



St. Michael Catholic Parish

Where we Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples,
and Bring Christ to People.

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA

925-447-1585

StMichaelLivermore.com

Pastoral Emergencies:

925-521-4117

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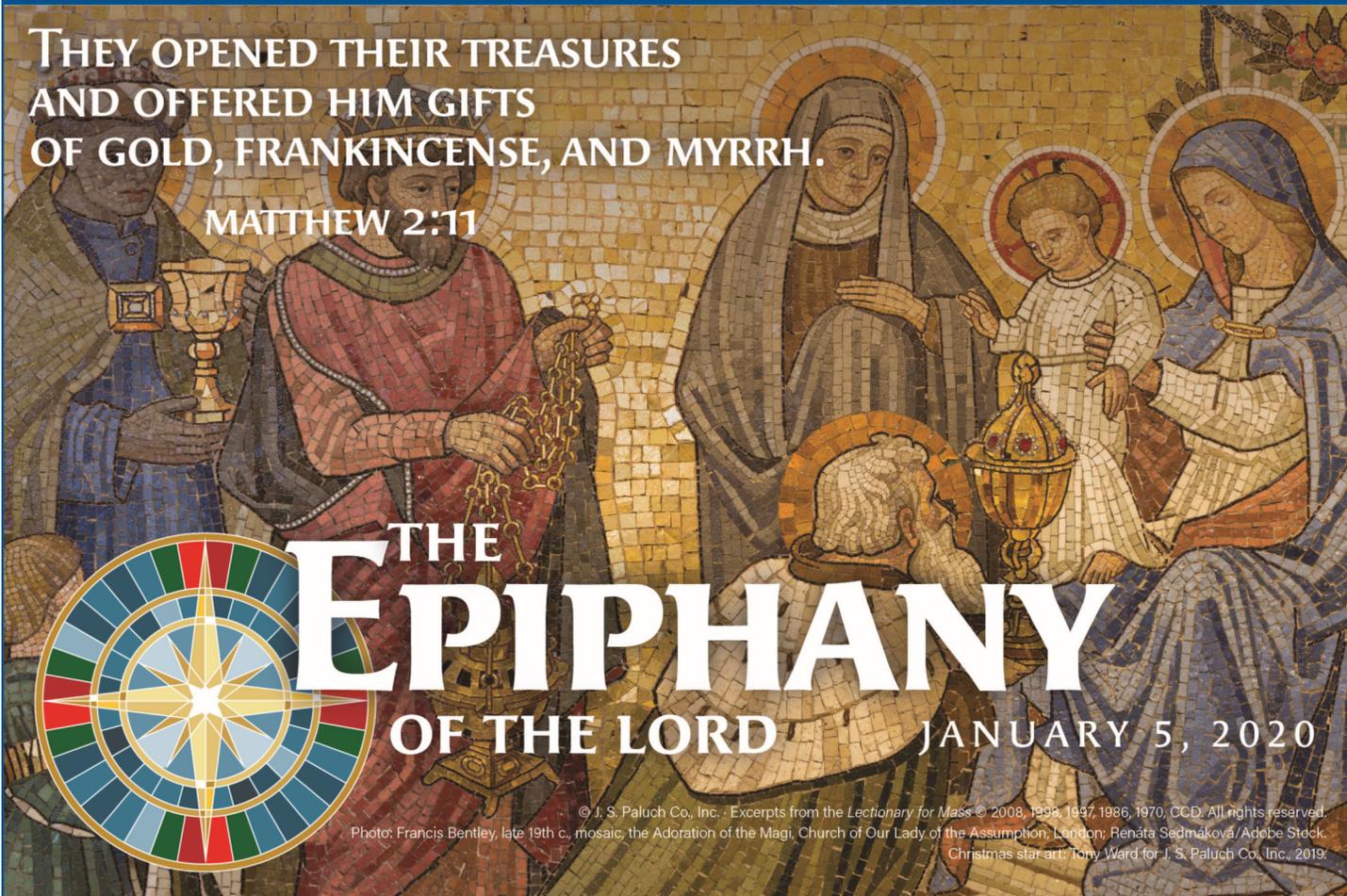
St Michael School

925-447-1888 smliv.org



THEY OPENED THEIR TREASURES
AND OFFERED HIM GIFTS
OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

MATTHEW 2:11



THE EPIPHANY

OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2020



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Photo: Francis Bentley, late 19th c., mosaic, the Adoration of the Magi, Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, London; Renata Sedmáková/Adobe Stock.
Christmas star art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.

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Summary

The story of the magi, the three wise men, who traveled from the East to pay homage to Jesus as the King of the Jews, is part of our Christmas tradition.

(Incidentally, the Gospels never tell us that there were three; we get that number from the three gifts they brought, by assuming each brought one gift.) The magi, after a detour to see King Herod, brought their most valuable possessions to lay at the feet of the newborn King.

As we see the scene unfold, it doesn't look much like a royal court. It simply looks like a father, mother, and child, living in humble circumstances in a tiny, backwater town in a rural province of Rome. And yet, it was there that the magi encountered the King of all creation.

In some ways, it can be the same for us at church. When we attend Mass, it can seem ordinary, almost mundane, because we do it week after week. We may even find our minds drifting to the things we are going to do when we get home instead of the fact that we are in the presence of the Lord of the Universe.

The early Church Fathers encouraged Christians at Mass to meditate on the magi. It's a good lesson for us, as well. When we think about the magi approaching the Infant Jesus, we can take that same image to prayer in our lives. As we approach the Eucharist, we can see ourselves coming before the Lord, offering our most precious possession—our

very lives—as we worship and adore him as the magi did those thousands of years ago.

Unpack the First Reading Isaiah 60:1–6

This part of the book of the Prophet Isaiah is traditionally believed to be part of the prophecy of the restoration and rebuilding of Jerusalem after the exile in



Babylon. But two verses before the start of this reading, at Isaiah 59:20, we read, “And he will come to Zion as Redeemer, to those in Jacob who turn from transgressions, says the Lord.” So, for reasons that are obvious to Christian eyes, these verses have also been seen as prophecies of the future Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who seems to be so clearly portrayed in the earlier chapters as the servant of Yahweh, an exalted figure who is nevertheless to be despised and betrayed “like a lamb that is led to the slaughter” (Is 53:7). Prophecies appear as well in the chapter that follows this one, which speaks so clearly of the Anointed One of the Lord, who is “to bring good tidings to the afflicted” (Is 61:1).

In this particular portion from Isaiah 60, the clear reference to “gold and frankincense” in verse 6 has always been seen as fulfilled in the Gospel passage we

have on this Sunday from Matthew, relating the gifts of the magi. The multiple layers of prophecy in Scripture remind us that God's Word is rich in mysteries, and a limitless source of gold for the soul who, like the wise men, seeks to pay homage to the infant King of Bethlehem. Similar prophecies can be seen in Isaiah that can be applied to Israel's return from exile and the role that the Jewish people are to play in preparing the nations for the Messiah, as well as the arrival of the Christ himself. Later, in Revelation 21:2, St. John prophesies the eventual blessing of the new heavenly Jerusalem.

Unpack the Second Reading Ephesians 3:2–3, 5–6

The feast of Epiphany stresses the revelation of the Christ to the Gentiles, as represented by the wise men, or three kings, as they are sometimes called. In this second reading St. Paul, who wrote this letter to the Galatians before Matthew's Gospel, tells us that God also revealed to him directly that he had a “plan” for the Gentiles. This mysterious plan had already been hinted at in prophets like Isaiah. Note that our first reading spoke of the nations and their kings being drawn to the light cast by God upon the Jewish people. But the idea that the non-Jewish nations would be offered full covenant inclusion as co-heirs with the Jews themselves was unheard of, a mystery hidden from the world until the fullness of God's plan had been disclosed in Christ.

St. Paul is reminding the mem-

bers of the largely Gentile Church in Ephesus of this spectacular surprise, that Jews and Gentiles have been mystically incorporated into the one body of Christ, made members of each other by this special grace. The Catholic Church is universal, the effect of the desire of God to unite every human heart to himself and simultaneously us all with each other in one worldwide family of God!

Unpack the Gospel Matthew 2:2-12

In the first chapter of Venerable Fulton Sheen's wonderful *Life of Christ*, titled "The Only Person Ever Pre-Announced," he describes the wealth of prophecies of the coming of Christ, not just in the Old Testament, but also from cultures all over the ancient world. He cites the Romans: Tacitus, Suetonius, Cicero, and Virgil. He cites evocative texts from the Greeks-- from Aeschylus and the Sibyls, and points to the longing of Socrates and Plato for the Logos. He notes a remarkable story from *The Annals of the Celestial Kingdom* recounting that an emperor of the Tcheou dynasty in China saw a remarkable star in the southwest and inquired of his sages what this might mean:

"They showed him books in which this prodigy signified the appearance of the great Saint of the West whose religion was to be introduced into their country." And this explains how the wise men in Matthew's Gospel knew to follow the star that led them to Bethlehem. Not only had the Jewish prophecies and the texts that carried them penetrated into the Persian and Babylonian cultures from which these men likely came, but it also seems the whole world was pregnant with longing for the wisdom of God and for release from sin. Jesus satisfies both longings.

That ancient world was ripe for harvest, as we know. The whole of the Greco-Roman world was won for Christ in a remarkably short time, especially given the slowness of communication in that day. But our postmodern world we live in has grown tired of God and his truth. It believes that it has outgrown the wisdom of the ages. We live in a world that longs for novelty. Each year the liturgy reminds us, by telling this story of the newborn King, that what the world claims is outdated is, in fact, ever new.

Reflect & Discuss

Today's Gospel concludes what we think of as the "Christmas story" with the arrival of the magi. Please listen to this Sunday's Opening the Word available free for parishioners on FORMED.org. The presenter gives us some ideas on what this can mean to us today. Then reflect and discuss these questions with a friend:

According to the presenter, why did King Herod want to kill Jesus? How are the Epiphany and the Eucharist related, according to the presenter?

Digging Deeper: King Herod

King Herod was born about 74 BC, the son of a high-ranking Edomite official. Although he may have practiced Judaism, he was not of Jewish descent. He was appointed the governor of Judea when he was 25 and elected "king of the Jews" by the Roman Senate a few years later. He ruled Judea for 37 years with cruelty, even killing his own wife and children.

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Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. The film underscores her special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Christ, and the tremendous suffering that she endured in union with his Passion and Death, as well as her serene joy at his Resurrection.

Watch FREE on Formed.org

Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 1/4

8:30am Rose Zamborelli †
5:00pm Russell Mueller †
7:00pm Uriel Cruz †
Benjamin Morales †

Sunday 1/5

6:45am Archbishop Dominic Jala †
Fr Matthew Vellankal †
8:00am Rita Wiedenfeld
9:30am Patrick Allen †
11:00am Virginia Bettencourt †
12:30pm Cristo Alvarez Garcia †
6:00pm Certlita D. Villar †

Monday 1/6

8:30am Gertrude Tolsdorf & Family

Tuesday 1/7

8:30am Elaine Howard †

Wednesday 1/8

8:30am Russel Mueller †
7:00pm Alfonso Ponce Ehrile

Thursday 1/9

8:30am Zvonko Gelo

Friday 1/10

8:30am Jan Macko

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



Prayer

Picture yourself as one of the magi standing before Mary, who is holding the Infant Jesus on her lap. You kneel before Jesus and offer him your life, to do with as he will. What might Mary say to you? What does Jesus do? How do you feel? Now take a moment to offer words of praise and thanksgiving for the opportunity to serve the King of kings.

Resolution

Today we heard how the early Church Fathers saw the visit of the magi as a symbol of the Eucharist. This week pay a visit to our newly remodeled adoration chapel, and spend a few minutes adoring Jesus as the magi did.

Special Intentions

For our next Alpha Course that begins in February: that our team will be guided by the Holy Spirit in every decision; that our parish groups and ministries will be inspired to respond to Fr Carl's request to sponsor a meal; that our parishioners will be empowered to invite people to attend.

Please pray for all the intentions sent to the **Parish Prayer Team at Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com** and the prayers written in the book of intentions in the Adoration Chapel.

Also please check **StMichaelLivermore.com/Funerals** to pray for the recently deceased.

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



Be a Missionary Disciple, Not a Customer

*"In virtue of our baptism, we, the People of God have become missionary disciples."
(Mt 28:19)*

Baptism is not just a ritual to satisfy a family tradition, just because "that's what we do", or worse, an excuse to have a party. Because of original sin, we come into the world with a soul which is supernaturally dead. In Baptism, God's personal and intimate indwelling comes rushing into our soul, and that which was lacking in our human nature becomes miraculously alive! Baptism is a relationship with Jesus deep in the core of our being. But Baptism is only the beginning. A relationship requires both parties to participate. The way that we participate, the way we respond to God's unfathomable gift of Baptism is to be *active missionary disciples in our parish – not church "customers"*.

How is a disciple different than a customer?

Take a moment to quietly reflect

upon the table below. Are you a customer or a disciple?

Pope Francis said, "The missionary disciple has first of all a center, a point of reference, which is the person of Jesus." He highlights the fact that the Apostles have nothing of their own to announce, nor are



they capable on their own to show for themselves, but they speak and act as those 'sent,' as messengers of Jesus."

Further he said, "And even for us this mission is authentic only if it begins from its unchanging and consistent center which is Jesus," he said. "It is not an initiative of individual believers, groups or even large groups, but it is the Church's mission inseparably unit-

ed with her Lord. No Christian proclaims the Gospel 'on his or her own,' but only as one sent by the Church who received the mandate from Christ himself."

All we do in the parish is for God's glory and we always shout from our hearts - *Viva Cristo Rey!*

If you have prayerfully looked at and meditated upon the list and found that you fall more in the "customer" category than the "disciple" category, I personally invite you to come to Alpha. Alpha begins on Monday, February 10 and is a place to have a great meal, meet new friends and have a conversation about the basics of the faith. It is a place to share your ideas, be heard and encounter Jesus within a small community of friendly people. Please register at StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha

A Happy New Year to you and your family!

Fr. Carl

A customer demands service.	A disciple humbly serves.
A customer wants his own way.	A disciple wants God's way.
A customer decides what to believe and what not to believe to suit himself.	A disciple respects Scripture and the teachings of the Church.
A customer is a member of the audience.	A disciple is a member of the community.
A customer feels entitled.	A disciple feels blessed.
A customer may donate, expecting exclusive benefits.	A disciple makes offerings out of gratitude for benefits already received.
A customer expects to "get something" out of Church.	A disciple is motivated to "give something" to the Church.
A customer might know ABOUT Jesus.	A disciple has an active relationship WITH Jesus.

Be a Part of Alpha!



You can invite someone
(or attend yourself!)



Your ministry can
sponsor a dinner



You can join the
Prayer Team



You can host a table
(or help a host)

Find out more!
Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com

Holy Hour for Alpha with Our Clergy



**We have a seat
waiting for you!**

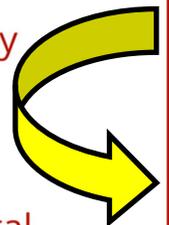
Join the Alpha Prayer Team
with Fr Carl and our St
Michael Clergy. We will be
praying for the specific
requests of our Alpha
guests and for the Alpha
team.

Mondays 5:00 - 6:00 pm
Feb 10 - April 27

Sign up at
Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com

5 Key Benefits of Alpha

1. Alpha shares the *kerygma* ("basic Gospel message") and contributes to parish renewal.
2. Alpha enables lay people to exercise their call to be missionary disciples.
3. Alpha is a proven form of community evangelization.
4. Alpha develops Catholic leaders.
5. Alpha works great in conjunction with programs of sacramental preparation.



LinC Retreat

[Life in Christ]

A Weekend for Teens to Encounter Christ
 January 17-19
 REGISTER NOW youth@StMichaelLivermore.com

BY CATHOLIC
 CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
 OFFICE, DIOCESE OF
 OAKLAND

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

Sunday, January 5
 2:30 to 4:30 pm
 St Michael Church

LECTOR TRAINING

Saturday, January 18
 at 10:00 am
 in the Church

Register at
[StMichaelLivermore.com/
 Lectors](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Lectors)

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

February 4 at 6:30 pm OR
 February 8 at 9:30 am
 in the Church

Register at
[StMichaelLivermore.com/
 EM](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/EM)

True Reformers

Saints of the Catholic
 Reformation

Join the
 Study Group!

Thursdays
 January 9 -
 February 13
 6:30 pm

Register with Denise at
raptors2@comcast.net

You're Invited to Dinner

Alpha is a place to enjoy a meal, get to know new friends and have a conversation.

save the date

Alpha

Mondays
 at 6:30 pm
 Starting on
 February 10
 Parish Hall

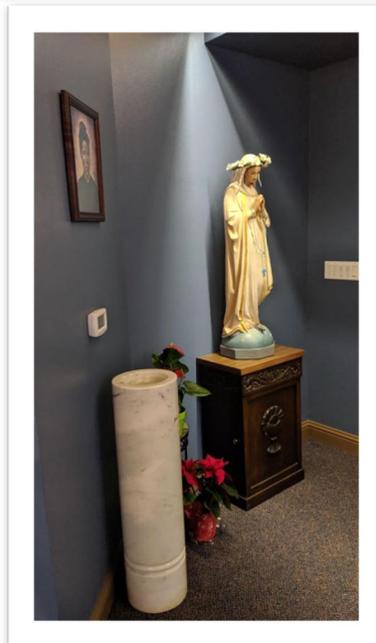
Alpha is FREE! To help us plan food, kindly register
StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha

Newly Remodeled Adoration Chapel



Schedule a Weekly Visit

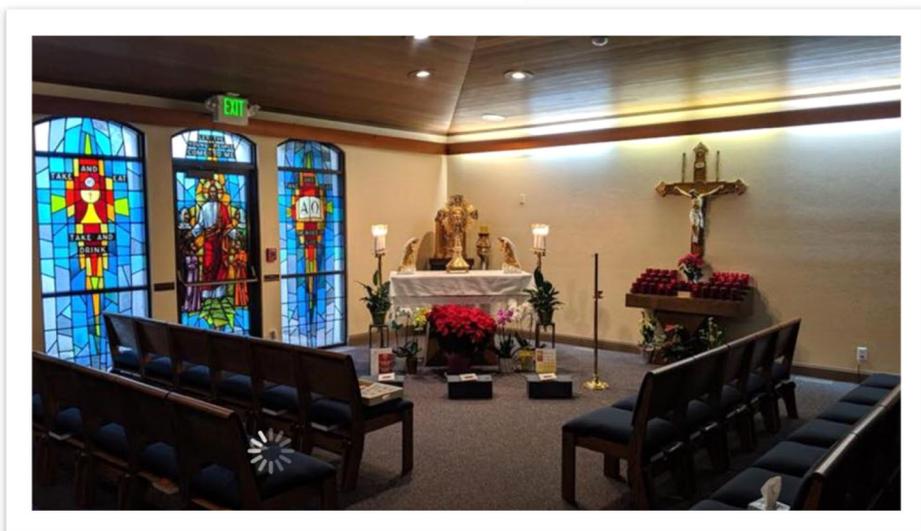
St Michael's Adoration Chapel is the only chapel in the Oakland Diocese that has the Blessed Sacrament exposed 24/7. We can only do this if faithful people sign up to be present in the chapel, since the Sacrament must never be left alone. Please see the sign up forms in the lobby to dedicate one hour per week for quiet time with the Lord. The benefits to you and your family will be immense!



Relic in the Altar: St Josephine Bakhita

Special thanks to Ann DeCarvalho for her generous donation of a first-class relic of St Josephine Bakhita which was placed in our altar in the newly remodeled Adoration Chapel.

St. Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947) was a Sudanese woman who was sold into brutal and abusive slavery as a young girl in the Darfur region of Africa, eventually transported to Italy to work for a friend of her owner's family. When she resisted returning to Africa in favor of joining the religious order who taught the young daughter of the family for whom she worked, she was set free because of the dictates of Italian law. After professing eternal vows, she lived out the remainder of her life as a Canossian Sister of the Institute of Catechumens in Venice, Italy. St. Josephine was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and is recognized as the patron saint of Sudan and all enslaved people.



Mensaje de la semana del Padre Carl



Sea un discípulo misionero, no un cliente

"En virtud de nuestro bautismo, nosotros, el pueblo de Dios, nos hemos convertido en discípulos misioneros".
(Mt 28:19)

El bautismo no es solo un ritual para satisfacer una tradición familiar, solo porque "eso es lo que hacemos", o peor, una excusa para celebrar una fiesta. Debido al pecado original, venimos al mundo con un alma que está sobrenaturalmente muerta. En el Bautismo, la morada íntima y personal de Dios se precipita en nuestra alma, ¡y lo que faltaba en nuestra naturaleza humana se vuelve milagrosamente vivo! El bautismo es una relación con Jesús en lo más profundo de nuestro ser. Pero el bautismo es solo el comienzo. Una relación requiere que ambas partes participen. La forma en que participamos, la forma en que respondemos al don insondable del bautismo de Dios es ser discípulos misioneros activos en nuestra parroquia, no "clientes" de la iglesia.

¿Cómo es un discípulo diferente de un cliente?

Tómese un momento para reflexion-

ar en silencio sobre la tabla de abajo. ¿Es usted un cliente o un discípulo?

El Papa Francisco dijo: "El discípulo misionero tiene ante todo un centro, un punto de referencia, que es la



persona de Jesús". Él resalta el hecho de que los Apóstoles no tienen nada propio que anunciar, ni son capaces de mostrar por sí mismos, pero hablan y actúan como los "enviados", como mensajeros de Jesús".

Además dijo: "E incluso para nosotros esta misión es auténtica solo si comienza desde su centro constante e inmutable que es Jesús", dijo. "No es una iniciativa de creyentes individuales, grupos o incluso grupos grandes, pero es la misión de la Iglesia inseparablemente

unida a su Señor. Ningún cristiano proclama el Evangelio" por sí mismo", sino solo como uno enviado por la Iglesia que recibió el mandato de Cristo mismo".

Todo lo que hacemos en nuestras vidas y lo que hacemos en la parroquia es para la gloria de Dios y siempre gritamos desde nuestros corazones: ¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Si ha mirado y meditado en oración sobre la lista y ha encontrado que cae más en la categoría de "cliente" que en la de "discípulo", personalmente lo invito a venir a Alpha. Alpha comienza el lunes 10 de febrero y es un lugar para disfrutar de una excelente comida, conocer nuevos amigos y conversar sobre los conceptos básicos de la fe. Es un lugar para compartir sus ideas, ser escuchado y encontrarse con Jesús dentro de una pequeña comunidad de personas amigables. Regístrese en StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha.

¡Un feliz año nuevo para todos y sus familias!

El p. Carl

Un cliente exige servicio.	Un discípulo sirve humildemente.
Un cliente quiere su propio camino.	Un discípulo quiere el camino de Dios.
Un cliente decide qué creer y qué no creer para adaptarse a sí mismo.	Un discípulo respeta las Escrituras y las enseñanzas de la Iglesia.
Un cliente es un miembro de la audiencia.	Un discípulo es un miembro de la comunidad.
Un cliente se siente con derecho.	Un discípulo se siente bendecido.
Un cliente puede donar, esperando beneficios exclusivos.	Un discípulo hace ofrendas por gratitud por los beneficios ya recibidos.
Un cliente espera "sacar algo" de la Iglesia.	Un discípulo está motivado para "dar algo" a la Iglesia.
Un cliente podría saber ACERCA de Jesús.	Un discípulo tiene una relación activa CON Jesús.

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AD PAGE

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



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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. Deacon Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer, Retired

**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**

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Kathy Haw-
kins, Travis Cox, Analy Palomino,
Vanessa Suarez and Erleene Echon

**St. Michael School |
Escuela de San Miguel**

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

**Faith Formation in
English**

925-667-4096

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925-667-4096 Niños
925-344-7150 Adultos

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Hispano1@StMichaelLivermore.com
Ricardo:
Hispano2@StMichaelLivermore.com



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