m.

21 de septiembre en todas las misas

22 de septiembre en todas las misas

23 de septiembre a las 7:00 p.m.

24 de septiembre a las 7:00 p.m.

25 de septiembre a las 7:00 pm (español)

26 de septiembre a las 7:00 p.m.

27 de septiembre a las 7:00 p.m.

28 de septiembre en todas las misas

Si no puede asistir a todas las misas, ¡está bien! Simplemente continúe orando todos los días en casa, en la hora del almuerzo, en la capilla de Adoración o en su lugar de oración favorito.

¡No se detenga ahí! Esta maravillosa novena se puede rezar en cualquier momento durante todo el año. Es mi oración que esta práctica lo fortalezca en la fe y le brinde consuelo al saber que usted y su familia están espiritualmente protegidos.

Que nuestro patrón, San Miguel Arcángel, nos defienda en la batalla.

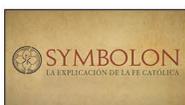
Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias.

P. Carl

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¿Cómo es que el seguir la visión moral como la enseña la Iglesia nos conduce a vivir nuestra vida feliz y plenamente?

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# Information | Información

## St. Michael Parish | La Parroquia de San Miguel

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA 94550 925-447-1585 StMichaelLivermore.com  
Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



Flocknote.com



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@StMichael94550

### 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

### Eucharistic Adoration |

### 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. 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 smliv.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:  
Hispano2@StMichaelLivermore.com



Rev. Father Carl Arcosa, Pastor Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4057
Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen Parochial Vicar Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4053
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer	925-447-1585
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
School Front Office	925-447-1888
Alison Wilkie, School Principal awilkie@csdo.org	925-447-1888
Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper Books@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4058
Faith Formation Office 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 Enrichment Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4051
JaNet Hancock, Music Director Music@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-292-5071
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-2925
RICA (español)	925-667-4053