



# ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS, GROW DISCIPLES, BRING CHRIST TO PEOPLE

OCTOBER 18, 2020



29<sup>th</sup>

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

- Mt 22:20-21

# HOW TO VOTE CATHOLIC

## A BRIEF GUIDE FOR VOTERS

Dear St Michael Family,

We are citizens of this beautiful country, the land of the free and home of the brave. Vote with a clear conscience and pray well for the candidates who will stand up for your values and beliefs. Let us exercise this God-given right to further the building of the Kingdom of God in this world.

Here are some practical tips and reminders for you to pray for before you vote whether by mail or in person:

### Voting

- Catholics are obliged to participate in politics by voting.
- Legislators are elected to serve and protect the common good, human dignity, and rights of human persons.
- Voters should have a clear understanding of the principles of Catholic moral and social teaching.
- The life issues are dominant in the hierarchy of issues for the Catholic voter.

### Prudential Judgment

- Prudential judgment is the application of principle to concrete situations.
- Catholic principles apply to all political issues but in many cases do not lead prudentially to one acceptable Catholic position.
- The bishops' teachings on faith and morals are binding; their prudential judgments on policy guide us but do not bind us.

### Public Witness

- The Christian Faith cannot be

restricted to oneself and one's family, making it impossible to "love one's neighbor."

- The principle of subsidiarity teaches that Catholics should first address social problems at the local level before asking the government to intervene.
- Politics and government need the public witness of what faith teaches about the common good, human rights, and human dignity.
- Ending human life cannot be justified in the name of therapeutic (i.e., medical) benefits to other persons.

### Abortion

- Abortion is the dominant political issue.
- Being pro-abortion disqualifies a candidate from a Catholic vote.
- Catholics can justly support politicians who advocate incremental means toward eliminating abortion.

### Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

- The ban against euthanasia and assisted suicide admits of no exception.
- Removing extraordinary means of supporting life is allowable as a prudential judgment.
- The growing acceptance of euthanasia and assisted suicide rests on the misguided assumption that pain detracts from the value of life.

### Bioethics

- Since science serves human ends, not its own, scientific research must always respect the moral law.
- Science must respect the inherent dignity of the human person.
- Unused and unwanted embryos must be treated with the respect afforded to other human beings.



### Population

- Population policy must not include abortion and sterilization as methods of slowing population growth.
- The use of contraception in population policy undermines marriage and ignores the moral issues of promiscuity and disease.
- Catholic institutions should not be required to support contraception or abortion through mandated insurance coverage.
- The right to abortion should not be allowed to enter international law under the rubric of women's "reproductive health" or fears of overpopulation.

### The Death Penalty

- The Church teaches that the death penalty is acceptable in principle but should be avoided in practice.
- The responsibility of elected officials is to ensure that penal systems and sentencing policies do in fact protect society from known aggressors.
- The practical elimination of the death penalty is based upon the strength of the penal system and the commensurateness of the sentencing procedures.



## War

- States have the right to engage in war in self-defense but should first exhaust all peaceful solutions.
- Just war is waged within defined moral boundaries in regard to its targets, goals, and outcomes.
- Political leadership must have both the inclination toward peace and the capacity for decisive action if war is just and necessary.

## Defense and Terrorism

- Nations have a duty to protect their citizens from legitimate threats.
- Nations should build their capacity for defense in light of just-war theory.
- Terrorism—the injury and murder of innocent civilians—is never justified.
- Defending a nation combines the military, international diplomacy, and a compassionate foreign policy.

## Judicial Issues

- Judges should be evaluated according to their judicial records and commitment to the limited judicial role, not attacked for their privately held religious views.
- Those who would nominate and confirm judicial activists disenfranchise the faithful Catholic voter.
- Catholic leaders have a duty to

respect their constituents and their Church's commitment to natural law tradition when considering judicial appointees.

## Marriage and the Family

- Marriage was instituted prior to the state and should be recognized by the state as something inviolate and necessary to the common good.
- Prudential judgments about law and public policy should always seek to strengthen marriage and families.
- So-called same-sex marriages cannot be recognized by the Catholic Church, and civil unions are likely to undermine marriage and damage its foundational role in society.

## Education

- Parents—not the state—have the right to educate their children.
- Catholic parents have the right to have their children educated in a curriculum consonant with Catholic values.
- Governments should provide financial support to families for the education they desire for their children.

## Economic Issues

- Work is a matter of human dignity and is necessary to the common good.
- Government should create the conditions that support business and industry development.
- Corporate responsibility is critical in helping to maintain economic success.

## Taxation

- Taxes should be fairly based upon one's ability to pay.
- Tax policy should not penalize marriage or the raising of children.
- Corporate taxes should not threaten the capacity to create and sustain jobs.

## Poverty

- The preferential option for the poor requires that authorities first provide assistance to the poor and oppressed.
- The poor must have access to the education and job training necessary to compete in today's job market.
- Strong families that remain intact keep their members from falling into poverty.

## Health Care

- Health-care needs should be met by a combination of personal and corporate insurance, philanthropy, and government programs.
- Catholic health-care organizations must be free to perform their work with clear consciences.
- Abstinence and fidelity should be the foundation of sexually transmitted disease—education and prevention.

## Religious Liberty

- Religious expression is a human right that should be recognized by the state.
- States that enforce secularism in social services and education are violating religious liberty.
- Political debate naturally involves religious concepts since law and public policy directly affect the common good.

## Immigration

- A nation should seek to accommodate the immigrant who, for just reasons, seeks greater access to the basic goods of life.
- Political leaders and citizens should recognize the reality of human interdependence that crosses all borders and all national identities.
- The immigrant is a person who deserves the same protection of law and social benefits afforded

to citizens.

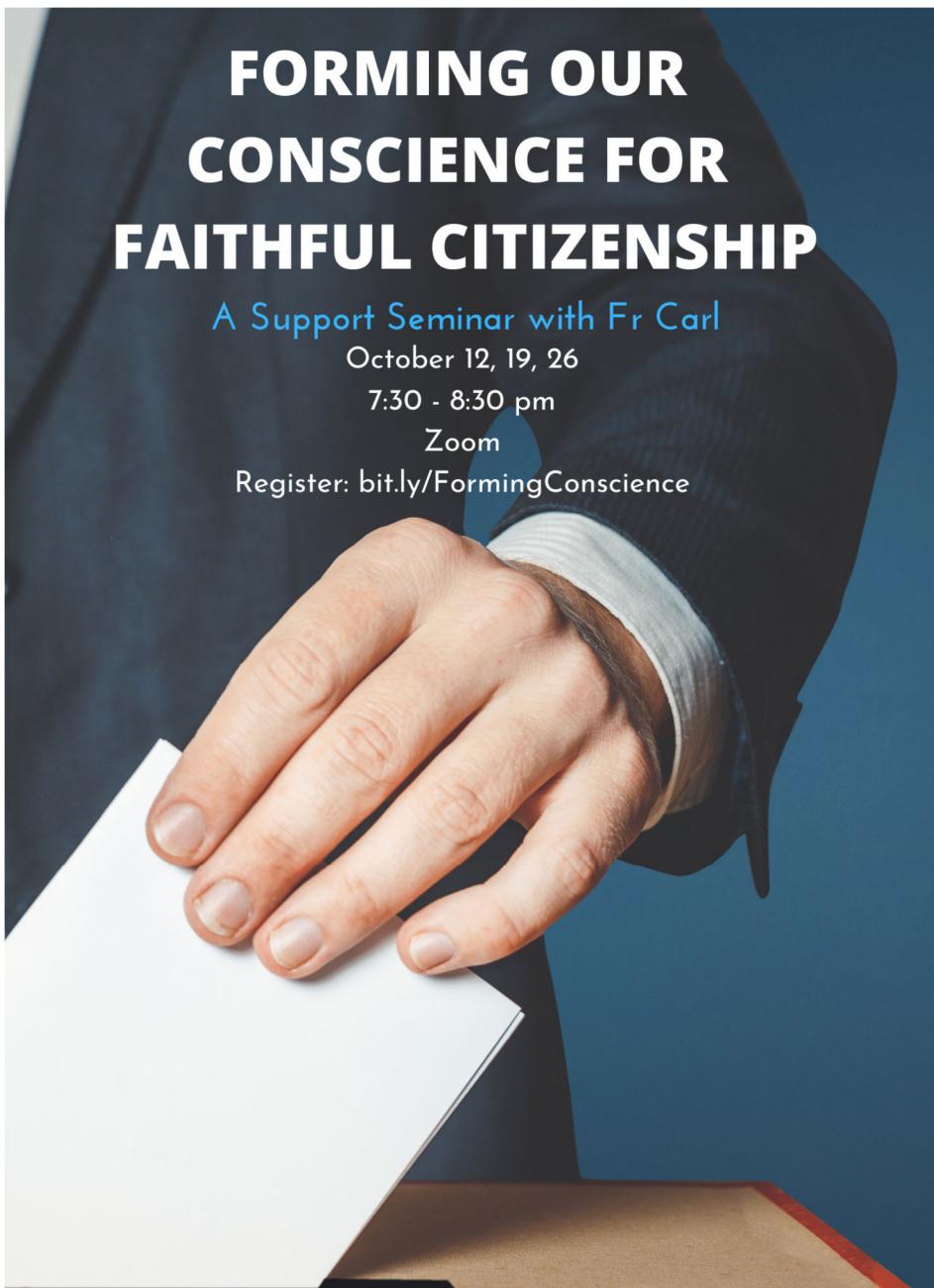
### The Environment

- From creation, human beings are given special responsibility as stewards of the earth.
- As part of its duty to the common good, the government should prevent unnecessary harm to natural resources.
- Government should also use creative and technological skill, in concert with global cooperation, to reverse existing environmental damage.

Join with me in praying for a peaceful election process, where all voters are guided by the Holy Spirit.

And may God bless you, your families and our country.

Fr Carl.



## FORMING OUR CONSCIENCE FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

A Support Seminar with Fr Carl

October 12, 19, 26

7:30 - 8:30 pm

Zoom

Register: [bit.ly/FormingConscience](http://bit.ly/FormingConscience)



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# WHAT SUPPORT GROUPS DO YOU NEED?

**Take the survey.**

**StMichaelLivermore.com/SupportGroups**



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Information, strength and connection during the caregiver journey, with a Christ-centered view.

## **The Spirituality of Asking For and Receiving Help**

**October 22 at 7:00 pm Zoom Gathering**

Elizabeth Bautista [bethbarnachea@yahoo.com](mailto:bethbarnachea@yahoo.com)  
for the Meeting ID and Password



**Online  
Support  
Group**

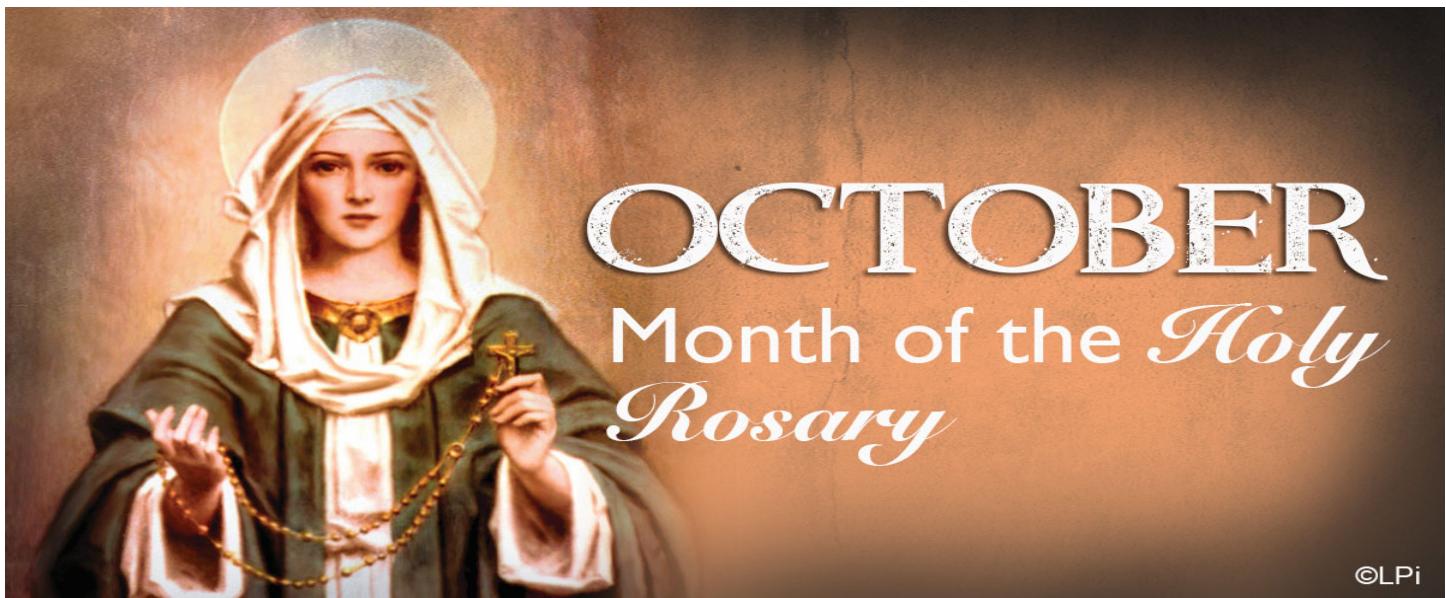
## **COUNTER POINT**



A faith-based support group for families suffering from their loved one's addiction or alcoholism.

**Zoom Gathering Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm**

Contact Rachael at 510 501-1411  
for the Meeting ID and Password



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## DAILY PARISH WIDE ZOOM ROSARY

**October 1 - 31**

12:00 pm in English [bit.ly/RosaryOct](http://bit.ly/RosaryOct)  
8:00 pm in Spanish [bit.ly/RosarioOct](http://bit.ly/RosarioOct)

## OUTDOOR ROSARY

**Monday-Saturday**

8:00 am in English in the Courtyard  
before Mass

## ROSARY WITH OUR SEMINARIANS

**October 23**

Every 4th Friday at 7:00 pm on  
Zoom

Meeting ID: 701 467 8859  
Passcode: 369640

## HOLY ROSARY - SCRIPTURAL EDITION.

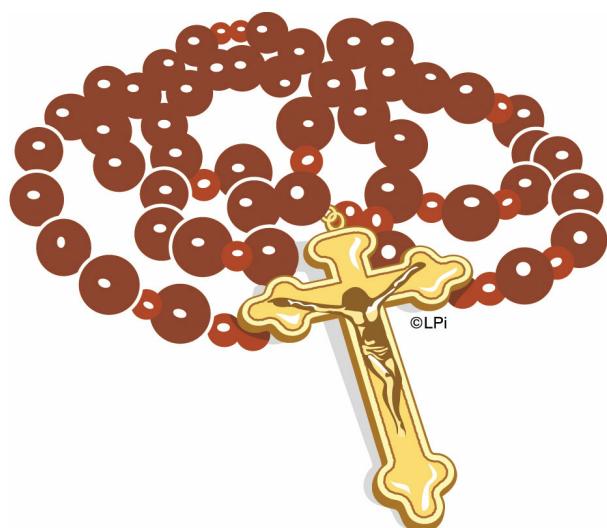


Holy Rosary - Scriptural Edition mobile app featuring audio recordings of students from the Catholic Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The appropriate mystery is loaded for that particular day when the application launches. For Sundays, the mysteries are chosen based on the current liturgical season. You can also manually choose which mysteries you would like to pray along with by tapping the image on the screen and choosing from the menu.

A passage of scripture is read prior to each Hail Mary which helps us to dive deeper into the mysteries of the rosary as we ponder our Lord's birth, life, death and resurrection.

Many people use this at night before they go to bed, or listen/pray along while they are in their cars or on-the-go. Just launch, press play and pray!





# GIVE BACK TO GOD ALL THAT BELONGS TO GOD

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

***At that Jesus said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21b)***

Nobody enjoys paying taxes. Despite our displeasure in being forced to do so, we also realize that the monies generated from taxes allows governments to provide essential services for its people. Corruption really gets our goat, however. When we witness malfeasance, overspending, irresponsibility, and dishonesty in governmental spending, the grave injustices make an already unpleasant and arduous task even more difficult. The inappropriate distribution and use of hard-earned monies can leave a person quite angry and disconnected. It's bad enough the government wants something from me, now God does, too?

God is not concerned necessarily with our money, although its proper use does factor into our faith life. As the payment of secular taxes speaks of our allegiance to the government, our return to God speaks of our allegiance to God. All of creation, even the entire universe, is fashioned in the image and likeness of God. What speaks to God and has meaning and relevance to him? All of creation and indeed our very selves! God delights in us and when we present ourselves back to him, he delights even

more! As the payment of secular taxes is designed to secure the equitable distribution of goods and services to all people, so is our return of ourselves to God in gratitude meant to advance God's kingdom here on earth.

When our exclusive and sincere allegiance is given to God, God can use us to set things right and straight again. The wounds of sin distort our relationship and disorder our world. By giving ourselves and all of creation back to God in gratitude, we acknowledge the proper Creator and Author of life for who He is and devote our labors exclusively to God's kingdom and the justice, peace, or order God envisions. In giving back to God all that belongs to God, we set the axis of our lives correctly and put our priorities in proper order. All of our relationships, especially with God, our brothers and sisters, and all of creation are perceived more clearly as they really are. Using, accumulating, wasting, exploiting, hording, and self-preservation are no longer necessary.

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A close-up photograph of an open Bible showing several pages of text.

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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View Videos

[bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org)

 UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
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# RESPONDING to the Call

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP CHOSEN

It is getting close to Election Day and I suppose most of us have an idea of how we will cast our vote. We have tried to discern where candidates stand on important issues and what type of leader they might be if elected. However, there is a good chance that when we go into a voting booth, we will cast at least one vote for a person who we never heard of and to do a job we do not understand.

We know the more notable people in the more notable contests, but some of those on the ballot as we get further into it? Who knew that was go-

ing to be on there?

In life we will at times be asked to make a choice about something or someone we know little about. Our choices will not always be as informed as we would like. Then, when we do know some information needed to make a choice, we still don't know everything. We may support a candidate and not really know him or her personally.

When God chose you and me, He had all the information needed to make the choice. The crazy thing is He chose us anyway! He knew we

would sin, turn our backs on Him, and sometimes not be very good ambassadors for Him. However, He still chose us because He loves us. We are a chosen people. We are His own. I don't know about you, but if given the chance I am not sure I would have chosen myself. I rejoice that God sees in me something that at times seems hidden to me.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## FREE GROCERIES FOR ANYONE IN NEED



The next distribution Saturdays in October are October 17, 24, 31 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am while supplies last.

Delivery is available for Livermore seniors or those who are homebound without transportation. Please request a delivery by Thursday by emailing [Office@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Office@StMichaelLivermore.com) or by calling 925-447-1585.

### WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Visit [StMichaelLivermore.com/Groceries](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Groceries) to sign up. After you sign up, you will receive an email with instructions on Tuesday or Wednesday before the distribution day.



SCAN ME



**STARTING OCTOBER 1**

## OUTDOOR MASS

**In the Courtyard**  
Face covering is required  
Bring your own chair  
Sit at least 6 feet apart  
(If canceled due to bad weather,  
Mass will be livestreamed with walk  
in Communion only)

*Monday - Saturday*  
8:30 am in English  
(Rosary begins at 8:00 am)

*Wednesday*  
8:30 am with St Michael School  
in English  
5:00 pm in Spanish

*Sunday*  
6:45 am, 8:00 am (Latin), 9:30 am,  
11:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish),  
5:00 pm



**NEW TIME!**

## SICK & HOMEBOUND

### By Appointment

Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick, Confession and Communion are available to those who are sick, in a care facility or homebound. Please contact Eric Hom 925-667-4052 or [EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com) to arrange for a priest to visit.

After hours only, please call the Pastoral Emergency line at 925-521-4117.

## LIVESTREAM MASS

[Facebook.com/  
StMichaelParishLivermore](https://Facebook.com/StMichaelParishLivermore)  
and  
[YouTube.com/  
StMichaelLivermore](https://YouTube.com/StMichaelLivermore)

*Monday - Saturday*  
6:45 am in English

*Wednesday*  
8:30 am in English  
5:00 pm in Spanish

*Saturday Vigil*  
5:00 pm in English  
7:00 pm in Spanish

*Sunday*  
9:30 am

## WALK IN COMMUNION

**In the Courtyard**  
Face covering is required  
30-40 minutes after Mass begins

*Monday - Friday*  
7:15 am - 7:45 am

*Saturday*  
5:45 pm - 6:15 pm  
7:45 pm - 8:15 pm

*Sunday*  
Immediately after all outdoor  
Masses

## CONFESSON & ADORATION

**In the Courtyard**  
Face covering is required  
For adoration, bring a chair  
Sit at least 6 feet apart

*Monday - Friday*  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

*Saturday*  
9:30 am - 10:30 am

**SCHEDULE SUBJECT  
TO CHANGE!**

*Please frequently check  
[StMichaelLivermore.com/MassTimes](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/MassTimes)  
for the most current information.*

# Upcoming Events

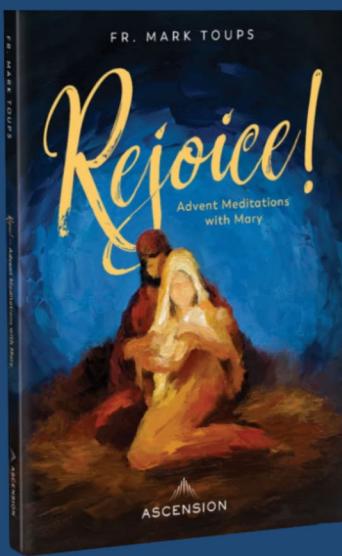


## ALL SOULS DAY MASS INTENTIONS

Names will be read at all Masses  
on All Souls Day  
Monday, November 2  
[StMichaelLivermore.com/AllSouls](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/AllSouls)



SCAN ME



## ADVENT MISSION RETREAT

Mondays on Zoom  
November 23 - December 21  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
[StMichaelLivermore.com/Advent](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Advent)



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by my right hand." Psalm 73:23

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