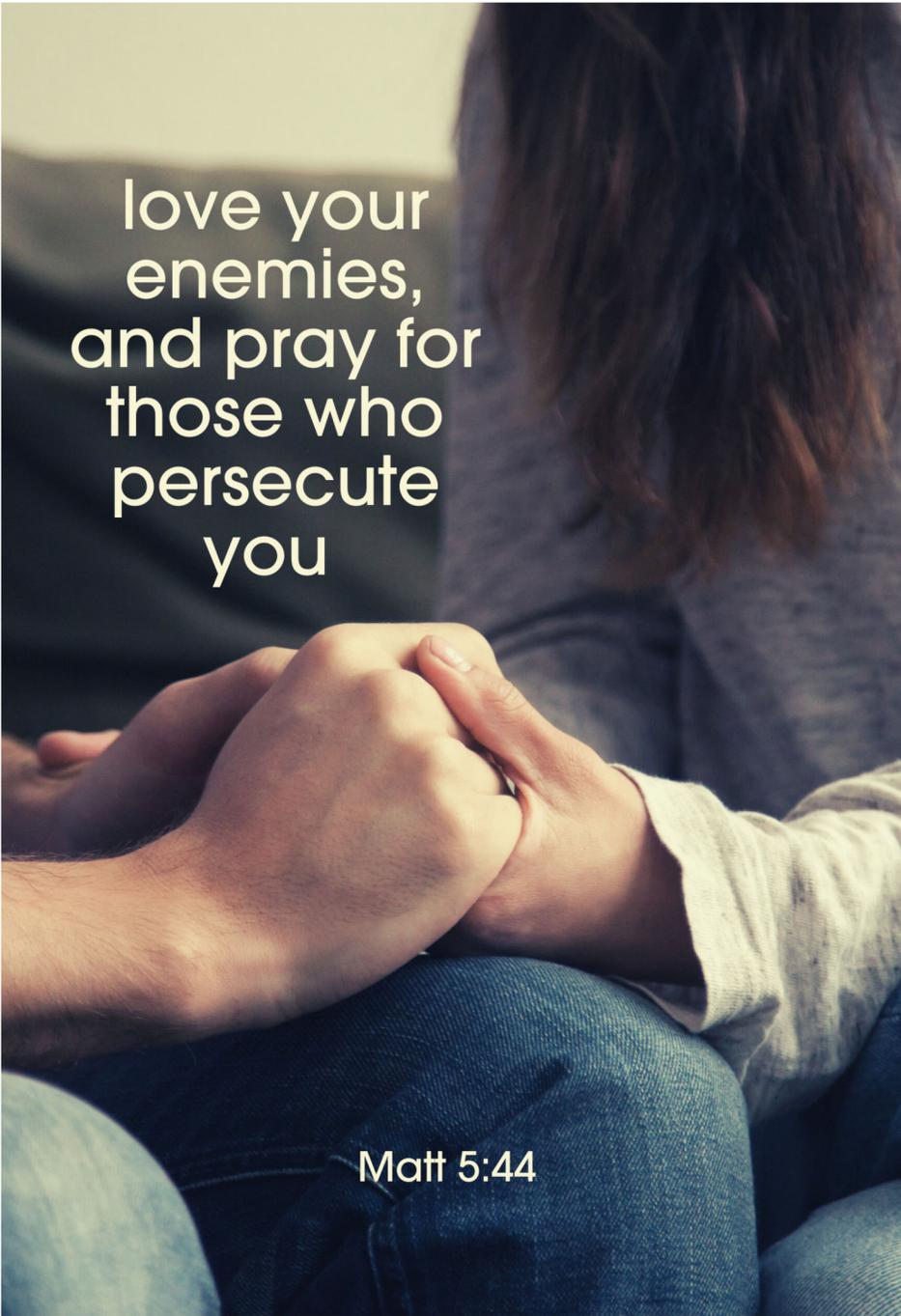




ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, February 23, 2020 | Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



love your
enemies,
and pray for
those who
persecute
you

Matt 5:44

CONTACT

458 Maple Street
Livermore, CA 94550
StMichaelLivermore.com
Parish: 925-447-1585
School: 925-447-1888
Emergencies: 925-521-4117

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily

Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am
Wednesday: 7:00 pm (español)
First Friday: 12:00 pm

Weekend

Sat Vigil: 5:00 pm (English),
7:00 pm (español)

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

Sign Language

1st Sunday, 11:00 am

Traditional Latin Mass

2nd & 4th Sunday, 8:00 am

Mass in Tagalog

3rd Sunday, 3:30 pm

Mass in Vietnamese

4th Sunday, 3:30 pm

Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples, Bring Christ to People

STUDY

Summary

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lays out many of his basic life teachings. Several of them are extraordinarily difficult for us to understand, much less put into practice. Two of these are the famous “turn the other cheek” and “love your enemy” admonitions. To understand what Jesus is saying and what it means to us today, we first need to understand the context in which Jesus is speaking.

He is addressing the Jews, the Chosen People. They have been given the truth about the one God and God’s commandments in the Law. God entered into a special relationship with them because God wanted them to be the means by which these truths were conveyed to the entire world. Many Jews in the first century, however, saw non-Jews, i.e. the Gentiles and especially the Romans, as enemies. They distanced themselves from the Gentiles and some fought against their Gentile oppressors. But Jesus calls the Jews to love their enemies—to love the very Gentiles who have lived an immoral life far from God and have inflicted so much suffering on the Jewish people.

One way of understanding what Jesus is saying about the need to love your enemy is to think of an iron bar. In order to bend it, you first must heat it. In the same way, if you want to move people and convert them, then you need to apply the heat of love. We can never change the

world simply with the iron bar of stating the truth. The proclamation of the truth must be imbued with love.

If we merely announce the truth about such things as abortion and marriage, but we do so without loving the people we are



speaking to, then it won’t make much difference. They will not change. If we want to convert a pagan, or someone from the secular culture, then we must do so by first applying the radical kind of love Jesus proposes in his teachings.

First Reading Reflection Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18

Our passage, addressed to Moses, begins, “Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.” This code expands on the Ten Commandments and describes the parameters of just relationships amongst the Israelites, as well as between the Israelites and the foreigners that entered their land. Leviticus 19:18 says, “Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” It’s understandable that

an Israelite would interpret this to mean that although he was to love his neighbor, it was permissible to hate his enemy, as Jesus remarks in Matthew 5:43.

It’s true that the Israelites were told to love foreigners, but only when they became resident aliens in the land of Israel.

Those beyond the land were considered to be beyond the reach of the Law. The lack of specificity about how to treat those who weren’t Israelites made this question worth posing to Jesus. “Be perfect,” Jesus says, just as Leviticus said, “Be holy.” That’s the end toward which God has always aimed: our holiness. A clear mark of holiness is love of neighbor, friend, and foreigner.

Second Reading Reflection 1 Corinthians 3:16–23

In this passage, St. Paul says that we are temples and that “if anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person.” This may at first sound like a threat of revenge against those who make themselves enemies of Christians. But if we compare this passage with 1 Corinthians 6:18–19, we could also suggest that it is a warning to Christians themselves not to desecrate their own bodily temples by sin. In Romans 12:1, Paul calls on Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.” In so doing he completes the transference of the temple image to us. As Jesus’s body was both the temple and sacrifice of the New Covenant, so our bodies are

both temples and sacrificial offerings as part of our participation in that Covenant.

Talking about bodies being temples and sacrificial offerings might sound like nonsense to the worldly-wise. The world considers terms like “holiness” and “sacrifice” to be virtually meaningless. St. Paul counsels against that kind of worldly calculation. If that is wisdom, he warns, then we’d better be fools for Christ. Believing that Christ is the center and meaning of human history, we’d be foolish not to try to conform ourselves to his example.

Gospel Reflection Matthew 5:38–48

In this passage, the connection between the Torah, the Old Law, and the New Law in Christ is even more pronounced. Jesus says five times (the number of books of the Old Law) you have heard the commandment...” and then extends, tightens, or strengthens that law by phrasing it in a new commandment. Jesus is clearly acting as the voice of the Law as had Moses. If we look at the sources for the

commandments of the Old Law that Jesus cites, we see that he’s not just quoting Moses. In each case where Jesus is citing the Old Law, he makes reference to a direct command from God himself. The first two references are from the Ten Commandments, but the last three are from the Levitical code. Each of those commands in Leviticus closes with the phrase “I am the Lord” or “I, the Lord, am your God.” By citing and then changing these commands of Yahweh, Jesus is implicitly saying the same thing, “I am the Lord.” Only the Lord could change his law. Matthew thereby shows us that Jesus isn’t merely a new Moses, but the God who spoke through Moses and who has the authority to promulgate a New Law.

Reflect & Discuss

Please watch the short Opening the Word video on FORMED.org about one of the hardest teachings of Jesus—the command to love our enemies. Then reflect upon and discuss these questions with a friend:

How did the Jews of Jesus’s time view non-Jews in general,

and Romans in particular? The presenter, Tim Gray, uses the example of iron to explain how we should treat our enemies. What does he say, and how does that relate to Christian truth?

Digging Deeper Go for Two Miles

According to Roman military law, soldiers had permission to force civilians to carry equipment or even personal items for one Roman mile (4854 feet). This sheds light on Jesus’s teaching about going for two miles. For a Jew in the first century, this teaching would be shocking. It meant that if a Jew was coerced into that service by a Roman soldier, he or she should perform an act of generosity and service for him and go twice as far as required. Jesus’s teaching inspires us today to perform extra acts of love, service and kindness toward those who frustrate us or hurt us—those “enemies” in our lives whom we may rather avoid.

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

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

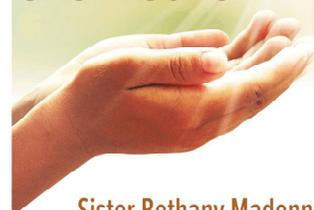
Sr. Bethany Madonna, vocations director for the Sisters of Life, shares how God not only wants us to know him, but also to give us the desires of our heart and gifts that bring purpose, meaning, and hope.

Desires of the Heart by Sister Bethany Madonna

LISTEN ON FORMED.ORG

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Desires of the Heart



Sister Bethany Madonna

PRAY

Mass Intentions

Saturday 2/22

8:30am David Otting
5:00pm Russell Mueller †
7:00pm Valentino and Graciela
Castillo

Sunday 2/23

6:45am Custodio & Buen Consejo
and family
8:00am Delia Elisa Penza †
9:30am Rosemarie Warnock †
11:00am Virginia Freie †
12:30pm Juanita Hernandez
6:00pm Mrs Reva Simpson †

Monday 2/24

8:30am The Fahnhorst Family

Tuesday 2/25

8:30am Donald G Gardener †

Wednesday 2/26

6:45am Cuc Nguyen
8:30am Violet Stratman †
10:00am Delia Gutierrez Penza †
12:15pm Souls of Purgatory
3:30pm Venancio Lavarias †
6:00pm Garcia Silva Family
7:30pm Mass for Our Parish

Thursday 2/27

6:45am Rob Lindquist †
8:30am Patrick McWeeney †

Friday 2/28

6:45am Mr & Mrs Donald Barter †
8:30am Jim Kane †

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.



Prayer

Imagine you are sitting at the Sermon on the Mount. As you sit and listen to Jesus as he teaches, you suddenly hear him say, "Offer no resistance to one who is evil." What? Aren't we supposed to fight against evil in the world? What can this mean? Reflect for a moment on what Jesus himself did when he was arrested and crucified. What does his example mean for you right now, today, in your life?

Resolution

This is one of Jesus's hardest teachings. During this week, re-read the Gospel and take some time to pray about how this can apply to you and your family. If there is someone you consider an "enemy," bring that relationship before the Lord and ask to be shown how to demonstrate love to that person.

Special Intentions

For our SIXTY FIVE guests at Alpha, that they may return for this week's session and continue the journey toward a relationship (or renewed relationship) with Jesus.

Our Parish Prayer Team has over 600 members! When you join the team, you will receive a weekly email with the prayer requests of the community. Send your prayers or join the team by emailing Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

FROM FR CARL

Dear St Michael Family,

Lent begins this Wednesday, February 26. The season of Lent is the liturgical season consisting of forty days of fasting, prayer and penitence beginning at Ash Wednesday and concluding at sundown on Holy Thursday. The official liturgical color for the season of Lent is violet.

During these 40 days, we will be reminded that God delights in the conversion of a sinner, and that His mercy is ready for anyone who repents. This season reminds us also of the Holy Words of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke 5:32: "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." Lent officially ends at sundown on Holy Thursday, April 9 with the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Purpose of Lent

Lent is a season of soul searching and repentance. It is a sea-

son for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for Baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

Where Did the Ashes Come From?

If you read the Old Testament attentively, you'll find that people commonly put on sackcloth and ashes when they heard very bad news, and they continued to wear them while they were in distress (see Esther 4:1). The ashes on Ash Wednesday continue this ancient custom as a symbol that we are sinners in need of saving.

Fasting and Abstaining from Meat

Every person 14 years or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. Although seafood is permitted, the purpose is to eat simply and plainly. We put aside decadence.

Every person between the age of 18 and 59 (beginning of 60th year) must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting for Catholics means we limit ourselves to one full meal. Two snacks may also be eaten if needed, as long as combined they don't make one meal.

I look forward to making this journey with you and encourage you to come to an extra Mass during the week, to Stations of the Cross and to participate in our Lent study below.

Your pastor,
Fr Carl

Consoling the Heart of Jesus: Episode 2

Laying the Foundation

In this week's episode of Consoling the Heart of Jesus, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, along with the teachings of Sts. Thérèse of Lisieux, Faustina Kowalska, and Louis de Montfort are brought together by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, to lead us to trust in Jesus, the Divine Mercy.

I encourage you to get together with a friend over coffee or by phone to talk about what you watched. If you are having technical difficulty, please contact Tina Gregory at 925-667-4051 or TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com

Fr Carl



Keep in the loop...

Another Traditional Latin Mass Added

Starting in March, the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 8:00 am Mass will be celebrated in the Extraordinary Form, the traditional Latin Mass. Learn about this liturgy at StMichaelLivermore.com/Latin

Backpack Project

The second collection on March 8th will go toward the purchase of backpacks and supplies for families who are unable to afford many of the expenses that come with starting the new school year. Since 1993, St Michael's parishioners have joined other Livermore congregations in generously donating to the cost of these school supplies.

Rebuild My Church: Bishop's Appeal 2020

This year the Bishop is continuing the theme of Rebuild My Church. As we begin our efforts to raise funds for the diocese and our parish through the 2020 Appeal, let us remember that our individual gifts, when combined with that of parishioners from across the diocese, makes a significant difference in the lives of so many people who rely upon our Church for their spiritual, pastoral, educational or human needs. Please watch for your Bishop's Appeal envelope.

Blessed Candles

Pick up your blessed candle in the church office and at special Masses throughout the year: \$5 donation or 5 candles for \$20. Proceeds benefit the St Michael Music Ministry.

Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood

Join the 40 Days for Life movement with a peaceful prayer vigil, February 26 - April 5 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at two Planned Parenthood locations: 2185 Pacheco Street, Concord (Sign up at 925-595-0401 or friendsforlifeconcord@gmail.com) and 1357 Oakland Blvd, Walnut Creek (Sign up at 925-984-7602 or friendsforlifetrivalley@gmail.com).

65 Guests at Our First Alpha Session!

Alpha is off to a tremendous start, with 65 guests. Over the course of the next ten weeks, guests will have an opportunity to grow in community as they explore life's biggest questions and faith. Special thanks to St Michael Staff and Clergy for sponsoring the meal, and for the Mystagogy Bible Study group for washing dishes.

Invite a friend to...

Golden Friends Bingo + Mass + Lunch

Bring your friends to our Golden Friends on Friday, February 28 in the Large Hall. Bingo and coffee are at 10 am, Mass at 11 am, followed by lunch catered by Sonny! Please call Mary at 925-784-1812 to RSVP.

Music Ministry Concert

Bring your music loving friends to our Music Ministry Concert "Let All that Has Breath Praise Our God" on Friday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the Church. It will be a wonderful night of praise and voices,

Ash Wednesday Mass & Soup Dinner

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26 this year. It is the season when we all repent and turn our faces back to Jesus. It's the perfect time for someone who has been away from the Church to come back! See Mass times and soup dinner information on the next page.

Drive Thru Prayer

Invite your friends to drive up to our courtyard, Monday through Friday, March 2 through April 3, between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Prayer teams will meet them at their car window, listen and pray for them right there.

St Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Invite friends to toast Ireland's favorite saint on Sunday, March 15 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall! Tickets will be sold by mail only. Pick up the order form in the rectory office foyer.

Shamrock Bingo

Bingo is fun for all ages! Invite friends to play on March 20 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall: \$10 adults, \$6 kids.

Livermore Knights Fish Taco Fridays

Come to dinner on February 28, March 20 (followed by Shamrock Bingo) and March 27 at 5:00 - 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Tickets at the door: \$8 per adult, \$4 per child, \$28 for family of 4 or more.

LENT



Mass Times

6:45 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am (School), 12:15 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm (Spanish), 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm (Spanish).
Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Fasting Guidelines

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting. Those ages 18 to 59 are obliged to abstain from meat and limit themselves to one full meal and, if needed, two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Those medically unable to fast are not obliged to do so, but should choose another form of fast. All who are age 14 and older must abstain from meat. Those who do not normally eat meat should choose another form of abstinence.

Seafood is Permitted

Traditionally, fish is not considered meat. While seafood is permitted during days of abstinence, Lent is a time of simplicity. Dining on lobster, crab and other rich delicacies from the sea misses the point and should be avoided.

Livermore Knights Free Potato Soup Dinner

Ash Wednesday in the parish Hall, from 4:00—7:30 pm. Please bring canned goods to donate to the St Vincent de Paul food locker.

Extra Daily Mass During Lent

Extra 6:45 am Masses, Monday—Friday to allow people to celebrate Mass before work or school. Mass will be a prompt 20 minutes.

Our regular 8:30 am daily Mass will continue as scheduled. At both Masses, there will be a collection box for offerings to support our parish ministries.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

Gather in the Church for the traditional devotion of Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:00 pm in English, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Spanish.

Pull Weeds, Plant Seeds Lent Retreat for Kids

TK-6th grade students are invited to "Pull Weeds, Plant Seeds", Lenten day retreat on Sunday, February 23, from 10:45 am—12:00 pm in the Hall. We will discuss Lent, make a craft and eat pizza! This retreat is FREE, but so that we can prepare, register at 925-667-4096 or VBC@StMichaelLivermore.com

Little Black Books

There are a limited number of daily devotional Little Black Books for lent in the Church office.

Querida familia de San Miguel,

La Cuaresma comienza este miércoles 26 de febrero. La temporada de Cuaresma es la temporada litúrgica que consiste en cuarenta días de ayuno, oración y penitencia comenzando el Miércoles de Ceniza y concluyendo al atardecer del Jueves Santo. El color litúrgico oficial para la temporada de Cuaresma es el violeta.

Durante estos 40 días, se nos recordará que Dios se deleita en la conversión de un pecador, y que su misericordia está lista para cualquiera que se arrepienta. Esta temporada nos recuerda también las Santas Palabras de Jesús en el Evangelio de Lucas 5:32: "No he venido a llamar a los justos sino a los pecadores al arrepentimiento". La Cuaresma termina oficialmente al atardecer del Jueves Santo, 9 de abril, con la Misa de la Cena del Señor.

Propósito de la Cuaresma

La Cuaresma es una temporada



de búsqueda de almas y arrepentimiento. Es una temporada de reflexión y balance. La Cuaresma se originó en los primeros días de la Iglesia como un tiempo preparatorio para la Pascua, cuando los fieles se dedicaron nuevamente y cuando los conversos fueron instruidos en la fe y preparados para el Bautismo. Al observar los cuarenta días de Cuaresma, el cristiano individual imita la retirada de Jesús al desierto durante cuarenta días.

¿De dónde vienen las cenizas?

Si lee atentamente el Antiguo Testamento, verá que las personas comúnmente se visten de cilicio y cenizas cuando escuchan malas noticias, y continúan usándolas mientras están en peligro (ver Esther 4: 1). Las cenizas del Miércoles de Ceniza continúan con esta antigua costumbre como símbolo de que somos pecadores que necesitamos salvarnos.

Ayunar y Abstenerse de Carne

Toda persona de 14 años o más debe abstenerse de comer carne (y artículos hechos con carne) el Miércoles de Ceniza, el Viernes Santo y todos los viernes de Cuaresma. Aunque los mariscos están permitidos, el propósito es comer de manera simple y sencilla. Dejamos de lado los placeres

Toda persona entre 18 y 59 años (a partir del 60º año) debe ayunar el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo. Ayunar para los católicos significa que nos limitamos a una comida completa. También se pueden comer dos refrigerios si es necesario, siempre que combinados no hagan una comida.

Espero poder hacer este viaje con ustedes y animarlos a venir a una Misa adicional durante la semana y a las Estaciones de la Cruz.

Su pastor
P. Carl

Misa del miércoles de ceniza

El Miércoles de Ceniza es el primer día de la Cuaresma. Misa en español en San Miguel a las 3:30 pm y 7:30 pm

Via Cruces durante la Cuaresma

Los viernes a las 7:00 pm en inglés, los miércoles a las 7:00 pm en español.

Misa diaria adicional durante la Cuaresma

Durante la Cuaresma, habrá una misa adicional a las 6:45 am en inglés, de lunes a viernes, para permitir que la gente celebre la misa antes del trabajo o la escuela. La misa durará 20 minutos.

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SCHEDULES AND DIRECTORY

Office Hours horas de oficina

Mon-Fri / L-V:

9:00 am—5:00 pm
(Closed / cerrado 12:00 pm—
2:00 pm)

Confession Confesión

Saturday / Sábado:

9:00 am, 3:45 pm and
6:15 pm

Mon & Fri / L y V:

7:30 am

Wed / X:

2:30 pm Convent Chapel /
capilla del convento

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 the
night access code, or to sign up
for a regular Holy Hour, call
775-772-6369

Clergy / Clero

Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor
Rev. Alfonso Borgen,
Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Ryan Dellota, resident
Rev. Deacon Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer,
Retired

Pastoral Council Consejo Pastoral

Mike Pereira (chair),
Fidelis Atuegbu (vice chair), Fr
Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Jo
Anne Lindquist, Frank
Draschner, Jeff Andersen,
Cynthia Garay, Alison Wilke
and Glenda Dubsy.

Finance Council Consejo Financiero

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom,
Kathy Hawkins, Travis Cox,
Analy Palomino, Vanessa
Suarez and Erleene Echon

Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños
925-344-7150 Adultos

Ministerio Hispano

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Ricardo Garcia
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StMichaelLivermore.com

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925-447-2925

