



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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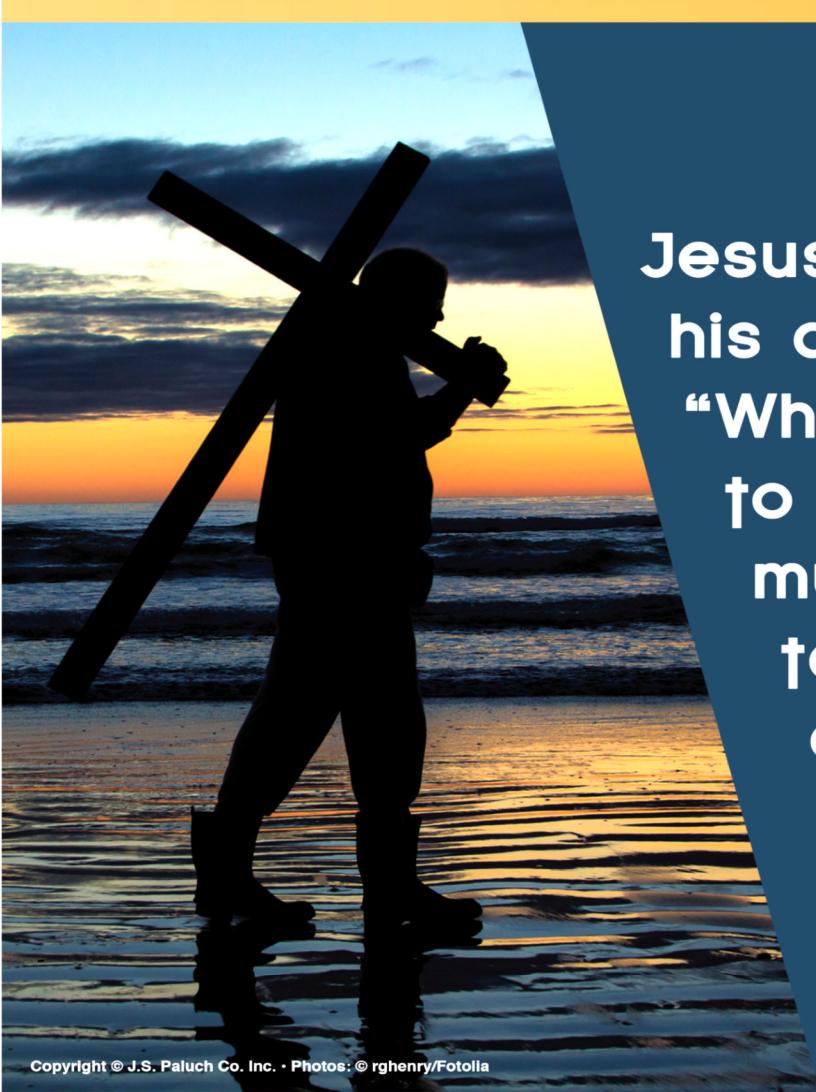
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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A silhouette of a person carrying a large cross on their shoulder, walking along a wet beach at sunset. The sky is filled with orange and yellow hues reflecting off the water.

**Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross,
and follow me.”**

Matthew 16:24

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

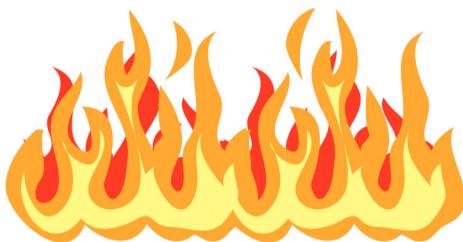
The Word Burning Within

First Reading

The name of the LORD has become like fire burning in Jeremiah's heart (Jeremiah 20:7-9).

This week we get a kind of coda to the readings we saw last week, on the 21st Sunday of the Year. Jeremiah complains to God—something that he was not shy about doing—about the weight and burden that his prophetic mission represents. For doing the good thing that God has set for him, acting as prophet of the Most High, he receives “derision and reproach.” In this way he reminds us of the old quip, “No good deed goes unpunished!” It is unsearchable, it is inscrutable that doing the good things that God asks of us should bring the difficulties that often come with discipleship. It just ought not to be.

But, as we saw in the reflection last week, God’s ways are wise beyond human understanding, and our puny “ought nots” cannot penetrate the vast dimensions of God’s providential love and mercy. And so the prophet Jeremiah knows, despite the honest expression of frustration that he makes to God, that his will must be done! God’s purposes, however dark to us, burn like a flame within those who have committed themselves to him in faith, hope, and love. While that fire may not always give us much light on the path of faith, it will always warm us if we consent to his purposes and give him our lives.



Second Reading

Be transformed; renew your mind; discern what is good (Romans 12:1-2).

There is a very interesting juxtaposition of images in this short reading from Romans. Note that St. Paul tells us that we should make of our bodies a “living sacrifice,” and then calls that an act of “spiritual worship.” This interesting interplay between the body and spirit points to something very important about our faith. While we tend to think of material things, like our bodies, as more earthly, and our souls as more heavenly, the incarnational pattern that stands at the heart of our faith should make us think again.

Jesus, though pure Spirit in his divine nature, chose to enter the realm of matter, taking to himself a body along with the spiritual soul of the human nature that he possessed. That body became the very instrument by which he worked our salvation on the cross. That supreme act of love for his Father and for the human race was, of course, supremely “spiritual.”

The love that he experienced in his human soul and still more in the divine Spirit he possessed was expressed in a bodily act. We are embodied spirits and so to act humanly means that the soul or spirit will usually express itself in the body. But that does not mean that such an act is merely material. And that is why the spiritual worship that we offer in the sacraments is so bodily, made up of sights and sounds, words and gestures. Worshiping with our bodies helps us to see that love, to be truly spiritual, must be expressed and acted upon, not merely felt.

Gospel Reading

Those who lose their lives for Jesus' sake will find them (Matthew 16:21-27).

Our Gospel passage follows directly upon the text from last Sunday, where Peter is raised to the loftiest position in the kingdom after that of Jesus himself. And what do we see this week? He is called “Satan!” Assuming that both of these passages together comprised only several minutes of conversation, Peter must have felt like he was on a roller coaster. Notice that Jesus first talks about the fact that he must suffer. Then, after Peter puts his foot in his mouth—probably quite innocently thinking that he was expressing his love for Jesus—Jesus tells Peter that anyone who would follow him must suffer, too.

We can easily misunderstand Jesus to be saying to Peter, or to us, “No, don’t you get it? Being crowned and celebrated the messianic king would be bad, and suffering an ignominious death is good.” Jesus isn’t really turning the world upside down. He isn’t saying that pleasure is bad and pain is good. He is telling us the unvarnished truth that in a world of sin, love will suffer. And if we choose to love as he did, we suffer as he did. The really revolutionary and revelatory element here is that the reward will far surpass the sacrifice, such that what we call “life” will seem pale next to that new kind of life that love will gain. But, again, we ought not to think that suffering is the point; it is love that gains the prize of glory.

Grow in Discipleship

Jeremiah is angry in today's first reading. So angry, he says that God had duped him. The connotation is that God has somehow let him down and deceived him. If you know something about Jeremiah's life, it's easy to see why he feels this way. God called him to be a prophet and then appointed him to bring very bad news to the Israelites: they were going to be sent into exile for their sins. Needless to say, such a message wasn't very popular and the prophet has to bear the brunt of the people's anger. In turn, Jeremiah becomes angry with God for saddling him with such a thankless task. In the end, however, Jeremiah concedes that even if he wanted to, he couldn't deny the Word of God that burns within him.

We can find ourselves in a similar place. When the Word of God burns within us, it can be sweet, but sometimes it can be very difficult. If we are to faithfully pronounce that Word, we must be totally in love with the Lord, for it is only when we are enamored with God that we can do

what St. Paul says: offer our entire lives as a sacrifice to God to be consumed.

Just as Jeremiah was consumed and transformed by the Word that burned within him, we likewise need to be transformed until we become completely pleasing to the Lord. This transformation then leads us from thinking in human terms to thinking as God thinks—and putting on the mind of Christ, as St. Paul says, so that we can unite ourselves fully and completely with Our Lord.

Reflection & Discussion

Have you ever had an experience when you were very upset with someone but couldn't remain angry because you loved that person too much? Watch the short Opening the Word video on FORMED.org.

Despite his anger, Jeremiah could not deny the Word burning within him. What, according to the presenter,

was the reason Jeremiah could not deny the Word?

What does the presenter say happens when we become transformed and pleasing to the Lord?

DIGGING DEEPER: The Duped Prophet

Jeremiah did not have an easy time being a prophet. In fact, because of the difficulties that he talks about in the books Jeremiah and Lamentations, he has been called the "weeping prophet." It was his unfortunate lot to tell the Israelites that Jerusalem would be destroyed by invaders from the North and the people taken into captivity in a foreign land. Needless to say, such prophecy did not go over well with the Israelite king, who threw him in a cistern and threatened him with death. When King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took over Jerusalem in 586 BC as Jeremiah had said, he freed Jeremiah.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

The Face of God

By St. Mother Teresa

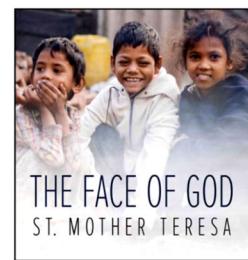
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—Ann, Niagara Falls, NY

Get free access to watch this movie and hundreds of other movies, audio talks, video-based study programs and eBooks at [FORMED.org](#) Register with parish code **P4XNPZ**

Mass

Intentions

Saturday 9/2

- 8:30am Tulson Higgins
Led Ledezma
5:00pm Sara Verduzco †
Rita & Elizabeth McVey †
7:00pm Victims of Tragedies

Sunday 9/3

- 6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am Remigio Liboon
George Pimentel †
9:30am Ralph Melendez †
11:00am Quintina Echon †
12:30pm The Souls in Purgatory †
6:00pm Felicity Oxendine †
Linda Wyeta †

Monday 9/4

- 8:30am Slegried Forspreveer †

Tuesday 9/5

- 8:30am William Lawrence †
Melanie Maher †

Wednesday 9/6

- 8:30am Dell, Fredd & Anette
Maria Ugonwa †
Anabude Ike †
7:00pm Felicity Oxenine †
Linda Wyeta †

Thursday 9/7

- 8:30am Ramiro Resendiz †
Cynthia Tanner
Lilah A. Escario †

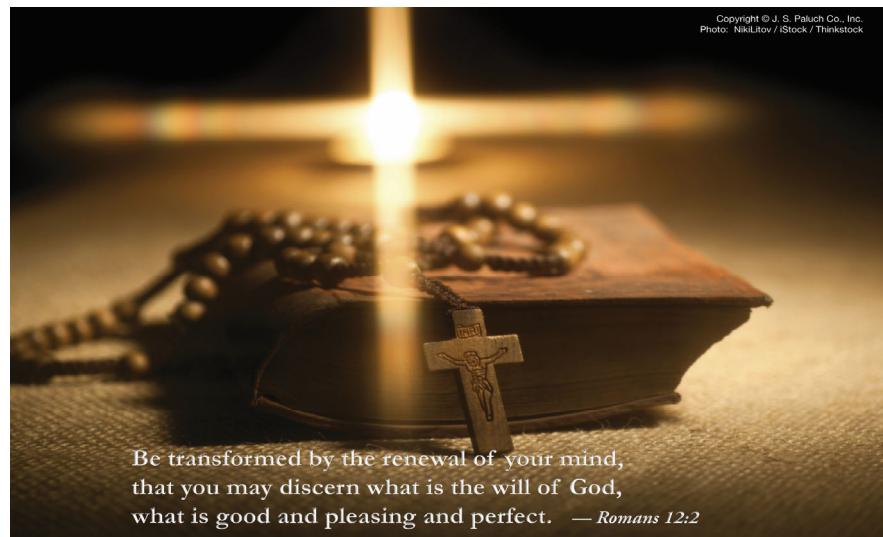
Friday 9/8

- 8:30am Maureen Yost †
Sara Verduzco †

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

Prayers & Devotion

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Be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect. — *Romans 12:2*

This week, let us meditate on the words of the responsorial psalm,
which expresses our desire to be united with God as Jeremiah was.

Prayer

“O God, you are my God whom I seek; My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.” In what ways are you seeking God right now? How is your soul thirsting for God? Consider a time when you felt particularly close to God, when you experienced some kind of inner transformation and you could say with the psalmist: “You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.”

Resolution

This week, allow yourself to spend some quiet time in the presence of the Lord. Ask yourself how, like Jeremiah, the Word of God can burn within you.

Download the ***Opening the Word*** journal at FORMED.org to write down your thoughts, reflections and resolutions throughout the week.

Parish Prayer Requests

For the consolation and help for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, and in thanksgiving for first responders and volunteers.

For the repose of the souls of Manuel Serpa, Herbert DiGrazie, Donald Scullion and Dr. Luís de Carvalho.

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

Bored at Mass?

Here are 7 practical steps you could follow to make the Mass more meaningful for you:

1. Get me to the church on time

Getting to church at least 10 minutes before Mass makes a huge difference. It gives your mind some time to dial down from the fast-paced activities that you came from.

2. Mother Church wants YOU

I've had young people telling me that they feel more involved in the Eucharist when they play some role at Mass. There are a number of options available – choir, lectors, ushers, greeters, altar servers or church decorating. Becoming a member of one of these groups will focus your attention on what's happening and make you more attentive and more personally invested.

3. Pray Business Class

Why is it that everyone wants front row seats at a musical concert or at a game, but the last seats in church? Avoid looking for a place in the last pews of the church right at the back, especially when there is plenty of

space up front. They say that the front pews receive more grace! Seriously, though, sitting up front will help you avoid distractions.

4. Come on out, you bathroom singers

Take the hymn book and sing along. Understand the words you are singing. Don't worry if you have no talent for singing; most people don't. The ones who do are usually in the choir. Can you imagine how bored you would be if you went to a concert and didn't know any of the songs?

5. A tweeting exercise

"Homilies are so boring!" How often have I heard that? And true, sometimes a priest might meander a bit, but homilies are pretty interesting if you really listen to them, and the priest has probably put a lot of effort into preparing it. Listen to the homily and try to capture the essence of it in 140 characters or less. Then, after Mass, tweet it. It's harder than you think.

6. It's 167 to 1

Remember that the Eucharist is



Thanksgiving, and if you are just a Sunday churchgoer, then you are giving God your full attention for just 1 hour or less. The rest of the 167 hours each week, God gives you as a gift and doesn't get in your way. Ask yourself how many good things you have received from the Lord.

7. A perfect 7 – Mary

The final word belongs to Mary, Queen of heaven and earth and our Mother. Ask Mary to intercede for you during Mass. Pray to her for guidance and strength. She was always by Our Lord's side and she will remain by yours as well. No human being understands you better than Mary does.

Follow these 7 steps and you will slowly find the beauty of the Eucharist opening up before you. As with any other activity, this too will take time. Don't expect to be charged up on the first Sunday itself. All great tastes develop in time and with patience. You cannot make great music on the first day. Neither was Rome built in a day.

Excerpted article by Fr Joshan Rodrigues, originally published on aleteia.org, August 8, 2017



- Grow your identity in Christ.
- Meet other Catholic teens.
- Be a member of an open community of peers.
- Give and receive support for living a Christ-centered life.
- Have a lot of fun!

Oh, and there's food. Always.

Celebrate Mass with us on Sundays at 6:00 pm, then join us in the Convent.

Collection Report

8/27 Collection	\$16,408.49
Assumption Collection	\$6,365.49
Month to Date	\$85,211.46
Monthly Goal	\$86,274.51
Percentage Reached	99%
Aug Maintenance	\$10,540.93
Aug Faith Direct	\$12,507.00

This Week

MONDAY, SEPT 4

Labor Day: Parish Offices Closed

Readings: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30

Suggestion:

Volunteer to do something today or later this week as a labor of love!

Offer prayers for those who labor in difficult and dangerous situations, and for those who are unemployed.

THURSDAY, SEPT 7

Readings: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11

Suggestion:

Add an appointment to your calendar this week for Eucharistic Adoration. Make it a priority to set aside time in Jesus' presence.

SUNDAY, SEPT 10

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

Events:

Donate Religious Books to our Parish Fall Festival's Book Sale. Bring your donations to the courtyard on Sept. 10th from 7:30 am to Noon. Contact Arnette Leonetti at 925-212-0826 or a_rafael@msn.com for more details.

Special Collection for Diocesan Priest Retirement Benefit Trust.

LifeTeen high school youth ministry celebrates Mass at 6:00 pm then gathers in the Convent. All high school students are invited!

TUESDAY, SEPT 5

St Teresa of Calcutta

Readings: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37

Suggestion:

Listen to The Face of God audio talk by St "Mother" Teresa on FORMED.org

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 6

Readings: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44

Events:

Adult Confirmation Classes begin at 7:30 pm in the Convent. Contact Marjorie Melendez 925-447-2925 RCIA@stmichaellivermore.com

Faith Formation Registration Deadline. StMichaelLivermore.com/Faith

FRIDAY, SEPT 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6 Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

Suggestion:

Visit FORMED.org and type "Mary" in the search bar. Pick a movie, study, talk or book to enjoy!

SATURDAY, SEPT 9

St. Peter Claver

Readings: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5

Events:

Confession at 9:15 am and 3:45 pm in English, 6:15 pm in Spanish

The Catholic Faith Explained. For the Whole Parish

The beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith is captured in Symbolon, a stunning video series with the best and most trusted Catholic teachers you'll ever find in one place. **All parishioners are invited to participate in this 10-week study Sept 10-Nov 12!** Here's how:

1. Watch the 30-minute video at home each week starting Sept 10. OR...
2. Gather in your small group or ministry to watch the weekly video. OR...
3. Join us on Tuesdays at 1 pm or Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Convent (sign up by emailing Grow@StMichaelLivermore.com)

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

Upcoming

Teen Confirmation Deadline EXTENDED! To Mon, Sept 11

If your high school student has not yet registered for Confirmation preparation, you're in luck! The deadline has been extended to Sept 11. Get the paperwork at StMichaelLivermore.com/Confirmation. Second-year students do not need to re-register.

Chance to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card Sat, September 16

Turn in your Fall Festival raffle tickets by Sept 16 to enter a drawing to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card!

St Michael's Got Talent Tryouts Sept 16 and Sept 19

All parishioners are invited to participate in a talent show as part of our festival on Saturday, September 30. 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!

A committee of parish staff, SMS school faculty and parishioners will observe tryouts and select the acts on Sat, Sept 16 from 9am-10:30am and Tues, Sept 19 from 4-5:30 pm in Room 26 at St Michael School.

Fatima Plenary Indulgence Rosary Sat, September 16

Join us to pray the rosary before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at 4:30 pm in the church. Confession is available at 9:15 and 3:45 pm in English, 6:15 pm in Spanish.

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

Parish Fall Festival

September 30 & October 1

- Live Entertainment
- Live & Silent Auctions
- Raffle Drawing
- Ethnic Foods from our Diverse Parish Cultures
- Burgers, Hot Dogs, Cotton Candy & Snow Cones
- Beer Wine, Soda, Water & Juices
- Games for Kids & Adults

Can you help volunteer or donate prizes?
Email Festival@StMichaelLivermore.com

Everyone can offer something:

Sign up to bake a cake for the Cake Walk! Turn in raffle tickets! Volunteer to staff a booth!
Donate religious books for the Book Sale! Pray for the Festival's success!



Noticias Parroquiales

SYMBOLON
LA EXPLICACIÓN DE LA FE CATÓLICA
CONOCIENDO LA FE

ESTUDIO PARROQUIAL
10 de septiembre al 12 de noviembre

La fe católica explicada. Para toda la parroquia.

La belleza y la verdad de la fe católica se capturan en Symbolon, una impresionante serie de videos con los mejores y más confiables maestros católicos que jamás encuentres en un solo lugar. Todos los feligreses están invitados a participar en este estudio de 10 semanas del 10 de septiembre al 12 de noviembre. Así es cómo:

1. Vea el video de 30 minutos en casa cada semana a partir del 10 de septiembre. O ...
2. Reúnase con su pequeño grupo o ministerio para ver el video semanal. O...

Acceda a la serie de estudio de video de Symbolon sin ningún navegador en FORMED.org. Obtenga su cuenta gratuita usando el código parroquial **P4XNPZ**

bautizados seguidores de Cristo, de seguir su camino, aunque signifique seguirlo hasta la muerte.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura -- Me sedujiste, Señor, y me dejé seducir por ti (Jeremías 20:7-9).

Salmo -- Mi alma está sedienta de ti, Señor, mi Dios (Salmo 63 [62]).

Segunda lectura -- No se dejan llevar por las cosas del mundo, más bien transformense por la renovación de su mente (Romanos 12:1-2).

Evangelio -- Si quieras seguirme, renuncia a ti mismo, carga con tu cruz y sígueme (Mateo 16:21-27).

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SIGUIENDO A CRISTO

Si alguna vez te jugaron una broma desagradable y algo risible a la vez, entonces comprenderás cómo Jeremías se siente hoy cuando le dice a Dios "me sedujiste, Señor, y me dejé seducir". Ya lo imaginamos sacudiendo la cabeza con una sonrisa desconsolada, pero con el enojo latente en su voz. De igual manera, Pedro piensa que Jesús lo está "embaucando" cuando éste comienza a explicar que ser el Mesías significa sufrir y morir, y ser seguidor del Mesías significa cargar la cruz y hacer lo mismo. Jeremías trata de negar la voluntad de Dios para él al tratar de permanecer callado; Pedro -quien ha sido hecho cimiento de la Iglesia- totalmente niega la enseñanza de Jesús, por lo que hoy es llamado "Satanás". Por suerte para nosotros, Jeremías se llega a dar cuenta de que tener la Palabra de Dios en el corazón significa que será inútil tratar de permanecer en silencio, aunque ello signifique el desprecio y la burla de los que te rodean. Felizmente Pedro al final volvió a la fe que profesó en el Evangelio de la semana pasada, y llegó a comprender nuestra necesidad, como



El Día 13

En un mundo destrozado por persecución, guerra y opresión , tres niños en Fátima, Portugal, fueron elegidos por Dios para ofrecer al mundo un mensaje urgente de esperanza. Basada en las memorias de la vidente mayor, Lucía Santos, y miles de testimonios de testigos independientes, la película El Día 13 lleva a cabo una dramatización de la verdadera historia de los tres pastorcitos, quienes reciben seis apariciones de Nuestra Señora entre mayo y octubre de 1917, que culminaron con el ya antes profetizado Milagro del Sol, el 13 de octubre. Aunque fueron secuestrados de sus hogares, llevados a la prisión e interrogados bajo la amenaza de muerte en el intento del gobierno de silenciarlos, los niños permanecieron firmes en su historia acerca de los mensajes cruciales de María con respecto a la oración, al arrepentimiento y a la conversión del mundo.

Nuestra Señora le dio un secreto a los niños, que fue dado en tres partes, que comprende desde una visión horribilis del infierno, hasta las advertencias proféticas de eventos futuros que incluían la Segunda Guerra Mundial, la propagación.

Vea esta película en FORMED.org. Haga clic en "WATCH" y luego "Español"

Registracion de Flocknote

Regístrate para recibir anuncios especiales de San Miguel en español a través de texto o correo electrónico. Sólo mandar texto MIGUEL al 202-765-3441.



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

¿Tiene más preguntas? Festi-val@StMichaelLivermore.com

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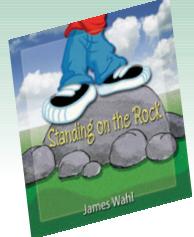
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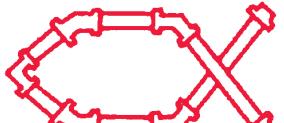
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Mass | Misa

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. 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

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michaelpereira@comcast.net

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Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist,
Dave Parks, Frank Draschner, Ken
Varallo, Irving Garcia, Cynthia Garay
and Glenda Dubsky.

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Finance Council Chair: Dave Ruth
daveruth@alrinc.com

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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
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