



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 smsliv.org

Stay Connected!

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



Jesus said,
"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Matthew 11:4-5



December 15, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY

of
Advent

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Is lifting up our hands during Mass appropriate? — page 5
- Reminders for this week—page 6
- Christmas and New Year Mass times—page 7
- 4 Reasons for Year End Giving—page 8

Introduction

Who hasn't felt discouraged at some point in life? We all know how it feels when things don't go the way we want or expect. John the Baptist was feeling that way in today's Gospel. He is languishing in prison, wondering if all that he said and did had any meaning. Jesus didn't fit the common image of the Messiah. He wasn't a great political leader who would overthrow the Roman oppressors and restore Israel to glory. John's faith is shaken and so he tells his followers to seek out Jesus and ask him, "Are you the one?"

In response to John's question, Jesus tells him (and us) to look at what he was doing: healing the sick, raising the dead, bringing the good news to the poor. John would have immediately recognized those actions as the ones Isaiah prophesized that the Messiah would do on his arrival. By focusing on those deeds, John would have known that indeed Jesus was the one. Even though the plan wasn't going the way John thought it would, he could be comforted by knowing God was powerfully at work.

Sometimes God doesn't work in our lives the way we expect either. Like John, we can get discouraged and wonder why God is allowing certain struggles and difficulties to happen. That's when we, too, have to realize that the mission of Jesus is not to establish an earthly kingdom, but to restore us to the fullness of

life. When we find ourselves feeling dispirited, we need to consider that perhaps God has us exactly where he wants us to be for our perfect good and perfect growth in holiness.

Unpack the First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

This passage focuses on the spiritual fruits which accompany the coming of the messianic age. These spiritual fruits are apparent to those with the spiritual



vision necessary to see them, those who've experienced the passage from spiritual blindness to spiritual sight, which the Messiah introduces.

"They will see the glory of the LORD, / the splendor of our God," Isaiah promises. Of course, Jesus does heal the physically blind as part of his messianic ministry. While it's good to receive physical sight, it's infinitely better to see "the glory of the Lord." The physical healing is a symbolic representation of the second, greater miracle. The sight of the Lord's glory had been promised to the whole of the people in Israel, but an apparent failure on the part of the people to purify themselves for that epiphany

caused them to lose the chance to behold the Lord's glory. That promise has been fulfilled in the coming of Christ, who takes on flesh so that we all may behold the face of God. Not only does he open the eyes of the blind, but he also unveils the glory and splendor of the Lord to those who have spiritual eyes to see.

Unpack the Second Reading James 5:7-10

The Epistle of James deserves more attention than it gets. It presents a wonderful, ever-timely plan of life for the Christian. James comments upon the proper attitude toward the "coming of the Lord." He compares our state to that of the farmer who in waiting for "the precious fruit of the earth, being patient."

It's worth noting that patience is called for precisely because the crop will come in. James doesn't say that Christians shouldn't think about the second coming; he says they should look forward to it—anticipate it joyfully, eagerly—but with patience. If we recoil at the thought of Christ's coming with thoughts such as "I'm not ready yet," or "I just need to arrive at my life's goal before he comes," then we're not yet living in the manner that James prescribes.

Most of us would have to admit to thoughts of that kind. Often we're more concerned with keeping up appearances than with our appearance before the face of God. The timeless Christian message is that we live patiently, looking forward to Christ's coming; then everything else will fall into its proper place. If we seek first the kingdom, then all else will follow after.

Unpack the Gospel **Matthew 11:2-11**

In this passage, Jesus cites the signs of the coming of the messianic age from Isaiah 35 as proof that his ministry introduces the messianic age and concludes that, "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." Jesus subtly makes a similar point in the next set of verses, this time addressed to the crowds after the messengers from John depart. He asks, in reference to their response to John's prophetic message, "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?"

Interestingly, the reed was a symbol for King Herod. The reference

to a "swaying reed" may have suggested that Herod had made a truce with the Romans, which would turn to Israel's advantage. Just as God had become a stumbling block to Israel then, so would he be to Israel now in the Person of Jesus.

Rather than bending to the current political wind, as had Herod and the Jews who collaborated with Rome to maintain their power, God's people must turn to the messianic King whose coming and reign is signaled not by the rich trappings of a royal court, but by the lone voice of a prophet crying in the wilderness and the proclamation of good news to the poor.

Reflect & Discuss

Watch the short 6 minute Opening the Word video for the Third Sunday in Advent on FORMED.org Then reflect and discuss these questions with a friend:

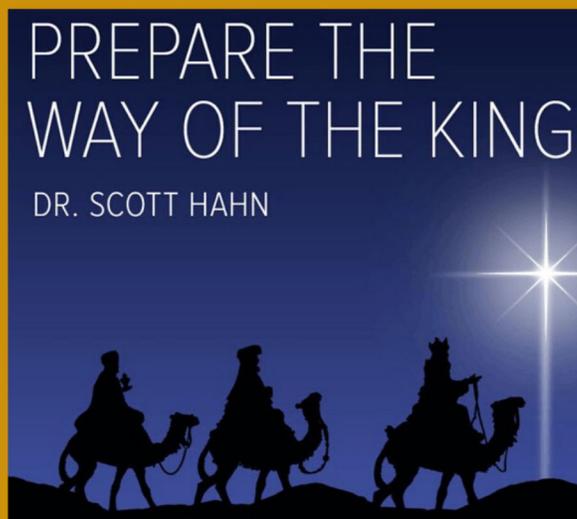
How did Jesus answer John's disciples when they asked him if he was the Messiah?

In what way does Jesus's answer give John encouragement, despite the fact he is in prison and facing death?

Digging Deeper: **The Death of John the Baptist**

John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded at Herod's fortress called Machaerus, located on a rocky hilltop above the eastern side of the Dead Sea. The area had been chosen for a sentry post because it could be seen as far north as Alexandria and as far south as Masada. In addition, smoke signals were visible in Jerusalem itself. Machaerus was more than a fort, however; it was also a lavish palace, with an extensive courtyard, baths and a beautifully detailed mosaic floor—a luxury getaway place for the king and his court. The story of John's death in Scripture is verified by the Roman historian Josephus.

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



Join Dr. Scott Hahn in preparation for Advent by listening to Prepare the Way of the King on FORMED.org. This talk by Dr. Hahn invites us to journey deeper and further into the season in order to truly be prepared for the coming of Christ.

If you haven't set up your FORMED account, go to FORMED.org, click "Sign Up" then "I'm part of a parish". Search for St Michael's by zip code 94550.

Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/14

8:30am Jackie Mueller
5:00pm Jack & Bernice Rooney †
7:00pm Maria Olga Molina †

Sunday 12/15

6:45am Paul Talmage †
Demitria Edullantes
8:00am Jeremy Lemaigen
9:30am Jean Kruger †
11:00am Russell Mueller †
12:30pm Maximilliano Cordenas †
6:00pm Mass for Our Parish

Monday 12/16

8:30am Francis Fernandes

Tuesday 12/17

8:30am James Kane †

Wednesday 12/18

8:30am Dorothy Nunes
7:00pm Souls in Purgatory

Thursday 12/19

8:30am Ruby Cabuslay †

Friday 12/20

8:30am Russ Mueller †
Jean Kruger †

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.



**“ARE YOU
THE ONE
WHO IS TO
COME, OR
SHOULD WE
LOOK FOR
ANOTHER?”**

Matthew 11: 3

Prayer

Picture yourself as one of John’s disciples. John has sent you out to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” What kind of answer are you expecting? How do you feel when Jesus says to you, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” How do you feel about going back with that answer? How do you think John is going to respond? Now ask God to show you how Jesus’s answer can make a difference in the way you think about Jesus.

Resolution

Ask the Lord to show you areas in which you might be blind, unclean, deaf, or dead. As you gain insights, write them in your journal and pray that these areas be healed.

Special Intentions

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, that Jesus the High Priest will continue to renew, increase, and strengthen in him the graces received at ordination as he carries out his sacred ministry in the Holy Church.

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

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



Understanding the Mass: Part 2

Dear St Michael Family,

Let us continue with our catechesis on the Holy Mass. We now move on to the Liturgy of the Word.

By hearing the Word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter the unending dialogue between God and the covenant people. The proclamation of the Word is thus integral to the Mass. Below are the postures and gestures for the assembly:

SIT and LISTEN attentively to the proclamation of the Sacred Scripture or the Word of God. Typically, on Sundays, we have 3 main Readings. From the Old Testament, from one of the Epistles and finally the Gospels.

STAND for the Holy Gospel at the verse before the Holy Gospel.

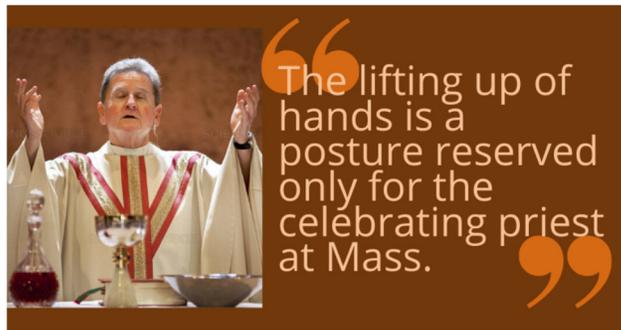
TRACE a cross with the thumb on the forehead, lips and heart when the priest or deacon announces the Holy Gospel as a form of asking for the presence of the Word of God in one's mind, upon one's lips, and in one's heart.

SIT for the homily. Here the priest breaks open the WORD OF GOD for us by giving us points and material for reflections and prayer. The homily is not an exposition of the priest's idea or theology rather he is an instrument of God or as his spokesperson and his voice to impart His message and the teachings of the Church. The homily's goal is conversion of the heart to

live out one's call as a follower of Jesus and as a faithful Catholic.

Creed: STAND and BOW during the Incarnatus ("by the power of the Holy Spirit ... and was made man"); on the solemnities of Christmas and the Annunciation all genuflect at this moment.

STAND for Prayer of the Faithful and join in the response. Here we present all our concerns and needs



of our church, community and nation as a people of God in prayer.

Questions?

Is lifting my hands up when I say "and with your Spirit" or when I say "We lift them up to the Lord" an appropriate gesture of the Mass?

Many Catholics might not know that the use of the "Orans position" – elevating one's hands during prayer - at Mass is solely to be used by the celebrating priest. The General Instructions of the Roman Missal only give the priest this posture of authority of praying with elevated hands during the liturgy. Neither the deacon nor the Catholic laity are given this liturgical role. The faithful are welcome to elevate hands or hold hands in

private prayer, outside of Mass, at home when praying with members of our family before meals, when we are in a praise and worship service or event and many others.

Is holding hands during the "Our Father" and raising them up at the end of the prayer an appropriate gesture?

The second type of hand gesture in which many laity engage is holding hands during the Our Father.

The Orans position certainly has historical use by Catholics in the Early Church and throughout the history of the Church, making it an acceptable form of prayer by the laity outside of Mass (private prayer). The same however cannot be said about the act of holding hands for prayer; specifically, during the Mass. Hand-

holding came from both the New Age Movement, and Protestantism (particularly Pentecostalism) where the horizontal dimension of community is emphasized over the vertical sacrificial element of Mass. The lifting up of hands is a posture reserved only for the celebrating priest at Mass. The members of the assembly should not lift up their hands at the end of the Our Father, when we say, "for the kingdom and the power...".

It is our goal as a parish to continually understand the Liturgy better, so as to put Christ at the center of our lives and to grow together and worship together.

Fr Carl, Pastor

Reminders for the Week

Monday—Friday

Last week of Drive Through Prayer.

Monday, December 16

The first of nine Simbang Gabi Masses begin at 5:30 am, followed by breakfast in the Hall.

Wednesday, December 18

Newly remodeled Adoration Chapel reopens at 9:00 am.

Advent Confession between 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm in the Church.

The first of six Posadas begins at 7:00 pm in the Hall.

Saturday, December 21

LAST Confession opportunities before Christmas! 9:15 am, 3:45 pm and 6:15 pm.



ADORATION
CHAPEL
CLOSED FOR
RENOVATION

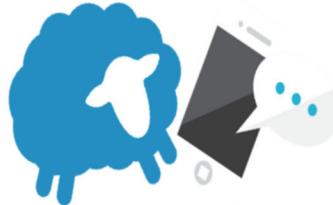
8:00 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
THROUGH
9:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

POINSETTIA DONATION

Drop Off Options:

Sunday, December 22
after Mass OR

Monday, December 23
8:30 - 10:30 am



Are you getting the Friday Flocknote?

Sign up at Flocknote.com

Search for St Michael by zip code 94550

Collection Report

Thank you for your continued financial support.

12/8/19	\$19,723.23
Month-to-Date	\$35,958.82
Month Goal	\$108,823.53
% Reached	33%
Faith Direct	\$0.00
Maintenance (for December)	\$7,786.63

LinC Retreat

[Life in Christ]

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

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



Parish Office

HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 23
REOPEN THURSDAY DAY, JANUARY 2



Adoration Chapel Holiday Hours

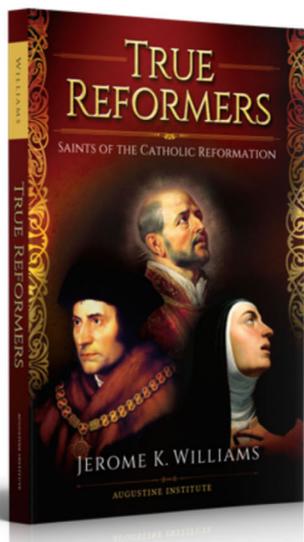
Christmas Hours
Chapel closed Tuesday,
December 24 at 4:00 pm
Chapel reopens on Thursday,
December 26 at 9:00 am

New Year's Hours
Chapel closed Wednesday,
January 1 at 1:00 pm
Chapel reopens Thursday,
January 2 at 9:00 am

BY CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC
RENEWAL OFFICE,
DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

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



Faith Study Group

**Thursdays, January 9 - February 13 at 6:30 pm
in the Convent**

True Reformers: Saints of the Catholic Reformation

In these six sessions, participants will learn about the true benefactors of the human race: the saints. The saints of the Catholic Reformation show us just how powerful—and beautiful—is the human heart's free response to God's generous grace.

Please register by contacting Denise at raptors2@comcast.net

4 Reasons for Year End Giving



1. Giving Makes You Cheerful

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Cor 9:7.

2. Gets You in the Holiday Spirit

The season and its traditions—both within our Catholic faith and out in the secular world — are filled with messages of gratitude, generosity and a spirit of helping others less fortunate. It’s time to look back on the year and notice our many blessings. All of our blessings come from God, and He intends us to share them.

3. Tax Benefit

Year-end giving can also have a practical purpose as well. As the end of a tax year approaches, individuals may be focused on their personal income tax planning. For individuals who itemize deductions, a gift to a qualified charitable organization may allow them to claim a charitable contribution deduction against their taxable income. If a gift is deductible, it will reduce an individual’s taxes paid based on the income tax bracket they are in. Please consult with you tax professional.

4. The Fourth Precept

The Precepts of the Catholic Church are a description of the absolute minimum actions required of Catholics regarding the Church. #4 states, “You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.” And the Church on her part provides for all your sacramental needs.



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

Weekly/Monthly
One-Time Gift
Special Holy Day
Extra Offering
Fund a Need

Membership.FaithDirect.net/CA602

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.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Mensaje de la semana del Padre Carl



Entendiendo la Misa: Parte 2

Querida familia de San Miguel,

Continuamos con nuestra catequesis de la Santa Misa. Ahora pasamos a la Liturgia de la Palabra.

Al escuchar la Palabra proclamada en la adoración, los fieles vuelven a entrar en el diálogo interminable entre Dios y el pueblo del pacto. La proclamación de la Palabra es, por lo tanto, parte integral de la Misa. A continuación se presentan las posturas y los gestos para la asamblea:

SENTARSE Y ESCUCHAR atentamente la proclamación de la Sagrada Escritura o la Palabra de Dios. Por lo general, los domingos, tenemos 3 lecturas principales. Del Antiguo Testamento, de una de las Epístolas y finalmente de los Evangelios.

DE PIE: para el Santo Evangelio en el verso antes del mismo

HAGA una cruz con el pulgar en la frente, los labios y el corazón cuando el sacerdote o el diácono anuncian el Santo Evangelio como una forma de pedir la presencia de la Palabra de Dios en la mente, en los labios y en el corazón.

Siéntese para la homilía. Aquí el sacerdote abre la **PALABRA DE DIOS** para nosotros dándonos puntos y materiales para reflexiones y oraciones. La homilía no es una exposición de la idea o la teología del sacerdote, sino que es un instrumento de Dios o su portavoz para impartir su mensaje y las enseñanzas de la Iglesia. El objetivo de la homilía es la conversión del corazón para vivir el llamado de uno como seguidor de Jesús y como católico fiel.

Credo: **DE PIE** e **INCLINESE** durante el Incarnatus ("por el poder del Espíritu Santo ... y se hizo hombre"); sobre las solemnidades de la Navidad y la Anunciación todas genuinas en este momento.

DE PIE para la oración de los fieles y unirse a la respuesta. Aquí presentamos todas nuestras preocupaciones y necesidades de nuestra iglesia, comunidad y nación como un pueblo de Dios en oración.



“El levantamiento de manos es una postura reservada solo para el sacerdote celebrante en la misa.”

Preguntas?

¿Levantar mis manos cuando digo “y con tu Espíritu” o cuando digo “Las levantamos al Señor” es un gesto apropiado de la Misa?

Es posible que muchos católicos no sepan que el uso de la "posición de los oranos", elevar las manos durante la oración, en la misa es exclusivamente para el sacerdote celebrante.

Las Instrucciones Generales del Misal Romano solo le dan al sacerdote esta postura de autoridad de orar con las manos elevadas durante la liturgia. Ni el diácono ni los laicos católicos tienen este papel litúrgico. Los fieles pueden elevar las manos o tomarse de las manos en oración privada, fuera de la Misa, en casa cuando rezan con miembros de nuestra familia antes de las comidas,

cuando estamos en un servicio o evento de alabanza y adoración y muchos otros.

¿Es un gesto apropiado tomarse de las manos durante el "Padre Nuestro" y levantarlas al final de la oración?

El segundo tipo de gesto con la mano en el que participan muchos laicos es tomarse de las manos durante el Padre Nuestro. La posición Orans ciertamente tiene un uso histórico

por los católicos en la Iglesia primitiva y a lo largo de la historia de la Iglesia, por lo que es una forma aceptable de oración por los laicos fuera de la misa (oración privada). Sin embargo, no se puede decir lo mismo sobre el acto de tomarse de las manos para orar; específicamente, durante la misa. El

agarre de manos provino tanto del movimiento de la Nueva Era como del protestantismo (particularmente el pentecostalismo) donde la dimensión horizontal de la comunidad se enfatiza sobre el elemento de sacrificio vertical de la misa. El levantamiento de manos es una postura reservada solo para el sacerdote celebrante en la misa. Los miembros de la asamblea no deben levantar las manos al final del Padre Nuestro, cuando decimos "por el reino y el poder ...".

Es nuestra meta como parroquia entender continuamente mejor la Liturgia, para poner a Cristo en el centro de nuestras vidas y crecer juntos y adorar juntos.

¡San Miguel Arcángel, defiéndenos!

P. Carl, Pastor

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