



# 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

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August 18, 2019 | Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I HAVE COME

TO SET THE EARTH ON FIRE,

AND HOW I WISH

*it were already blazing!*

~ Luke 12:49

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## ALPHA COMING TO ST MICHAEL'S SEPTEMBER 9

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Today's Gospel reading may surprise us. Jesus' words don't seem to fit the peaceful "forgive your enemies," "turn the other cheek" image of Jesus that we're used to. In fact, he says quite explicitly that he didn't come to establish peace, but rather, division. What does Jesus mean? Why does he sound so harsh?

To understand Jesus' words, we must understand the difference between intentions and reality. Jesus does not say that he desires division; he simply says that it will happen. Maybe you've experienced this. Maybe you've felt alone in your desire to go deeper into your faith. Maybe family members or friends have thought you were strange for becoming Catholic or seeking to live out your Catholic faith more fully. Christians who live out Jesus' teachings will begin to stand out in the world. They will be noticeably different. And that sometimes causes division. They will be misunderstood, looked down upon, or openly criticized by those who do not share the same Christian values.

Put simply, it's not easy to be a Christian. However, as Christians, we are to take heart in our struggles for they are the path Jesus has set for us. Jesus doesn't promise us any earthly reward. Instead, he promises the cross. He tells us that if we are going to be his disciples, we will have to pick up our cross and follow him. The Christian life is centered on this reality. It acknowledges that we are going to have struggles, pain, and sorrow in our lives. The

question is, what are we going to do when we encounter such difficulties. Ultimately the message of the Gospel gives the answer: if we have the courage to turn over our struggles to God, then, like Jesus on Easter Sunday, we, too, can be raised from the dead, and in doing so, those things that are so painful for us in this lifetime will be glorified.

## Unpack the First Reading Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

Jeremiah is a prophet and a prophetic figure of Christ. In this passage, we see him delivered



from a sort of tomb, as Christ was from the sepulcher. Jeremiah was particularly zealous for God and indicted several of the last kings of Judah for their political and diplomatic maneuvers aimed at avoiding the inevitable conquest by the Babylonian empire, which Jeremiah knew to be the appointed chastisement of God. Of course it is no surprise that this would be thought to be treasonous by those in power, and Jeremiah paid a heavy price for his fidelity to God. Jeremiah also gives us a clear picture of the in-

ternal struggles of soul that all those who fight against the enemies of God must face. We have even come to call "Jeremiads" the sorts of complaints to God that we find in the book called Lamentations, which chronicles the struggles of the prophet and the Jewish nation he loved, and to whose best and truest aspirations he gave voice.

## Unpack the Second Reading Hebrews 12:1-4

Hebrews is a long exhortation addressed to Hebrew Christians who have been tempted to return to the practices of Judaism. The author makes elaborate arguments from the Old Testament to show that the law, Temple, and Levitical priesthood have all found their fulfillment and perfect expression in Christ. We can only imagine how hard a sell this must have been, given the history and grandeur of Jewish ritual practice and all it had meant to the Jewish people. Scholars believe that those to whom the work is addressed may have been priests who had been forced to flee Jerusalem because of their Christian commitment and who now long for the ritual in which they had played a part. The Christian worship in the early Church might have seemed rather plain in comparison, not yet having acquired the majesty it would later express. Unlike the grandeur of the visible Temple, which could be seen with the eye, the grandeur of the new life in Christ required faith to see, and it would invite persecution, not Levitical honors. And so we have

this appeal to the heroism of a faith that yields “evidence of things not seen,” as we saw in last Sunday’s passage and now in this one for the Twentieth Sunday. This appeal conjures in the minds of these Jews a great “cloud of witnesses” from Jewish history, most of whom had lived long ago and had never seen the Temple. We, too, he argues, long for the Temple that Christ has now entered, but which we have not yet seen. If we keep our eyes on him, the pioneer who has gone before us, we can have faith that we will see that most beautiful of Temples on high.

### Unpack the Gospel Luke 12:49-53

For many of us the missing critical dimension of our faith is that sort of zeal that our Lord showed on our behalf. The greatest obstacle we face in this regard is that ours is a culture that stresses personal comfort and fulfillment above all. As C.S. Lewis put it, “For wise men of old, the cardinal problem of human life was how to conform the soul to objective reality, and the solution was wisdom, self-discipline, and virtue. For the modern, the cardinal

problem is how to conform reality to the wishes of man.” That quality of culture teaches us to be dissatisfied with discomfort, with struggle, with sacrifice, and it saps our spiritual energies.

Jesus in this Gospel passage is shown hungering for the sacrifice that will win the salvation of the human race, even despising the shame of the cross, as our second reading from Hebrews says. He is a warrior for the good of souls. That is a particularly apt image with reference to this passage from Luke where he asks, “Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” He, of course, doesn’t will the opposition he will face from evil men and spirits, nor is he shy in facing it, even unto death, for those who need his help. St. Thomas Aquinas notes that zeal is proportionate to the intensity of love, and the love of true friendship creates a zeal that energetically repels anything that might harm one’s friend. From Jesus, who has made us his friends and loved and defended us from death, we can learn to love him zealously in return.

### Reflect & Discuss

Watch the short Opening the Word video on FORMED.org. Then reflect upon the questions below and discuss them with a friend.

According to the Gospel reading and the video, how does Jesus view his own baptism?

In the video, the presenter quotes Origen, one of the early fathers of the Church, who said, “The same sun which melts the wax also hardens the clay.” What he meant by this was that the sun has different effects, depending on what material it’s interacting with. Jesus tells his followers that there will be different effects if we choose to follow him. We may be disliked. We may be teased or ridiculed. Our faith may even cause division among our family or friends. In what ways does the message of the Gospel reading divide people in our world? How have you experienced the kind of division Jesus speaks of?

*Reprinted from Opening the Word Leader Guide with permission from Augustine Institute.*

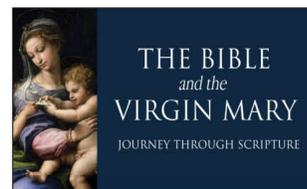
## FORMED PICK

### The Bible and the Virgin Mary

*Episode 7: The Promised Mother*

#### Why Is Mary Queen Mother?

Learn the biblical roots of this often-contested Catholic doctrine. See how Mary’s queenship is alluded to in the New Testament and foreshadowed in the Old.



“More than informative!  
This study is amazing!”

—Mica P., Vancouver, CA



Watch free at  
**StMichael.FORMED.org**

# Pray Throughout the Week

## **Mass Intentions**

### **Saturday 8/17**

- 8:30am Crisanta Angeles-Barra  
Angeles Barra  
5:00pm Howard & JaNet Hancock  
7:00pm Patricia Mendoza & Family

### **Sunday 8/18**

- 6:45am Mass for Our Parish  
8:00am John Flemming †  
9:30am Tim Paolo Manabat †  
11:00am Janice Sator †  
12:30pm Patricia Mendoza & Family  
6:00pm Lafica Fernandez

### **Monday 8/19**

- 8:30am Thomas Heise †

### **Tuesday 8/20**

- 8:30am James Kane †

### **Wednesday 8/21**

- 8:30am Wanda Strobel  
7:00pm Sylvestre Tovar

### **Thursday 8/22**

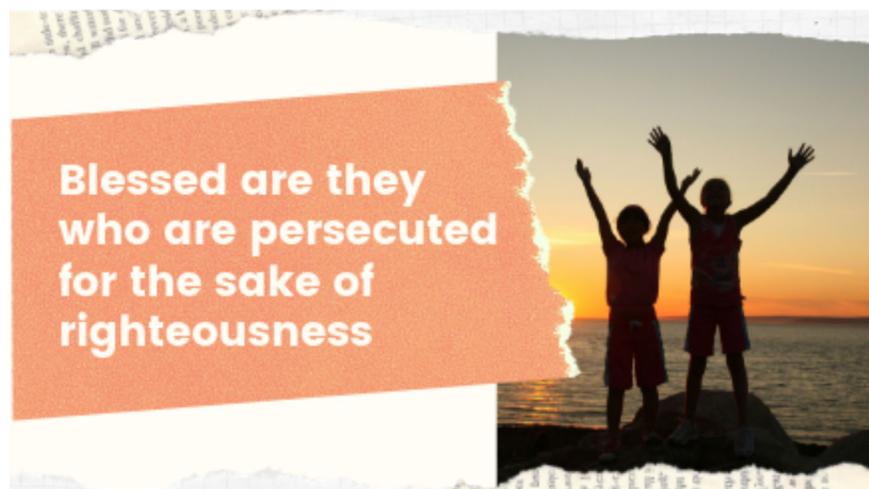
- 8:30am Asuncion Esto  
Lorna Camcam

### **Friday 8/23**

- 8:30am John Zaczek †  
Jose Baltazar, Sr  
Jose Baltazar, Jr

***To request a Mass Intention, please visit the church office.***

***The customary donation of \$10 goes to the priest celebrating the Mass.***



## **Blessed Are the Persecuted**

“Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” —Matthew 5:11-12

## **Prayer to Stand Firm in Our Faith**

Prayer to St. Lawrence, a deacon of the early Church, who was roasted to death for his faith: O glorious St. Lawrence, martyr and deacon, who, being subjected to the most bitter torments, didst not lose thy faith nor thy constancy in confessing Jesus Christ, obtain in like manner for us such an active and solid faith, that we shall never be ashamed to be true followers of Jesus Christ and fervent Christians in word and in deed. Amen.

## **Weekly Prayer for Alpha**

For our parishioners, that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen us in shifting our culture to one of radical hospitality. That God may put the name of one person in our hearts and minds that He wants us to invite to Alpha on September 9.

For all of our soon-to-be guests at Alpha, that God may continue to direct them toward our dinner events where they will encounter Jesus.

For our Alpha team, that they may empty themselves so as to only do God’s will in inviting souls to Him.

# Fr Carl's Message of the Week



## Alpha: Take a Risk

Someone once said that the way you spell “faith” is R-I-S-K. It’s a vulnerable thing in our day and age to talk to someone about faith. They might laugh at us. They might think we are weird or one of “those strange religious freaks”. Many of us were taught to never bring up politics or religion, because it is considered in poor taste. However, as your pastor, I’m asking you to take a risk, to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to invite someone to the Alpha dinner on Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm in the Hall here at St Michael’s or Sunday, September 8 at 5:00 pm at St Charles. That’s it! They may say no. That doesn’t matter. We measure success by how many we invite, not by how many agree to come. You get a free meal too!

### Who is Alpha for?

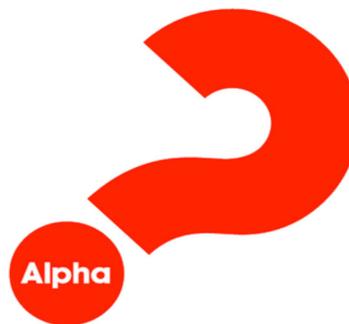
Alpha is designed for someone who doesn’t identify as a Christian or as a religious person. It’s for someone who may be frustrated by the seemingly pointlessness of life. It’s for someone who is struggling to find balance and peace in their life but can’t seem to find it. It’s for someone looking for a place to meet new friends and talk about meaningful topics.

Alpha is also for Catholics and other Christians who may have been raised in the faith, received Sacraments, but never really allowed Jesus to enter their hearts and are not living Christian lives. It’s for those who might

come to Mass on Christmas and Easter because “that’s what you do” but never fell in love with the Lord. It’s for those who were raised in the faith, but never got the point and drifted away.

How to invite someone to Alpha?

Firstly, pray about it. Spend time in the Adoration Chapel or in your favorite quiet prayer space, asking the Lord to guide you. If you recently Consecrated your-



self to Jesus Through Mary, offer a rosary asking Our Lady to guide you. Ask to be shown who to invite. Listen.

Secondly, pick up a few invitation postcards outside in the Courtyard after Mass or in the church office. It has all the information to give to the person you’re inviting. You can also share this link:

[StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha) for details. Pray some more for courage!

To get you started, here are some ideas of how you might phrase your invitation:

Are you free on Monday, Sep-

tember 9? Alpha has free food, an interesting talk & honest conversation. Will you join me?

I’m going to check out this free Alpha dinner and conversation thing. Would you come with me?

You mentioned that you were really struggling with\_\_\_\_. What do you think about coming with me on Monday, September 9 for dinner and an interesting talk?

It seems like you wonder if there’s more to life than this. There’s a dinner party where people are gathering to have a conversation about it. Think we should go?

Lastly, get comfortable with “no”. No one likes being told “no”, especially when it’s to an invitation! However, getting the “yes” is God’s job. Just remember this: God is already working on the person, long before you invite them. Maybe the person needs to be invited 20 times, and you’re only the first! Trust in God. Don’t be discouraged by “no”.

Thank you for taking a R-I-S-K for someone whom Jesus thinks is worth dying for!

### Who will you invite?

Fr Carl  
Pastor

[StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha)



FEAST OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

# Hawaiian Dinner & Auction

**Saturday, September 28 at 6:00 pm**  
**Seating Under the Sky**  
**326 Fourth Street, Livermore**

Dinner by 3D Catering | Raffle Drawing  
Music & Dancing

Tickets \$50 per person or \$400 per table  
Email: Clarie at [duguid.knight@comcast.net](mailto:duguid.knight@comcast.net)



Proceeds benefit the restoration and beautification of the parking areas at St Michael Church and School

FEAST OF  
ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

# Raffle!



**First Prize**  
**\$2,000**

**Second Prize**  
**\$1,000**

**Third Prize**  
**\$500 + Spa Package**

**Fourth Prize (x5)**  
**\$100 Amazon Gift Card**

**\$10 donation per ticket**  
Purchase tickets and return  
donation and stubs at the  
Church Office.



Proceeds benefit the restoration and beautification of the parking areas at St Michael Church and School



## Got Auction Items to Donate?

Vacation Timeshares | Sports Tickets | Exclusive Wine/Dinner Tasting | Airline Tickets |  
Hotel Nights | Theatre Tickets | Concert Tickets

The retail value of all donations are tax deductible.  
Contact our Business Manager, Eric Hom at [erichom@stmichaellivermore.com](mailto:erichom@stmichaellivermore.com)

Thank you in advance for your support!



# Save These Dates!



## **Bereavement Counseling** **Saturday, August 24** **St Charles**

Grief Support Ministry is offering a monthly bereavement counseling program at St Charles on August 24, September 21, October 26, November 16, and December 14, from 10-11:30 am. The programs are facilitated by Claire La Scola. Please call or email if attending for the first time 925 447-9800 or [clairelascola@gmail.com](mailto:clairelascola@gmail.com)

## **Portuguese Celebration of Our Lady of Help** **Sunday, August 25** **11 am Mass**

Following Mass, join the procession with Portuguese Marching Band (Recreio do Emigrante Portugues). Enjoy lunch in the Hall and a concert, auction and a "white elephant" bazaar.

## **Parish Offices Closed** **Monday, September 2**

...in observance of Labor Day.

## **Adult Confirmation Prep** **Classes Begin** **Thursday, September 5**

Now is the time to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to complete your initiation and be filled with the Holy Spirit! This class is for you if you are at least 18 years old, are a baptized, practicing Catholic, have received First Holy Communion and have never been confirmed. Contact Marjorie at 925-447-2925 or [RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com)

## **Alpha Dinner** **Mon, September 9 at 6:30 pm** **Large Hall**

This is your opportunity to invite someone who doesn't identify themselves as Christian to a fun no-pressure dinner event. We will get to know each other, watch a video on the basics of the gospel message and then have an engaging conversation without judgement. Who will you invite?  
[StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha)

## **Feast of St Michael the Archangel** **September 20-29**

Save the dates as we celebrate our patron saint with a novena of Masses, dinner auction, parish raffle and ministry fair. All proceeds benefit the repair of the parking lots at our church and school. See next page for details.

Stop by the Church Office Foyer and pick a "leaf" off the Gift Card Tree! All donated gift cards will be used as prizes at the Feast of St Michael the Archangel.

## **Letter to a Suffering Church** **At Home Book Club** **October 2—30**

Feeling hurt, angry, or demoralized about the sexual abuse crisis plaguing the Catholic Church? Pick up your free copy of Bishop Barron's new book, *Letter to a Suffering Church*. Sign up to receive the accompanying videos delivered via email weekly, Oct 2—30.



# Programs for Kids & Teens

**Registration for fall Faith Formation programs for children and teens closes on August 31.** Download registration packets for all programs for kids age 3 through 12th grade at [StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation)

Teen Confirmation registration is *by appointment only*. Contact Joseph at [Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com) or 925-667-4093 to schedule an appointment ASAP!



# Feast of St Michael the Archangel

September 20 - 29, 2019

## Novena of Masses

**September 20 - 28**

- 9/20 8:30 am (English)
- 9/21 5 pm (English) 7 pm (Spanish)
- 9/22 All Sunday Masses
- 9/23 7 pm (English)
- 9/24 7 pm (English)
- 9/25 7 pm (Spanish)
- 9/26 7 pm (English)
- 9/27 7 pm (English)
- 9/28 8:30 am (English)

## Dinner & Auction

**September 28 at 6 pm**

Outdoor seating at St Michael School grounds

## Parish Raffle

Tickets on sale now! Raffle drawing to be held at the Dinner & Auction. Proceeds go toward repairing the School and Parish parking lots

## Ministry Fair

**September 29**

9 am - 6 pm in the Church parking lot. Food, Music, Ministry Booths, Entertainment

# explore

life  
faith  
meaning

## Please register you and your friend for Alpha!

We are starting to plan delicious meals and it would be helpful to have an idea of how many guests we will have. We're looking forward to dinner! Just go to [StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha)

## Who will you invite?

**Mondays at 6:30 pm**  
**Starting September 9**  
**at 6:30 pm in the Hall**



## Dinner at St Mary's Center

Thanks to your generous donations, St Michael volunteers will be providing a homemade dinner for low-income and homeless seniors at St Mary's Center in Oakland on August 25th. Our next dinner will be in January 2020.



Thank you for your generous offerings! To set up automatic weekly or monthly donations, visit [FaithDirect.net](http://FaithDirect.net) and enter church code CA602.

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 8/11/19 Collection      | \$18,393.87 |
| Month-to-Date           | \$46,413.61 |
| Month Goal              | \$87,058.82 |
| Percentage Reached      | 53%         |
| Faith Direct            | \$7,957.00  |
| Maintenance (for Month) | \$7,235.72  |



## “Episodio 11: La asunción”

*Serie La Biblia y la Virgen María*

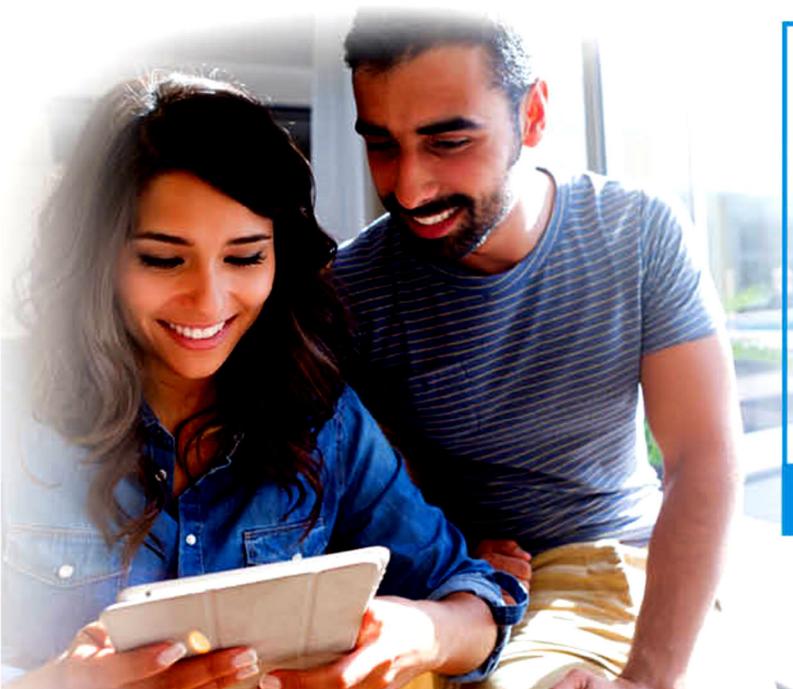
La Biblia y la Virgen María es una serie dinámica de videos en doce partes que bellamente explican las verdades católicas sobre Nuestra Señora, que muestra cómo ella ha sido una parte del plan de Dios para traer la salvación al mundo desde el comienzo del tiempo.

### RECOMENDACIONES ADICIONALES

- Un camino hacia Dios (Read)
- Hermano Zeferino: Los Santos (Watch)

Véalo en [formed.org](http://formed.org)

**FORMED**<sup>®</sup>



**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



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@StMichael94550

### Mass | Misa

**Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa** 8:30 am

**Wed | Mi** 7:00 pm (español)

**First Friday | Primer viernes**  
12:00 pm

### Sat Vigil | Vigilia del Sábado

5:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm (español)

### Sunday | Domingo

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

### Sign Language | Lenguaje por Señas

1st Sun, 11:00 am

Primer domingo a las 11:00 am

### Traditional Latin Mass

2nd Sun, 8:00 am

### Tagalog

3rd Sun, 3:30 pm

### Vietnamese | Vietnamita

4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

### Confession | Confesión

#### Saturday, in the Church |

#### Sábado en la iglesia

9:00 am & 3:45 pm in English

6:15 pm en español

#### Monday & Friday in the church |

#### Lunes y viernes en la iglesia

7:30 am in English & español

#### Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel

2:30 pm

### Anointing of the Sick |

### Unción de los Enfermos

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

1er sábado después de las 8:30 am

Misa o con cita previa: 925-447-  
1585

### Eucharistic Adoration |

### Adoración Eucarística

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours  
access code, call 775-772-6369.

### Office Hours | horas de oficina

**M-F** 9:00 am—5:00 pm

(Closed 12:00 pm—2:00 pm)

### Clergy | Clero

Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor

Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar

Rev. David Staal, Associate

Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired

Rev. Bento Tamang, in residence

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

### 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<br>Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com                 | 925-667-4057 |
| Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen<br>Parochial Vicar<br>Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com    | 925-667-4053 |
| Rev. Deacon Bill Archer  |              |
| Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes<br>DeaconD@StMichaelLivermore.com                      | 925-447-1585 |
| Eric Hom<br>Business Manager<br>Business@StMichaelLivermore.com                  | 925-667-4052 |
| Jacqueline Garcia, Church Secretary<br>Office@StMichaelLivermore.com             | 925-447-1585 |
| School Front Office  | 925-447-1888 |
| Alison Wilkie, School Principal<br>awilkie@csdo.org                              | 925-447-1888 |
| Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper<br>Books@StMichaelLivermore.com                        | 925-667-4058 |
| Faith Formation Office<br>Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com                           | 925-667-4096 |
| Priscilla Stutzman, Religious Ed<br>DRE@StMichaelLivermore.com                   | 925-667-4097 |
| Joseph Garcia, Youth Ministry<br>Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com                    | 925-667-4093 |
| Tina Gregory<br>Communication/Adult Enrichment<br>Contact@StMichaelLivermore.com | 925-667-4051 |
| JaNet Hancock, Music Director<br>Music@StMichaelLivermore.com                    | 925-292-5071 |
| Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com   |              |
| Marjorie Melendez, RCIA<br>RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com                           | 925-447-2925 |
| Ana Fregoso, RICA<br>ricast.michaelliv@gmail.com                                 | 925-344-7150 |