



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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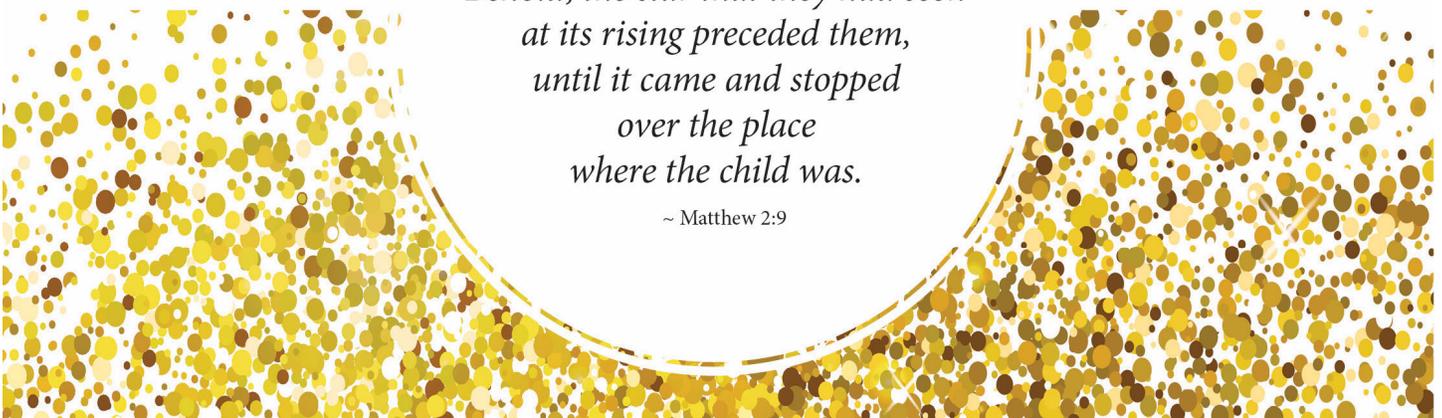


JANUARY 8, 2017 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



*Behold, the star that they had seen
at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped
over the place
where the child was.*

~ Matthew 2:9



Mass Times

Mon-Fri: 7:00 am & 8:30 am
Wed: 7:00 pm (Spanish)
Saturday: 8:30 am

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
7:00 pm (Spanish)

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

Sign Language: 1st Sun, 11:00 am
Vietnamese: 4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Confession

Saturday, in the Church
9:00 am & 3:45 pm
6:15 pm in Spanish
1st & 3rd Wed, Convent Chapel, 2:30 pm

Anointing of the Sick

1st Saturday after 8:30 am Mass or by
appointment: 925-447-1585

Eucharistic Adoration

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours
access code, call 925-980-4826

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Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence
Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired
Rev. Dcn Rob Federle
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Sunday Readings

Coming Before the King

First Reading

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (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.

Second Reading

The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 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 members 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

and Meditation

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!

Gospel

Magi from the east arrive looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

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 Per-

sian 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.

Meditation

When the magi entered the house, they adored Jesus. If you have spent time in a Eucharistic Adoration chapel, recall your experience. Consider scheduling a regular hour each week in the chapel as a new practice in 2017. For more info about Eucharistic Adoration, visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Eucharist

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week

Monday: The Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins

Friday: St. Hilary

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

Prayer to St Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the divine power of God, cast into hell satan, and all the evil spirits, who roam through out the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Prayers & Devotion

Chalking of the Doors Epiphany House Blessing

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, Theophany, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of “chalking the doors.” The formula for the ritual is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: 20 + C+M + B + 17.

Background

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “17” at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request that Christ to bless those homes so marked that he stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

At Home

Gather your family to pray the prayers below as you inscribe in chalk the initials of the three Magi above each door:

20 + C + M + B + 17

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.



Mass Intentions

Saturday 1/7

8:30am Tom & Marsha Becker
5:00pm Mike Battaion †
7:00 pm Jasmine Suarez

Sunday 1/8

6:45am Dominic Mower †
8:00am Cesario Mata †
9:30am John Paul Blackwell †
11:00am Ralph & Katherine Burkett †
12:30pm Melanie Maher †
6:00pm Tom & Marsha Becker

Monday 1/9

7:00am Mary Ann O'Reilly †
8:30am Tyler Rickard †

Tuesday 1/10

7:00am Dave Ruth
8:30am Patrick Kraft

Wednesday 1/11

7:00am Mary Ann O'Reilly †
8:30am Louis Gunn †
7:00pm Gregorio, Felisciana, Raul,
Issac Chavez †

Thursday 1/12

7:00 am Donna Paxiao †
8:30 am Kurt Luke †

Friday 1/13

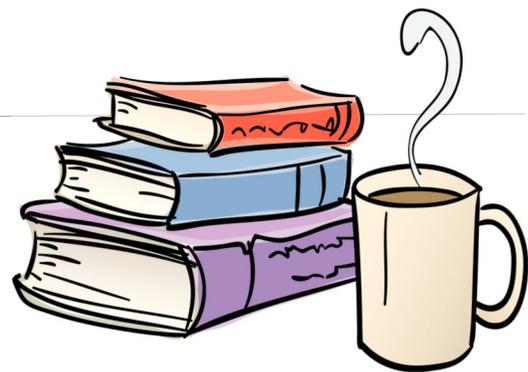
7:00am Mary Ann O' Reilly †
8:30am Ursula Edwards †

Saturday 1/14

8:30am Rae Winslow † and
Asunta, Greeman, Justiliano
Gonsales †
5:00pm Walt Perry †
7:00 pm Mass for Our Parish

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

Small Group Bible Study



Bible Study is one of the top New Year's Resolutions!



"Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother led me through the astounding Old Testament references to Our Lady. Learning the cultural context helped me understand the meaning behind the church teachings about Mary. I feel like I've just discovered a great treasure!

—Cindy Avila

"I didn't know any other Catholics, and joining a small group has been the best. I have made new relationships, and we support each other in our journey to holiness, keeping each other in check. I feel like I belong!"

— Justine Cameron

"I felt like I had a pile of Catholic knowledge, bits and pieces collected from homilies and Mass readings. It wasn't until **The BibleTimeline: Story of Salvation** that I was able to make sense of what God is doing in the world and in my personal life. My relationship with Jesus has never been this close."

- Michael Santeria

"I used to think Mass was boring. After completing A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, the whole liturgy has come to life. I have a better understanding of the Scripture behind everything that we do and say. My life will never be the same."

"The BibleTimeline: Story of Salvation literally made my life make sense. Learning about God's masterful plan, and how I fit into that plan gave my life meaning and purpose. The Catholic faith makes sense to me in a way it didn't before.

— Scott Giamonna



Starting in January:

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Take an exciting tour of the Liturgy as it explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. *5 sessions. About 60 min of homework per session.*

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

Join this extraordinary study that reveals Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her Divine Son. *8 sessions. About 60 min of homework per session.*

Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

Embark on a fascinating journey through the entire Bible, going deep into each period of salvation history to discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. *24 sessions. About 1.5 - 2 hours of homework per session.*

Register by January 15 at StMichaelLivermore.com/BibleStudy

For more info, call/text Tina at 925-961-7231

Details:

- Home based groups decide when, where and how frequently to meet (usually once per week or every other week).
- Leading a group is easy! The workbook and video lectures do all the teaching. You just provide a welcoming space with internet access to gather.
- Cost is about \$2.00 per session.
- Sign up together with your group of at least four friends, **or sign up as an individual to be placed in a group of 4-8 people.**

Events

Training for New Readers

Starts Jan 9

Come and attend the four classroom sessions on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, starting Jan 9, 2017 and continuing for the following three Mondays. The fifth session will be at a time arranged between you and the instructors. These sessions will be held in the Mother's Room, just to the left of the altar.

For more info call 925-447-8814 x 222 or email Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com.

Managing Physical Aspects of Grief

Jan 19, 7 pm at St Charles

Grief is not only emotional. Our bodies will give us information about our grief. In this workshop you will learn to recognize the signs of grief expressed through our bodies, and get information on how to manage these aspects of bereavement. Presented by Claire La Scola, retired registered nurse .

Walk for Life West Coast

Sat, Jan 21

St Michael's will again join thousands of pro-life people in a peaceful, public celebration of life at the West Coast Walk for Life. The 2 mile walk is a flat, easy stroll from Civic Center to Justin Herman Plaza.

BART is the easiest way to get to and from the Walk for Life. Take Dublin/Pleasanton station to Civic Center. Then take Embarcadero to Dublin/Pleasanton to return. Total fare is \$12.30.

Digging Deeper: The Magi and King Herod

The Magi and the Mass

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.



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.

More Events

Golden Friends Trip: Thunder Valley Casino Wed, Jan 25

Join us for a trip to Thunder Valley Casino! Price is \$27 per person, which includes \$15 in slot play and \$5 food coupon. Bus leaves promptly at 8:15 am from St Michael's and returns approximately 5 pm. Contact Wilma at 925 447-8198 or wilma.matuska@gmail.com. Make checks payable to St. Michael Church.

Priesthood Discernment Weekend Jan 27-29

St. Patrick's Seminary Vocation Discernment Retreat Weekend is on January 27-29 for men 21 years and older. If you know someone who might be a good candidate, please invite him to call Fr Neal at NClemens@oakdiocese.org or call 510-267-8345. The deadline to register for the retreat is January 16.

Blessing for Small Group Bible Study Jan 28 & 29 at All Masses

Bible Study is so much more than an academic pursuit. It is an encounter with the Living Word! To start (or continue) your Small Group Bible Study, come receive a special blessing at Mass on Sat, Jan 28 at the 5 pm Mass or at any Sunday Mass on Jan 29.

If you joined a Small Group Bible Study, or if you are in an ongoing group, please stand when instructed.

Regular Weekly Adorers Needed

URGENT!

We need someone for Saturdays at 3 am, 4 am and 2 pm, Mondays at 3:00 am, Tuesdays at 3:00 am and Thursdays at 1:00 am. To sign up, please email Adoration@StMichaelLivermore.com or complete the form in the Chapel.

Benefit Dinners

Portuguese Crab Feed January 28

IDES Livermore & Pleasanton invites you to join us for all-you-can eat hot cioppino crab and cold cracked crab, garlic bread, salad, wine and dessert.

Join us on Sat, Jan 28. No host cocktails 5 pm Dinner 6-8 pm, Dance 8-11 pm. Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Avenue

Contact 925-455-8359 or email ideslp@outlook.com for tickets or more information.

Birtheright "For the Love of Family" Bene- fit Dinner and Auction February 11

Hosted by Birtheright of Livermore & Knights of Columbus, Fr. John C. Murphy, Council #7987, come learn about God's plan for our families & enjoy live music, fine food & fellowship.

Saturday, February 11, 2017, 5:30pm, Moran Hall, adjacent to St. Raymond Church, 11555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin, CA 94568. Reserve tickets by calling 925- 449-5887.



Knights of Columbus 44th Annual Crab Feed February 11

Enjoy crab and pasta dinner in town while supporting a worthy charitable cause on Feb 11 at Robert Livermore Community Center at 4:30—11:00 pm. No host bar - wine, beer and cocktails, live entertainment and dancing, door prizes and raffles, live & silent auctions.

Tickets are available after Mass or by contacting Dennis Lundbom at 775-772-6369 or Mark & Claire Duguid 925-443-5873. Proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus charitable works.

St Michael School 58th Annual Wine Tasting Gala & Auction February 25

Save the date for St Michael School's biggest fundraising gala at Robert Livermore Community Center on Feb 25. This year's theme will be "A Night at the Oscars".



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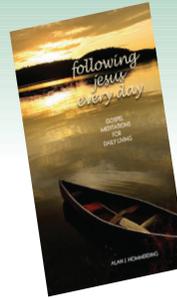
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Noticias Parroquiales

LA VIDA EN LA OSCURIDAD

En Isaías, nos alegramos porque una luz ha venido a alterar la oscuridad que cubre la Tierra. Esta luz atrae hacia ella reyes y pastores, hijas e hijos. El salmo describe lo maravillo de la vida que se vive dentro de la luz: la justicia y la paz florecen, los pobres son rescatados, los afligidos ayudados y la vida de los humildes salvadas. En Efesios se nos recuerdan que somos coherederos de la promesa, de la luz, que es Jesús nuestro Salvador. Pero Mateo cuenta el resto de la historia. Hay oposición a la luz y es mortal. Los magos son guiados por la luz de una estrella, pero cuando ellos encuentran a Herodes, la luz se pierde con ellos. Herodes les miente acerca de sus intenciones en cuanto a este nuevo rey. La luz regresa solo cuando los magos dejan a Herodes. Ellos llegan al nuevo

rey, un bebé, y se le advierte que regresen por otro camino para evitar volver a ver a Herodes, sus mentiras y sus malas intenciones. Ellos y el niño están a salvo, pero muchos sufrirán a causa de la maldad que hay dentro de Herodes.

LA VIDA EN LA LUZ

Hoy se nos recuerda que hay oscuridad en el mundo. Hay mal. Herodes está preocupado con proteger su posición y su poder. Jesús está preocupado por proteger a los pobres e indefensos. El mal se disfraza como algo bueno. Jesús se ofrece así mismo sin disfraz o pretensión. El mal siempre pone su propio interés en primer lugar. Jesús siempre pone a los pobres, afligidos y los humildes en primer lugar. Los días festivos ya terminaron y ahora regresamos al Tiempo Ordinario. Regresamos a nuestras

vidas ordinarias. Este es el tiempo más importante porque es durante estos días ordinarios que fortaleces nuestro conocimiento de lo que es bueno, de Jesús, y de nuestra voluntad de hacer bien en un mundo donde el mal siempre parece ser tan poderoso. La alegría y promesa de la Navidad se hacen realidad en estos días ordinarios. Esta es la Epifanía.



Registración de Flocknote

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

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Es tiempo de añadir los reyes magos al pesebre. En 1448 llegaron los pesebres italianos a las iglesias españolas, pero no fue hasta que el Rey Carlos III le regaló un pesebre a su hijo en el siglo XVIII que el uso de pesebres se expandió en los hogares. Desde entonces, el uso de nacimientos llegó al continente americano en donde se convirtió en la decoración principal para las fiestas navideñas.

Así como en todo país latinoamericano el montaje del Belén es una tradición, lo es también en Venezuela. Con el pesebre venezolano

llegan también aguinaldos, parrandas, Misas y patines. ¡Sí! ¡Patines!

Desde la mitad del siglo pasado los venezolanos celebran la época navideña con "patinadas". Estas "patinadas" normalmente se hacen por las mañanas y muchas calles están cerradas a los autos hasta las 8 a.m. para que niños y jóvenes puedan disfrutar de los patines, bicicletas y otros juguetes que les regala el niño Dios. Por esto, muchos niños duermen con un "cordoncito" atado al dedo gordo de los pies, que cuelgan por la ventana para que los despierten los que pasan patinado.

--Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM



La Parroquia de San Miguel

En la Parroquia de San Miguel nosotros como mission celebramos los sacramentos, formamos discipulos, y llevamos a Cristo a la comunidad.

458 Maple St
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Contáctenos

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Viernes 9-6 y Lunes-Jueves 4-7
Office@StMichaelLivermore.com

Padre Rafael Hinojosa
Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com

Misa en español

Sábado 7:00 pm
Domingo 12:30 pm
Miércoles 7:00 pm

Confesión en español

Sábados 6:15-6:45 pm
Primer y tercer miércoles a las
2:30 pm en el convento

Adoración Eucarística Perpetua

Para un directorio de sus socios de oración y para el capitán de horas, llame a Elsa al 925-339-6411

RICA en español

Ana Fregoso: 925-344-7150

Formacion de Fe

Ruben Nunez: 925-453-6494

Bautismos, Quinceañera, Matrimonios, Confirmación

925-447-1585 x10

8 DE ENERO DE 2017 | LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR



*De pronto la estrella
que habían visto surgir,
comenzó a guiarlos, hasta que se detuvo
encima de donde estaba
el niño.*

~ Mateo 2:9



Para obtener información en español sobre eventos y noticias de nuestra parroquia.

Si estan interesados en agregar o presentar un artículo en el boletín en español, por favor contactar a Brenda Zavala 510-691-2864