



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA
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Pastoral Emergencies:
925-521-4117

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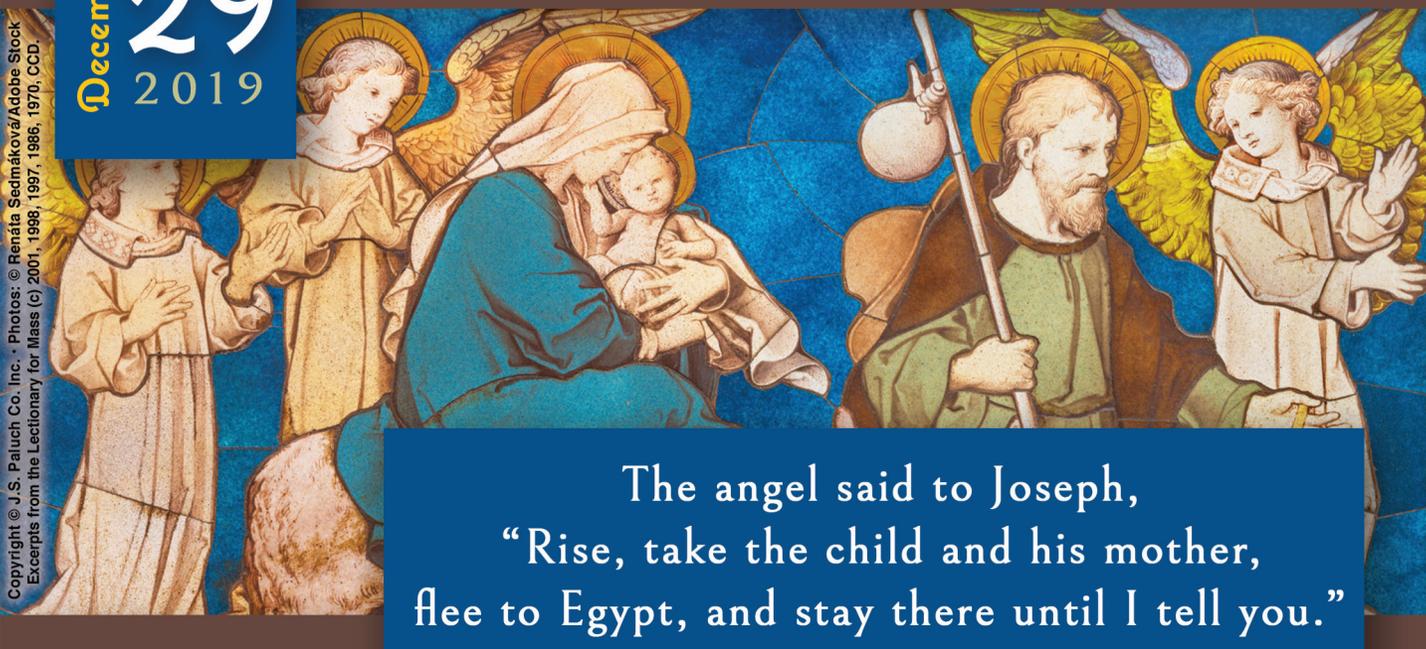
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St Michael School
925-447-1888 smliv.org



December
29
2019

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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1990, CCD.



The angel said to Joseph,
“Rise, take the child and his mother,
flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.”

Matthew 2:13

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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Summary

The Feast of the Holy Family occurs in the heart of the Church's Christmas season. It's somehow fitting that as the world puts away the mistletoe and holly and families return to their ordinary lives, the Church reminds us of the importance of family, not just on holidays, but every day of the year.

But we don't always know what it means to be family because so many of us come from broken, dysfunctional, messy families. That's why the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary and Joseph—is such an important role model. Together the three show us that for a family to be a safe haven in a broken world, obedience to God must first be at the center of our individual lives. Mary's "yes" to God's request to become the mother of the Savior changed history: Joseph's prompt response to God's command rescued Jesus from Herod's attempt to kill him. And Jesus' obedience to the will of the Father brought salvation to the entire world. It was through obedience that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were able to become a truly holy family: As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, let us ask ourselves how our own families can more closely model the Holy Family so that we can become witnesses of God's love to families all over the world.

Unpack the First Reading Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14

The principle theme of Sirach is "If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments" (1:26). In this

section, after counseling "fear of the Lord" in the first two chapters – as a kind of general admonition to the observance of the first three of the Ten Commandments – the author turns to observance of the fourth Commandment that requires that we honor our parents.

The Catechism tells us that this fourth of the Commandments begins the second tablet of the law on love of neighbor (CCC



The Holy Family

OF JESUS, MARY
AND JOSEPH

December 29, 2019

2197). That means this requirement of Christian life stands as kind of bridge between love of God and neighbor.

If we "fear the Lord" rightly, then we will honor our parents, because the God we honor has honored our parents by setting them over us as signs of his own authority. Our parents are also our first neighbors, the first of those others that we are to love (as we do ourselves) in response to our love of God. This is why the promises of children, treasure, and gladness that we see here (and in the Responsorial Psalm) are attached to honoring our parents. If we honor them, God is honored, and we will have taken the first step toward a rightly ordered relationship with all those around us as well. The culture of rebellion against authority, beginning with parental authority,

that is a singular feature of our current "culture of death," is a recipe for unhappiness, which encourages the rupture in our relationships both with God and neighbor.

Unpack the Second Reading Colossians 3:12–21

In this passage from Colossians we see the way in which the requirement of the law echoed in Sirach ought to be lived out in

New Covenant grace. Precisely because we are God's "chosen" in grace, "beloved" and "holy," we are called to live out the fourth Commandment, and so

also all our relationships – from the top down – in the superlative way that baptismal grace makes possible. In the first verse of this reading (3:12) some of the fruits of the Spirit are invoked (see Galatians 5:22) in the context of a picture of Christian obedience, which recalls the blessed ones of the Beatitudes—meekness, peacefulness, purity—that come from our having been clothed in mercy.

This passage makes a great examination of conscience as we approach the sacrament of Confession or Reconciliation, or as a kind of "check in" reflection to share as a family as regards our observance of the obligations of the fourth Commandment. Note the two keys to success that Paul mentions for living out this picture of family holiness are love,

the principle Christian virtue; and thanksgiving, which ventilates the heart and reminds us of the gifts of God that we are to each other. If we put on love and sing gratefully from our hearts, then the difficult demands of obedience to our obligations to each other will be made the light and easy yoke that Jesus promised (Matthew 11:30).

Unpack the Gospel Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

In this condensed passage relating the flight to Egypt and later return to Nazareth, which finishes the infancy narrative in Matthew's Gospel, we see St. Joseph as the very picture of the man of the fourth Commandment. Because of his obedience to the God above, he is able to serve Jesus and Mary as protector and provider, as husband and father, insuring that the plan of God for those two central figures will go forward in accordance with God's gracious designs. It is worth reading this whole section of Matthew 2 in full – including the missing verses 16-18, which tell of the murderous intent and action of Herod toward the divine – because it reminds us of just how

much rides upon our conformity to the requirements of the fourth Commandment for both parents and children. While most of us don't face the designs of a murderous king, our spiritual help, as individuals, families, and as a society, depends critically upon the right order in these relationships that serve as a bridge between the two great commandments, to love God and neighbor.

There is an old Latin proverb, *corruptio optima pessima*, which means the destruction of the best of things is the worst of things. That is where we find ourselves regarding the family. If we don't recover the vital lessons of these readings and this beautiful liturgical feast and apply them to our lives, we will face the worst of futures. Grace makes the very best possible, but we must ask, seek and knock for the grace to make our families holy families in imitation of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Reflect & Discuss

Please take a moment to watch the Opening the Word video for today. The presenter, Jules Miles, gives us some valuable insights on why the Holy Family is an im-

portant model for us. Then reflect upon and discuss these questions with a friend:

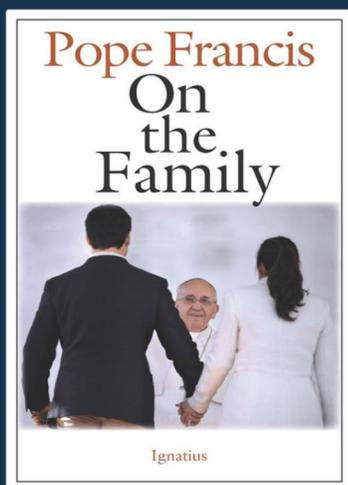
How does presenter Jules Miles say that each member of the Holy Family displays the virtue of obedience?

In this week's Gospel, Joseph plays an essential role. What does Joseph do that is so important?

Digging Deeper: Which Herod?

Sometimes the "Herods" in Scripture can get a bit confusing since numerous rulers bore that name. The Herod who ordered the killing of all boys under the age of two was Herod the Great. He ruled for 33 years, from 37 – 4 BC. After his death, his sons Herod Archelaus and Herod Antipas took command. Herod Archelaus was the ethnarch of Judea. Herod Antipas was in charge of Galilee and Perea. It is this Herod that Jesus called "that fox" in Luke 13:32.

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FREE BOOK! Pope Francis: On the Family

Join us in celebrating the feast of the Holy Family by reading a collection of the Holy Father's addresses, called "Pope Francis on the Family," on formed.org. Pope Francis encourages families to be witnesses of love, fidelity, and service in opposition to the deep crisis facing the Western world. He emphasizes the primary role of God and faith in family life and the crucial importance of family prayer.

This eBook is available FREE for you to download at Formed.org

Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/28

8:30am Frank Fallon †
5:00pm Candido Echon †
7:00pm Jaime Sifuentes

Sunday 12/29

6:45am Elizabeth Ezekwem
8:00am Mass for Our Parish
9:30am Cheryl Ruth †
Judith Aufderheide †
11:00am Candido Echon †
12:30pm Rosemary Castro
6:00pm Jim Moriarty

Monday 12/30

8:30am William R. Warnock †

Tuesday 12/31

8:30am Pam Hamilton
Pattie Kirchanski
6:00pm Violet Stratman †
7:30 pm Mass for Our Parish

Wednesday 1/1

All Masses for Our Parish
Masses

Thursday 1/2

8:30am Fr Stanislaus Poon †

Friday 1/3

8:30am Patrick A. Allen †
12:00pm Joel Bautista & Family

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



Holy Family Prayer

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Special Intentions

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.



Understanding the Mass – Part 4

St Michael Family,

Let us continue with learning more about the Holy Mass, our postures, gestures and behavior. This week we will focus on the Communion Rite.

The eating and drinking of the Lord's Body and Blood in the Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are mutual love and reconciliation that are both the condition and the fruit of worthy communion.

When it is time to join the Communion Procession, exit the pew (without genuflecting) and walk reverently toward the altar, with your hands folded in prayer over your chest. Remember this is a moment of holy encounter with God who will enter our body and life. Hence, great reverence and a holy disposition of our entire being is an appropriate attitude.

To receive Holy Communion, make a gesture of reverence (slight BOW) before the Blessed Sacrament as you approach the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister of holy communion. Don't forget to say AMEN which means SO BE IT or YES - "you are truly present Lord in Holy Communion".

You may receive the Blessed Sacrament either on the tongue, which is a preferred manner, or in the hand. If you are carrying a child, walking with a cane or have other difficulty with your hands, it is easier to receive on the tongue.

When receiving in the hand, place one hand over the other hand, palms open, and lift your hands to chest level. The minister will say, "The Body of Christ" and you audibly say "Amen". With the lower hand, take the Blessed Sacrament and reverently place it in your mouth immediately. Please re-

move gloves and push long sleeves up before receiving in the hand.

When receiving the Precious Blood from the sacred chalice, make the same gesture of reverence (slight bow) when you approach the minister to receive. The minister will say, "The Blood of Christ" and you audibly say "Amen".

If you do not receive from the sacred chalice, make a (slight BOW) as you pass the sacred chalice in procession back to your seat.

KNEEL, STAND or SIT in prayer or join in singing the hymn when you return to your pew after Holy Communion. When the priest sits down or says "Let us pray," please stand and raise the kneeler gently. (GIRM #160 American adaptation says that people may "stand, sit or kneel".)

Questions:

What is the importance of Sacred Music and what are the hymns appropriate for Mass?

St. Augustine said, "To sing well is to pray twice." And in the Second Vatican Council document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* #112 it is stated that "The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art."

Perhaps of all the musical traditions of the Church, none is more beautiful than the deep and long tradition of chant. It is at once both simple and complex, the work of humans but the sounds of Heaven. Through much of the history of the Church, chant has held the place of primacy in the liturgical traditions of the West. After Vatican II, this ancient and sacred form of art fell into disuse. But this was never the intention of the council. At St. Michael's, we use songs and hymns that are approved by USCCB only and those that are liturgically appropriate for Holy Mass and other Rites.

Sacrosanctum Concilium #116 explains, "The Church acknowledges Gregorian chant as especially suited to the Roman liturgy: therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place in liturgical services."

Blessings to you and your families.

Fr Carl, Pastor

“Remember this is a moment of holy encounter with God”



Holy Day of Obligation Mass Times

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

Fundamentalists are sometimes horrified when the Virgin Mary is referred to as the Mother of God. However, their reaction often rests upon a misapprehension not only of what this particular title of Mary signifies but also of who Jesus was—and of what their own theological forebears, the Protestant Reformers, had to say regarding this doctrine.

A woman is a man's mother either if she carried him in her womb or if she was the woman contributing half of his genetic matter or both. Mary was the mother of Jesus in both of these senses, because she not only carried Jesus in her womb but also supplied all of the genetic matter for his human body, since it was through her—not Joseph—that Jesus “was descended from David according to the flesh” (Rom. 1:3).

Since Mary is Jesus' mother, it must be concluded that she is also the Mother of God: If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and if Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. There is no way out of this logical syllogism.

Read more at Catholic.com/tract/mary-mother-of-god



Remember St Michael's as you consider your year-end giving!

Creating a Faith Direct account gives you peace of mind. You'll be able to support your church every week. Whether you're out of town, unable to attend church due to weather, illness or a family emergency, your gifts will always be received. You will receive an annual statement that details your generosity, and simplifies your taxes too!

Safely donate online with your credit/debit card or a bank account for payment. Schedule monthly recurring gifts or make a one-time gift at any time.

FaithDirect.net

3 Catholic New Year's Resolutions

- 1. Invite at least one person to Alpha.**
We all know people in our lives who do not have a close relationship with Jesus. Alpha is place for “beginners” to be welcomed into a community, share a meal and have a conversation about the basic foundations of Christianity. See the invitation on the facing page —>
- 2. Schedule Weekly Adoration**
Start with spending 10 minutes in quiet prayer in the (newly remodeled!) Adoration Chapel and gradually increase. Put it in your calendar as a regular appointment. Bask in the presence of the Lord. The spiritual benefits to you and your family are enormous.
- 3. Make it a Spiritual Commute**
If you commute to and from work, get the FORMED app on your phone and listen to the fantastic audio talks while you drive. St Michael's has purchased your subscription for you. Go to FORMED.org, click “sign up” then “I belong to a parish”. Find St Michael by zip code.

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

READING I
 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians
 He is our peace; he has made the two into one.
 In former times, you had no part in Christ and were excluded from the covenant and he was a stranger to you without hope and without God.
 Now, however, he has reconciled you to himself through the cross of Christ Jesus by the word of the covenant, so that he might present to himself the church as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind, that he might present the church to himself in glory, without stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind.

Year II
 Eph 2:11-18
 GOSPEL
 Alleluia

Register at
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

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



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration



Golden Friends Christmas Luncheon



Mensaje de la semana del Padre Carl



Entendiendo la Misa - Parte 4

Familia de San Miguel,

Continuemos aprendiendo más sobre la Santa Misa, nuestras posturas, gestos y comportamiento. Esta semana nos centraremos en el Rito de la Comunión.

Comer y beber el Cuerpo y la Sangre del Señor en la comida pascual es la culminación de la Eucaristía. Los temas que subyacen a estos ritos son el amor mutuo y la reconciliación, que son tanto la condición como el fruto de una comunión digna.

Cuando sea hora de unirse a la Procesión de la Comunión, salga del banco (sin hacer genuflexión) y camine reverentemente hacia el altar, con las manos juntas en oración sobre su pecho. Recuerde

que este es un momento de encuentro sagrado con Dios que entrará en nuestro cuerpo y vida. Por lo tanto, una gran reverencia y una disposición sagrada de todo nuestro ser es una actitud apropiada.

Para recibir la Sagrada Comunión, haga un gesto de reverencia (leve BOW) ante el Santísimo Sacramento al acercarse al sacerdote, diácono o ministro extraordinario de la sagrada comunión. No se olvide de decir AMEN, que significa ASÍ SEA o SÍ - "estás verdaderamente presente Señor en la Sagrada Comunión".

Puede recibir el Santísimo Sacramento en la lengua, que es una forma preferida, o en la mano. Si lleva un niño, camina con un bastón o tiene otra dificultad con las manos, es más fácil recibirlo en la lengua.

Cuando reciba en la mano, coloque

una mano sobre la otra mano, abra las palmas y levante las manos al nivel del pecho. El ministro dirá, "El cuerpo de Cristo" y usted dirá audiblemente "Amén". Con la mano más baja, toma el Santísimo Sacramento y coloquelo reverentemente en su boca de inmediato. Quítese los guantes y suba las mangas largas antes de recibir en la mano.

**“
Recuerde que este es
un momento de
encuentro sagrado
con Dios
”**

Cuando reciba la Preciosa Sangre del cáliz sagrado, haga el mismo gesto de reverencia (leve reverencia) cuando se acerque al ministro para recibir. El ministro dirá, "La sangre de Cristo" y usted dirá audiblemente "Amén".

Si no recibe del cáliz sagrado, haga un (leve BOW) al pasar el cáliz sagrado en procesión de regreso a su asiento.

Arrodílese, manténgase de pie, siéntese en oración o únase a cantar el himno cuando regrese a su banco después de la Santa Comunión. Cuando el sacerdote se siente o dice "Oremos", por favor, levántese y levante suavemente el reclinatorio (La adaptación estadounidense GIRM # 160 dice que las personas pueden "pararse, sentarse o arrodillarse").

Preguntas:

¿Cuál es la importancia de la música sacra y cuáles son los himnos apropiados para la misa?

San Agustín dijo: "Cantar bien es rezar dos veces". Y en el documento del Concilio Vaticano II Sacrosanctum Concilium # 112 se afirma que "La tradición musical de la Iglesia universal es un tesoro de inestimable valor, incluso mayor que el de cualquier otro arte".

Quizás de todas las tradiciones musicales de la Iglesia, ninguna es más bella que la larga y profunda tradición del canto. Es a la vez simple y complejo, el trabajo de los humanos pero los sonidos del cielo. A lo largo de gran parte de la historia de la Iglesia, el canto ha ocupado el lugar de primacía en las tradiciones litúrgicas de Occidente. Después del Vaticano II, esta antigua y sagrada forma de arte cayó en desuso. Pero esta nunca fue la intención del consejo. En St. Michael's, usamos canciones e himnos aprobados únicamente por USCCB y aquellos que son litúrgicamente apropiados para la Santa Misa y otros Ritos.

Sacrosanctum Concilium # 116 explica: "La Iglesia reconoce que el canto gregoriano es especialmente adecuado para la liturgia romana: por lo tanto, en igualdad de condiciones, se le debe dar un lugar de honor en los servicios litúrgicos".

Bendiciones para usted y sus familias.

P. Carl
Pastor

AD PAGE

AD PAGE

Information | Información

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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

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PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

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Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Frank
Draschner, Jeff Andersen, Cynthia
Garay, Alison Wilke and Glenda
Dubsky.

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kins, Travis Cox, Analy Palomino,
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Escuela de San Miguel**

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**Faith Formation in
English**

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

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925-344-7150 Adultos

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