



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

St Michael School
925-447-1888 smliv.org

Stay Connected!

Sign up to receive texts & emails at
StMichaelLivermore.flocknote.com
We're Social!



December 1, 2019 | First Sunday of Advent



They shall beat their swords
into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
*one nation shall not raise the sword
against another.*

~ Isaiah 2:4

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Fr Carl's Parish Update—Page 5
- Spend Advent with Mary! 8 episodes free—Page 3
- Advent Confession Opportunities—Page 7
- Lots of Advent events—Page 8
- Christmas Mass Times—Page 8

Summary

Happy New Year! If this strikes you as a bit premature, it isn't really because this Sunday marks the start of the new Church year. In the Catholic Church, the first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the cycle of readings, holy days, and holidays for roughly the next 365 days. It's also the time of year not only when we are called to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, but also when we are asked to examine our lives and take stock, spiritually speaking.

The readings for today all carry a common theme: Wake up! Wake up from the slumber that keeps marriages mediocre, careers unfulfilling, moral lives stagnant. Wake up to the possibility of a new beginning, a new way of living that welcomes Jesus into the cribs of our days, the mangers of our souls. We are told to awaken from the slumber that is robbing us of a deeper and more meaningful relationship with our God, and begin to live the new and abundant life that we have been promised.

Sometimes people use today's Scripture passages, especially those in the Gospel about two men working in the field and one being taken away, in light of a relatively new and profoundly un-Catholic theology of the "Rapture," which says that the faithful will be taken to heaven and the unbelievers "left behind." We will see that the opposite is true. It is those who are left be-

hind in covenant with God who are saved, and, like in the days of Noah, it is those who are unfaithful who will be swept into exile from God.

This Advent, we not only want to make a new beginning with the Church, but we also want to be sure that we are with those who are "left behind" in covenant with God at the end of all time.



Unpack the First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

The Jews were accustomed to the idea that the blessing of Israel would mean the blessing of all nations. Israel was strategically located between the two great seats of power in the ancient world, Egypt and Mesopotamia. That meant that the vital arteries of trade crossed through Palestine, making it more influential than its own power or wealth would otherwise suggest. Jerusalem and its God were well known throughout the region and beyond. Judaism's radical monotheism was an oddity in the ancient world and earned the admiration of many seekers of truth beyond the borders of Israel.

So that Isaiah should say "All nations shall stream toward it" and

"from Zion shall go forth instruction, / and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" wouldn't surprise Jews. Rather, it would directly connect with the understanding of their important place in the plan of God. Only if we fall into the common misconception of Israel's historical insignificance are we surprised by the Christmas story. To those who honestly seek the truth and who are attentive to the signs of the times in any age, the surprises of God are easier to spot and embrace.

Unpack the Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

In this letter, St. Paul gives us what could be a catalog of our vices of today: ca-

rousing, drunkenness, sexual excess and lust, quarreling, and jealousy. That the Christians of an increasingly debauched Rome should be warned of the same sins by which we are tempted shouldn't really surprise us. These aren't simply the sins of ancient Rome or modern America; they're the sins that plague people of every time, place, nation, and race.

The time in which we're now living is the dispensation of grace in Jesus Christ, that time between his first coming and his second. In every time and place, wakefulness is the primary posture of those who search for God; wakefulness against temptation and for his visitation. We always stand at that moment when, "The day is at hand." In the Advent season, we practice our wakeful-

ness with particular attention. We turn the events of God's past saving actions, and particularly those of the Nativity, over in our minds so as to engrave the outlines of his *modus operandi*; his way of acting in our souls so that we might not be caught unaware at his next visit. As Christians, we always live at the border, between the long night of sin and the eternal dawn.

Unpack the Gospel Matthew 24:37–44

The warning that Jesus levels at his disciples isn't so much a caution against sin as it is against being "unconcerned." This is the way that he describes the attitude of those who were swept away in the flood at the time of Noah. Their mistake was in being unconscious of God in the midst of ordinary activities. Jesus heightens this warning as he describes the time of his second coming in verses 40 and 41. Certainly nothing suggests sin in either activity, yet one will gain an everlasting reward and the other not. What separates the two destinies?

In a word—wakefulness. It isn't for us to know when the Lord will come, but we need to be aware that he will come. We're called to

live in a state of wakefulness, of spiritual attention. Like the homeowner who doesn't know exactly when the thief will come testifies to the fact that he must "keep a watchful eye," the Lord for whom we wait tells us, "You also must be prepared."

Reflect & Discuss

Prepare for your study by listening to what Dr. Edward Sri has to say about today's Scripture readings. Watch the brief Opening the Word video on FORMED.org. Then reflect upon and discuss these questions with family and friends:

What is the major thrust of the readings for the first week of Advent, according to Dr. Sri? What are we being called to do at this time of year?

A common non-Catholic teaching about the end of times is the Rapture. What does the whole idea of being "left behind" mean to you?

Digging Deeper: The Rapture?

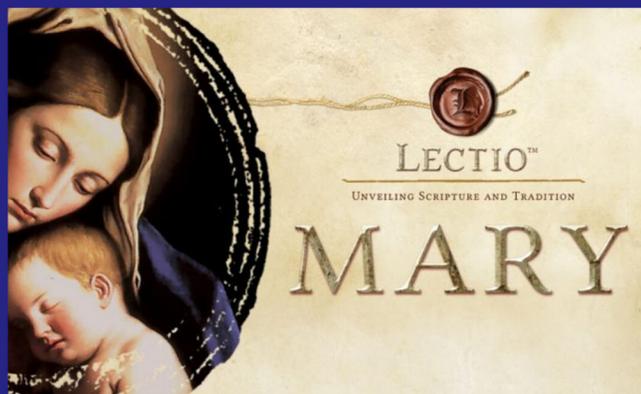
Although Christians have always believed that both the living and dead will encounter Jesus in the Final Judgment, the idea of a Rap-

ture (in which Jesus comes once to take the devout and leaves the rest of humanity behind to suffer for a thousand years until he comes again, apparently for the third time) is a recent development. This teaching was developed in the 1830s by John Nelson Darby and received enormous publicity in the 1990s in the "Left Behind" novel series written by Tim LaHaye. For the Catholic teaching on the final judgment and end of time, see the CCC 668ff.

Hello, Matthew

The start of a new liturgical year, beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, also marks the transition from one lectionary cycle (A, B, or C) to the next. These cycles are a result of the Second Vatican Council, which ordered a change in the Sunday readings at Mass so that Catholics would become more familiar with the text of the Bible. As a result we now have a three-year cycle of readings built around readings from the three synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Today, we begin cycle A and will hear from the Gospel According to Matthew.

Reprinted with permission from Augustine Institute from the Opening the Word Leader Guide available on FORMED.org



Spend Advent with Mary

Why is Mary so important to Catholics? Featuring the insightful biblical teaching of Dr. Brant Pitre, ***Lectio Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God*** examines what Scripture, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about Mary.

All 8 episodes free to you on FORMED.org

Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 11/30

8:30am Jeff Brandt
5:00pm Richard J. Sanchez
7:00pm Cecil G. Correa

Sunday 12/1

6:45am Cheryl Ruth †
8:00am Mass for Our Parish
9:30am Anthony Pham Van Hoi †
11:00am* John & Kate Egan †
John J. Vericella
Paul Talmage
Jamie Mario
Estelita Torres
12:30pm Candido Echon
6:00pm Refugio Telles †

Monday 12/2

8:30am Peter Nunes †

Tuesday 12/3

8:30am Patrick Allen †

Wednesday 12/4

8:30am Donald G. Gardner
7:00pm Marlene Barbara Ann

Thursday 12/5

8:30am Jose Baltazar, Sr †

Friday 12/6

8:30am Edward Kupski †
10:00am Lesley Inzerillo †

The first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 am Mass is a communal Mass where several intentions are offered.



Prayer

Take a deep breath and close your eyes. Allow yourself to become still. Now imagine that you have just learned that you are going to die very soon. What is your first thought? What is your first feeling? Hold that thought and the feeling as you take another deep breath. Now see Jesus talking directly to you. Hear him say, "There is still time. Wake up! Stop sleeping your life away!" What areas of your life come to mind as you hear Jesus? Now see him gently touching you on the shoulder and saying, "You have time. So stay alert. Go and...." What is he asking you to do? Listen carefully for his guidance.

Resolution

During this first week of Advent, choose one activity that will take you out of the "slumber" of commercialism and busyness, and "awaken" a new zeal for the faith. You might attend daily Mass one morning, pray the rosary over the noon hour, or read Scripture instead of watch TV. Make a choice based on what you heard Jesus tell you to do during our prayer time.

Would You Lead the Parish Prayer Team?

Our prayer team of over 70 members receives prayer requests weekly. We are looking for someone (or a team of someones!) to be responsible for sending out the prayer requests weekly to this group. It's not complicated, and training is provided.

If you are interested. Please inquire by emailing:
Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



Parish Update!

Dear St Michael Family,

As we begin the Church's new liturgical year, allow me to reflect on what we have accomplished as a community of disciples and where we hope to go in the upcoming year.

Thank you to all our generous parishioners who continue to give so faithfully to our regular offertory and to our Maintenance & Improvement fund the first weekend of each month. With the guidance of our Finance Council, we continue to ensure that we are good stewards of your financial contributions to our St. Michael community. Contributions given to our maintenance & improvement fund make the below projects possible along with other substantial contributions from our community. Additionally, your generous support of the Feast of St Michael dinner auction and raffle has been a tremendous support. Here is a brief report of your donations at work:

Phase 1 of our Church parking lot maintenance and beautification has been completed.

Phase 2 of our parking lot and asphalt maintenance in the school yard is scheduled for April 13th, 2020 during Easter Break (weather permitting).

The Adoration Chapel Refresh Project will be taking place in mid-December. The old, creaking pews will be replaced with new cushioned chairs. Carpeting, softer

paint colors, lighting adjustments and seating configuration will be taking place to create a soothing and quiet place for prayer.

Sound dampening panels have been purchased for the Large and Small Hall to help with the acoustics, especially needed for small group discussions. These will be installed in December and January.



Improved LED exterior lighting around our entire campus took place in Spring 2019

Completion of the Convent refresh happened in Winter 2019

I am also happy to report that the number of parishioners attending Mass has increased since last year. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, and without it, all the programs and groups and events are without soul. It warms my heart to see our pews full at Mass, being nourished by the Lord!

Adults: 1,868.25 (2018) vs. 1,977.5 (2019) – +5.6%

Children: 347 (2018) vs. 360.25 (2019) -- +3.6%

Our Fall Alpha program was a wonderful success, with so many people encountering Jesus for the first time or in a new way. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus, Hispanic Community, Catholic Daughters, Legion of Mary, IDES Portuguese Community, Vietnamese Community and Filipino Community for sponsoring meals for our Alpha guests. The food was delicious, reflected our ethnic diversity and was a big hit! Thanks also to our core team, our hosts and helpers, our prayer team, and all the Alpha volunteers who worked behind-the-scenes. We are excited to keep the momentum going with our Spring Alpha, which will begin on February 10.

Our parish is thriving and is becoming a more vibrant community, all thanks to your prayers, discipleship and contributions. We are truly blessed, and it is my prayer that we continue to embrace our motto to Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples and Bring Christ to People.

This Advent please pray the Angelus and the St. Michael Prayer every day at 12 noon. When we do this together, we remember who we are as parishioners united in prayer and in our mission entrusted to us by Christ.

May God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

Reminders for the Week

Wednesday, December 4

New Latin Mass Society
7 pm in the Convent

Helping Catholics deepen their prayer life by learning about Latin in prayer, worship and the history of the Church.

Sunday, December 8

Pancake Breakfast
7:30 - 11:30 am in the Large Hall

The Knights of Columbus and Welcoming Ministry offer a free breakfast! Donations for the Christmas Basket program gratefully accepted.

Traditional Latin Mass
8:00 am

We will celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Upcoming Events

Golden Friends Luncheon

Friday, December 13, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm in the Large Hall

Are you retired or are you free from work on Fridays or do you have friends and relatives who are? Bring them to our Golden Friends Luncheon to enjoy fellowship, entertainment and spiritual growth. Call Mary at 925-784-1812 to register.

Charismatic Healing Mass

Join us for an introduction to the charismatic experience for Catholics.

December 14 Saturday night 7:30 to 10:00 pm at Holy Spirit Parish, 37588 Fremont Blvd.

January 5 Sunday afternoon 2:30 to 4:30 pm at St. Michael Parish.

Sponsored by Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office, Diocese of Oakland and the St. Raymond Charismatic Prayer Group. For further information, call CCRO at 925-828-6644.

Advent Events

See the following page for our events and experiences to help us prepare for Christmas. ———>

Collection Report

Thank you for your continued financial support of St Michael Parish. Your offerings make it possible for our parish to forward the mission of celebrating the sacraments, growing disciples and bringing Christ to people.

(due to the holiday, the collection report from last week is not available.)



Faith Direct is a safe, easy way to make donations to St Michael Parish online!

Weekly/Monthly | One-Time | Special Holy Day | "Catch Up" Offerings

Membership.FaithDirect.net/CA602

Advent Events

DRIVE THROUGH PRAYER



December 2 - 20
Monday-Friday
5:30 - 6:30 pm

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Preparing Our Hearts for Jesus

Wednesdays: December 4, 11 and 18
5:30 - 7:00 pm in the Church

Beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 4 priests available for Confession. Ending with Benediction.



XLT

Praise & Worship.
Adoration. Reflection.

Friday, December 6
7:00 pm
St Michael Church



Feast of

Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

4:30 am Mananitas
5:00 am Mass in Spanish
8:30 am Mass in English
7:00 pm Mass in Spanish

Caroling Downtown



December 14
in front of Strizzi's
10:00 am

Simbang Gabi

The Traditional Filipino Novena of Masses at Dawn
December 16-24, Mass at 5:30 am in the Church



Las Posadas



18 al 23 de diciembre a las 7:00 pm Salón de San Miguel

Stock Gifts to St Michael's

Did you know that St Michael Parish can accept stock gifts as your donation to our community? Stocks have greatly appreciated over the past few years and there are some tax advantages to making a donation of some of your appreciated stock to St. Michael Parish. **One advantage is to avoid capital gains taxes on your appreciated stock assets.** Of course we encourage you to consult with your tax advisor as well.

If you are interested in making a stock gift donation to St. Michael Parish, please reach out to Business Manager, Eric Hom at EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com who can assist in this process.

LLNL HOME Campaign

When Lab employees donate to St Michael's or St Vincent de Paul Society through the HOME campaign, the Lab matches each donation.

If you work at the Lab, consider contributing through the HOME Campaign this year!

Fr Carl's Advent Challenge

Every day at noon, pray the **Angulus Prayer** and the **St Michael Prayer!** Let's remember who we are as parishioners, united in prayer and in our mission entrusted to us by Christ.

Don't know them? Visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Prayer



Welcome, Fr Rex Marfil!

Fr Rex is a Professor at St. Joseph Regional Seminary in Jaro, Iloilo City, Philippines. He is on sabbatical, visiting with us until January 18.

When you see Fr Rex, give him a warm St Michael's hello!

Parish Office

HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 23
REOPEN THURSDAY DAY, JANUARY 2

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

3:00 pm: English
5:00 pm: Children's Mass
7:00 pm: English
9:00 pm: Spanish
11:30 pm: Carols followed by
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

6:45 am: English
8:00 am: English
8:15 am: Spanish in the Hall
9:30 am: English
9:45 am: English in the Hall
11:00 am: English
11:15 am: English in the Hall
12:30 pm: Spanish

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31

6:00 pm in English,
7:30 pm in Spanish

January 1

7:00 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm
and 6:00 pm English
7:30 pm in Spanish



Mensaje de la semana del Padre Carl



Actualización parroquial

Querida familia de San Miguel,

Al comenzar el nuevo año litúrgico de la Iglesia, deseo reflexionar sobre lo que hemos logrado como comunidad de discípulos y hacia dónde esperamos llegar el próximo año.

Gracias a todos nuestros generosos feligreses que continúan contribuyendo tan fielmente a nuestro ofertorio regular y al fondo de Mantenimiento y Mejoramiento el primer fin de semana de cada mes. Con la orientación de nuestro Consejo de Finanzas, continuamos garantizando ser buenos administradores de sus contribuciones financieras a nuestra comunidad de St. Michael. Las contribuciones dadas a nuestro fondo de mantenimiento y mejoras hacen posibles los siguientes proyectos junto con otras contribuciones sustanciales de nuestra comunidad. Además, su generoso apoyo a la subasta y rifa de la cena de la Fiesta de San Miguel ha sido un gran apoyo. Aquí hay un breve informe de sus donaciones:

La fase 1 del mantenimiento y embellecimiento del estacionamiento de nuestra Iglesia se ha completado.

La fase 2 de nuestro estacionamiento y mantenimiento de asfalto en el patio de la escuela está programada para el 13 de abril de 2020 durante las vacaciones de Pascua (si el clima lo permite).

El Proyecto de actualización de la Capilla de Adoración se llevará a cabo a mediados de diciembre. Los viejos bancos crujientes serán reemplazados por nuevas sillas acolchadas. Se pondrán alfombras, colores de pintura más suaves, ajustes de iluminación y configura-

ción de asientos para crear un lugar tranquilo y silencioso para la oración.

Se han comprado paneles de amortiguación de sonido para la sala grande y pequeña para ayudar con la acústica, especialmente necesaria para discusiones de grupos pequeños. Estos se instalarán en diciembre y enero.

La iluminación exterior LED mejorada en todo nuestro campus tuvo lu-



gar en la primavera de 2019

La finalización de la actualización del convento ocurrió en el invierno de 2019

También me complace informar que el número de feligreses que asistieron a misa ha aumentado desde el año pasado. La Eucaristía es la fuente y la cumbre de nuestra fe, y sin ella, todos los programas, grupos y eventos no tienen alma. ¡Me alegra el corazón al ver nuestros bancos llenos en la misa, siendo nutridos por el Señor!

Adultos: 1,868.25 (2018) vs. 1,977.5 (2019) - + 5.6%

Niños: 347 (2018) vs. 360.25 (2019) - + 3.6%

Nuestro programa Fall Alpha fue un éxito maravilloso, con tanta gente encontrando a Jesús por primera vez o de una manera nueva. Un agradecimiento especial a los Caballeros de Colón, la comunidad hispana, las hijas católicas, la Legión de María, la comunidad portuguesa IDES, la comunidad vietnamita y la comunidad filipina por patrocinar comidas para nuestros invitados Alpha. ¡La comida era deliciosa, reflejaba nuestra diversidad étnica y fue un gran éxito! Gracias también a nuestro equipo central, nuestros anfitriones y ayudantes, nuestro equipo de oración y todos los voluntarios Alpha que trabajaron detrás de escena. Estamos entusiasmados por mantener el impulso con nuestro Spring Alpha, que comenzará el 10 de febrero.

Nuestra parroquia está prosperando y se está convirtiendo en una comunidad más vibrante, todo gracias a sus oraciones, discipulado y contribuciones. Estamos verdaderamente bendecidos, y es mi oración que sigamos abrazando nuestro lema para celebrar los sacramentos, crecer discípulos y llevar a Cristo a las personas.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias.

Este adviento rece el Ángelus y la Oración de San Miguel todos los días a las 12 del mediodía. Cuando hacemos esto juntos, recordamos quiénes somos como feligreses unidos en oración y en nuestra misión que Cristo nos ha confiado.

P. Carl

AD PAGE

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



Flocknote.com



@StMichaelLivermore



@StMichaelLivermore



@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

Finance Council Chair:

Edna McComb

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Edna

McCombe, 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

Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos

Ministerio Hispano

Veronica:

Hispano1@StMichaelLivermore.com

Ricardo:

Hispano2@StMichaelLivermore.com



Rev. Father Carl Arcosa, Pastor Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4057
Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen Parochial Vicar Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4053
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer	925-447-1585
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes DeaconD@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-1585
Eric Hom Business Manager Business@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4052
Jacqueline Garcia, Church Secretary Office@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-1585
School Front Office	925-447-1888
Alison Wilkie, School Principal awilkie@csdo.org	925-447-1888
Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper Books@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4058
Faith Formation Office Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4096
Priscilla Stutzman, Religious Ed DRE@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4097
Joseph Garcia, Youth Ministry Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4093
Tina Gregory Communication/Adult Enrichment Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4051
JaNet Hancock, Music Director Music@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-292-5071
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-2925
RICA (español)	925-667-4053