



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.**

Isaiah 55:9

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SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Envy and God's Mercy

First Reading

Turn to the LORD, who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

The context for this passage is clear: the renewal of the “everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David” (55:3). Isaiah warns Israel that she should call on the Lord and repent of her covenant unfaithfulness. The logical outcome if Israel doesn't do this is that she'll be displaced.

Israel is being warned not to presume on God's covenant love. His “ways,” which are above our ways, are aimed at universal salvation, not merely national or racial honor. God's whole plan from the beginning aimed at saving “humanity part by part,” as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it (CCC 56), and he'll use whatever instrument he must to accomplish that.

We see from the historical events following the coming of Christ that Israel wasn't replaced in an absolute sense. St. Paul reminds us that the call of Israel is “irrevocable.” Israel wasn't so much replaced as expanded. She now includes us. We're now Israelites in spirit. As such, the prophetic call of Isaiah ought not to be read as a dead letter. It's addressed now as much to us as to the Israel of old. “Seek the Lord while he may be found, call on him while he is near.”

Second Reading

Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

We see in this reading the classic refutation of the claim that Christians are unconcerned about this life and only intent upon achieving “pie in the sky.” Paul states it with elegant succinctness: “‘life’ means Christ; hence dying is so much gain.”



Life and death are the same for one who has been incorporated into Christ by Baptism. Life in the flesh hasn't been devalued by the revelation in Christ but elevated to the level of a participation in the glory of Christ—even now.

No one lives so fully as a committed Christian. No one values time so much as one who measures it against the aspect of eternity in heaven. That was the way Paul lived, and he challenges us to do the same.

Gospel Reading

The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

We might assume in this reading that Jesus is referring to eleventh hour or deathbed conversions. We might also read it as a parable about the inclusion of the Gentiles, the nations beyond the borders of Israel, in the saving plan of God. But another reading, one we might call a mystical reading, would suggest that Jesus is simply telling us that God's plan itself isn't always subject to human calculation. It isn't that it's irrational, but rather, unpredictable. The only thing to trust is that all will be ordered for not only his will, but also for our good. He alone has the capacity to order all of time, even those parts of it which seem to represent the worst in human tragedy or even human sin, in perfect accord with our best interest.

The one thing that the Bible ought to teach us is that when we're dealing with God, we should be prepared for surprises. This isn't to say that God will defy his own laws, but he isn't shy about violating ours when conviction, culture, or convention might stand in the way of his plan or our own good. And again, his will is always consistent with our good.

This *Opening the Word* reflection by FORMED.org has been printed with permission from Augustine Institute.

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

Grow in Discipleship

“My thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.”

Perhaps no story in the New Testament proves the truth of that statement more than today’s Gospel. 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, even if they only worked for one hour.

Most of us probably will think how very unfair it was that some had to labor all day and others got to waltz in at the last minute, but everyone got the same reward. In fact, the characters in the parable felt the same way and most likely so did Jesus’ audience.

But that’s what makes the parable so powerful. It’s only after we work through our thoughts and feelings about what is right and what is wrong that we can begin to see beyond the apparent unfairness to the character of the owner, who is a symbol of God, and realize that Jesus is telling us that no one is left out of God’s love. Once we are able to move on from the “injustice,” we are then able to give thanks to God for what he has given us and realize any feelings of envy or comparison to others reflects not on God’s generosity but on our own poverty of spirit.

Video Presentation & Discussion

This week we hear the famous parable of the laborers in the vineyard. What message does it have for us today? Please watch the short *Opening the Word* video on the home page of FORMED.org and find out.

Katie Warner, the presenter in the video, tells us that the owner in this

parable is meant to be an image of God. What do the owner’s actions tell us about the nature of God?

Why, according to Katie Warner, is envy so destructive?

DIGGING DEEPER: Envy

“Envy represents a form of sadness and therefore a refusal of charity; the baptized person should struggle against it by exercising good will. Envy often comes from pride; the baptized person should train himself to live in humility: ‘Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother’s progress and you will immediately give glory to God. Because his servant could conquer envy by rejoicing in the merits of others, God will be praised’ (St. John Chrysostom).” —CCC 2540

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

The New Conversation

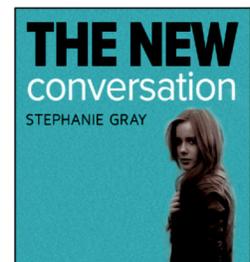
By Stephanie Gray

Change Hearts and Minds on Abortion

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—Phil, Becker, MN



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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 9/23

- 8:30am Lucia Pascual †
Cornelio DeGuzman †
5:00pm Maria Teresa Luu Minh Anh †
Ellie Sahlin †
7:00pm Maria DeJesus †

Sunday 9/24

- 6:45am Theodora Nepompo †
Aurora G & Noli Tumase †
8:00am Mary & David Grubbs †
9:30am Harry & Steven Kraft †
11:00am Lawrence, Larry & Alfred DeRosa
Mr & Mrs Urrutra †
12:30pm Merdas & Edra †
3:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Eleanor Sahlin †

Monday 9/25

- 8:30am Melanie Maher †
Donald G. Gardner †
Ray Vidal

Tuesday 9/26

- 8:30am Richard J. Gandolfo, Jr. †
Victims of California Fires

Wednesday 9/27

- 8:30am Alarcon Family
Alan Winslow
Betty Voelker †
Ramiro Rezendiz †
7:00pm Sofia & Hector Hernandez †

Thursday 9/28

- 8:30am Slegried Forspreveer †
Joseph DiGregorio †

Friday 9/29

- 8:30am Sofia Ore †
Helen & Mike †
Priscilla Perez
Arthur & Louise Owens †

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

Prayers & Devotion



Turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
— Isaiah 55:7b

Let us each imagine now that we are one of the workers in today's parable. Decide now if you are one of the first workers to be hired or one of the later workers before we begin our prayer.

Prayer

Put yourself in the parable. It's the end of the workday. The owner calls all of the workers together and hands out the day's pay. You notice that everyone gets exactly the same amount—those who have worked all day and those who arrived just a few minutes ago. How does that make you feel about the owner? How does that make you feel about your fellow workers? Are you tempted to say something? Does this make you want to work for this owner in the future? Why or why not?

Resolution

This week, end each day recalling all the gifts that God has given you and thank him for his presence and generosity in your life. Then spend some time in prayer for those who are in need and ask God to pour his generosity upon them.

Use the downloadable **Opening the Word** guide on FORMED.org to write down your thoughts and reflections and your resolutions.

Parish Prayer Requests

For Cheryl Ruth, who has suffered a cardiac event.

For Kim Romero, newly received into the Church, who is fighting stage 4 cancer.

For Chris, who addicted to heroin, and all those enslaved by addictions.

For the repose of the soul of Sister Catherine Browne, OP who died on September 16.

Please send your prayer requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

Facilities Update from Eric Hom

On behalf of Fr. Van, I wanted to thank all of you for your continued support and generosity through your volunteerism in our many ministries, through your financial contributions each week and for your continued prayers for our St. Michael community. Here are a few quick updates:

- The school and faith formation buildings have been painted, cracks repaired, gutters cleaned, and insulation for a/c unit installed.
- All school building and gate locks were re-keyed to provide added security and safety for school children, faith formation children and ministry groups.
- The interior of the Hall is 90% complete. The kitchen should be completed in the next few weeks and the ADA wheelchair lift is being purchased and landing and stairs in front of the hall and kitchen doors being designed.
- Thanks to your generous monthly Maintenance & Improvement offer-

ings, we have repaired the Church air conditioning and have completed all the above projects with other projects in the pipeline for the remainder of 2017.

I'm excited that next weekend, we will celebrate and kick-off our Centennial Celebration for our church building with our annual Fall Festival on September 30th – October 1st. I would like to encourage all of you to attend our upcoming Fall Festival, come enjoy some wonderful food from around the world, games and activities for the kids and to consider participating in our raffle for a chance to win \$3,000.

Thank you for being here at St. Michaels, for being a part of this wonderful community. May God bless you and your family.

Eric Hom, Business Manager
925-667-4052
EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com



St Michael School Music Lessons

Students at St Michael School receive music lessons in the church, to better lift up their voices in praise at Mass! Celebrating Mass is at the very center of Catholic life, and the music lessons offer a better appreciation and understanding of the liturgy.

Come see the difference a Catholic education makes! For more information about St Michael School, please visit SMSLiv.org or call 925-447-1888 for a tour and enrollment information.

Collection Report

Thank you for your offerings!

9/17 Collection	\$19,840.87
Month-to-Date	\$65,657.10
Month Goal	\$86,274.51
% Reached	76%
Sept Faith Direct	\$8,702.00
Sept Maintenance	\$9,669.98

Is God Calling You to be a Catechist?

We are in need of catechists and helpers to share the faith with our children. They are the future of the church! Prayerfully consider if God is asking you to this vocation. Training is provided.

Faith Formation on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Christian Initiation for Children & Teens (CICT) on second Sundays at 4:00 pm

For more information, please call Lourdes in the Faith Formation office at 925-667-4096 or Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com

Job Posting: Accompanist

We currently have an opening for a keyboard accompanist (piano and organ) for the 9:30 and 11:00 Masses. Applicants should be proficient in classical and contemporary musical styles, be experienced in playing Catholic Masses, possess good sight reading skills and be available for Thursday night rehearsal. Familiarity with organ manual technique and

registrations will also be helpful. Compensation will be made per event and in accordance with Liturgical Musician pay scales set by the Diocese of Oakland.

Please contact JaNet Hancock, Director of Music for more information: 925-292-5071 or Music@StMichaelLivermore.com

This Week

MONDAY, SEPT 25

Readings: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18

Events:

Parish Staff on retreat

Getting the Friday Flocknote? If not, don't miss out! Subscribe free at StMichaelLivermore.com/Flocknote

TUESDAY, SEPT 26

Ss. Cosmas and Damian

Readings: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21

Events:

Parish Staff on Retreat

CounterPoint Support Group for friends and family of addicts at 7:00 pm St Michael School, Room 22

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27

St. Vincent de Paul

Readings: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Events:

Parish Staff on Retreat

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena at 6:00 pm in the Chapel

THURSDAY, SEPT 28

St. Wenceslaus; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

Readings: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Events:

Journey Through Grief Workshop at St Charles at 7:00 pm

FRIDAY, SEPT 29

Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Readings: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51

Suggestion:

Watch *Powers and Dominions* on FORMED.org. Within God's creation there are beings with intellect and free will: humans and angels.

SATURDAY, SEPT 30

St. Jerome

Readings: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

Events:

PARISH FALL FESTIVAL!

11:00 am—9:00 pm Food & Game Booths

SUNDAY, OCT 1

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

Events:

PARISH FALL FESTIVAL!

10am—4pm Food & Game Booths

1pm—2:30 pm Silent Auction

2:30 pm—3:30 pm Live Auction

4 pm Raffle Drawing & Festival Close

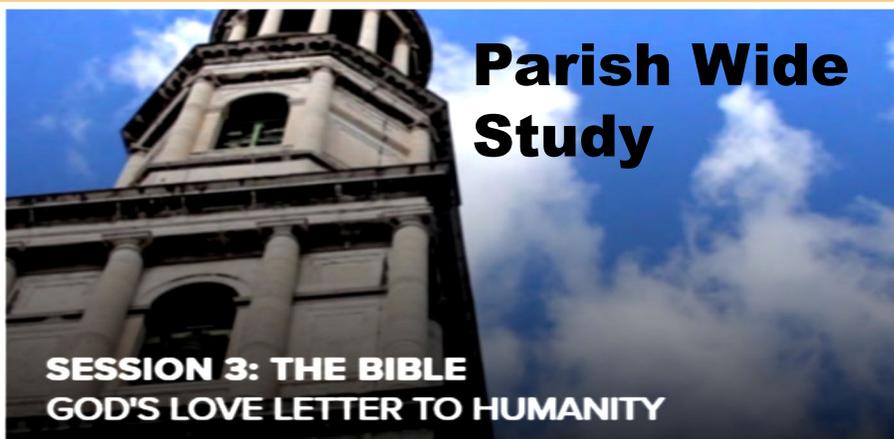
No LifeTeen on October 1, but come enjoy the Parish Fall Festival!

Family Mass at 9:30 am for St Michael School and Parish families.

Procession in Ethnic Attire after 11 am grounds then back to Church.

Birthday Blessings at all Masses For those celebrating in October

Maintenance & Improvement Second Collection



Is the Bible more than just a collection of ancient writings, more than simply an important historical document to be appreciated but ultimately dismissed? Is it possible that God reveals his truth to us through Sacred Scripture? If so, what does that really mean for our faith?

This week, watch the 30-minute video *Symbolon: Knowing the Faith, Session 3—The Bible*. 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 Charles 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
Saturday, Oct 14
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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



St Michael Parish
Fall Festival
Celebrating 100 Years of Tradition
September 30—October 1



It's NEXT WEEKEND!

Our whole parish family and friends will gather for the Parish Fall Festival, September 30 and October 1.

Live Entertainment
Live & Silent Auctions
Raffle Drawing
Games for the whole family
AND FOOD!

Saturday, September 30

11:00 am—9:00 pm Food & Game Booths

Sunday, October 1

10:00 am—4:00 pm Food & Game Booths

1:00 pm—2:30 pm Silent Auction

2:30 pm—3:30 pm Live Auction

4:00 pm Raffle Drawing & Festival Close



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Sábado, 30 de septiembre

11:00 am-9: 00 pm - Comidas y juegos

Domingo, 1 de octubre

10:00 am-4: 00 pm comida y Cabinas de juegos

1:00 pm-2: 30 pm Subasta Silenciosa

2:30 pm-3: 30 pm Subasta en vivo

4:00 pm Rifas y Cierre del festival

Noticias Parroquiales



Sesión 3: La Biblia

¿Es la Biblia más que simplemente una colección de escritos antiguos, más que simplemente un documento histórico importante para apreciarse pero que al final se descarta? ¿Es posible que Dios nos revele Su verdad a través de "Las Sagradas Escrituras"? Si es así, ¿realmente qué significa esto para nuestra fe?

ESTA SESIÓN CUBRIRÁ:

- La Biblia como la comunicación amorosa de Dios con cada uno de nosotros
- Lo que significa que la Biblia es inspirada por el Espíritu Santo
- El modo Católico para interpretar las Escrituras correctamente
- Cómo la Iglesia discierne cuáles libros son parte de la Biblia (el canon de la Escritura)
- Cómo podemos saber con confianza que la Biblia contiene la Revelación de Dios para nuestras vidas
- Cómo empezar a estudiar la Biblia y a orar con la Palabra de Dios

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

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Las actas de los mártires son documentos de suma importancia en la Iglesia cristiana. En ellas se encuentra el testimonio de hombres y mujeres que con su sangre dieron testimonio del evangelio. En esta documentación encontramos el testimonio de quienes vieron y presenciaron su martirio. Por ejemplo, un soldado dice de los mártires: "Dormían en el suelo. No les vi quejarse en ningún momento y estuvieron todo el tiempo rezando y muy recogidos. . . magníficos, unos santos. . .".

Testimonios como éste eran comunes en los primeros siglos del cristianismo cuando en la Roma pagana se perseguía a la Iglesia primitiva. Lamentablemente, este testimonio no viene de hace 17 ó 19 siglos, más bien, viene del siglo pasado, siglo en el cual la persecución de cristianos se multiplicó por todas partes del mundo produciendo más mártires que ningún otro siglo.

El testimonio del soldado fue acerca del primer santo Argentino, Héctor Valdivielso Sáez y compañeros, quienes fueron asesinados por los comunistas en Asturias, España. Él fue uno de los más de 8000 cristianos martirizados en España, 30,000 en China, incontables en Latinoamérica y otros lugares durante el siglo pasado.

--Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM,
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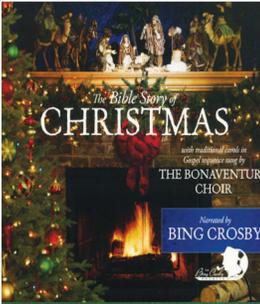
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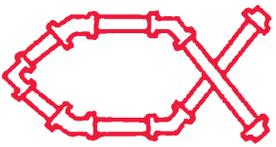
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Mass | Misa

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. 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

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michaelpereira@comcast.net

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Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist,
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daveruth@alrinc.com

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