



# St Michael Catholic Parish

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

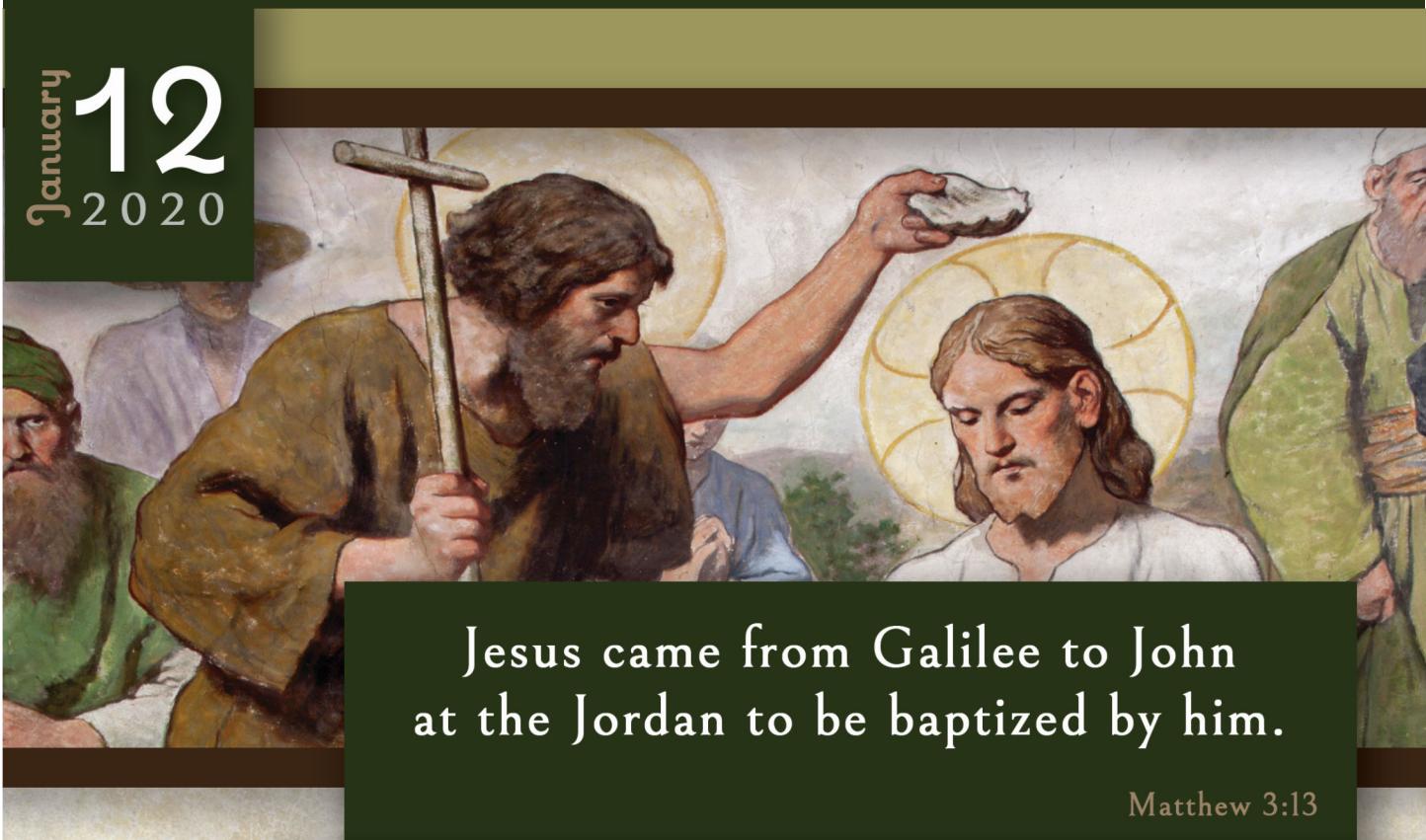
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January  
**12**  
2020



Jesus came from Galilee to John  
at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

Matthew 3:13

## The Baptism of the Lord

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Have you ever considered with whom Jesus spends most of his time? With whom he enjoys hanging out? Whom he considers his closest friends? They aren't the so-called "holy" people, but ordinary sinners like you and me. People who mess up, who need healing, who can't seem to get their act together.

Why does Jesus want to be with sinners? It's because his whole goal is to fulfill the Father's plan, not by being a messiah in the worldly sense, but by becoming the Messiah who bears all the consequences of sin by dying on the cross. That's what his mission, his entire reason for becoming man, was all about: to step into the place of sinners. He became a man so that he could know what it was like to be human in order to save humanity.

Jesus had a unique mission, one only he could fulfill. But have you ever stopped to consider that you have a unique mission as well? One only you can fulfill? It's true. Each of us has been created by God to carry out a mission designed for us alone. And just as Jesus was able to complete his mission through the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive that very same Holy Spirit when we are baptized and confirmed. Through the power of the Spirit given to us in the sacraments, we are anointed to carry out our mission as beloved sons and daughters of the Father.

## First Reading Reflection [Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7](#)

Here again this Sunday, the prophetic voice announcing the coming of Christ is that of Isaiah, that wonderful book that is sometimes called "the fifth Gospel," so clear are the prophecies in it of the coming of Christ. As was noted in the study on Isaiah from Epiphany, these servant texts from Isaiah have often been read by Christians as referring both to Israel and the Jewish people and to the coming Messiah of Israel who is to



reflections on the readings for January 12, 2020

fulfill the role of his people perfectly. In the Gospel reading for this Sunday from Matthew we will see Jesus appear quietly at the Jordan, without clamor, as this text promises, to begin the work of fulfilling Israel's role of being a "covenant of the people, a light for the nations," and to bring those in the dungeon of sin out into the light of salvation. Since this reading is given us in the Mass, it is worth noting that, in response to this prophetic text from Isaiah, the Christians of the first centuries would sometimes call the Holy Eucharist that we still receive in Holy Communion simply "the covenant," to indicate that it was Jesus himself in the Eucharist that we receive,

the same Messiah that Isaiah had foretold.

## Second Reading Reflection [Acts 10:34-38](#)

This text from Acts 10 represents a kind of half-way point in the narrative of Luke's Acts. In this chapter Peter receives the revelation that the Gentiles are to be included in "the Way" (Acts 9:2) that Jesus had instituted. This had already appeared in Acts 9 when a figure named Saul (later Paul) had been told by God that he would "carry my name before the Gentiles" (9:15). Here we see God prepare the Jewish Church for this transition through the leadership of Peter, the first pope. He first receives a vision in Joppa that makes clear that the dietary laws of Judaism, one of the clearest signs of difference between Jews and Gen-

tiles, have been fulfilled in the new revelation in Christ and need not be observed any more: "What God has cleansed, you must not call common" meaning, you must not disallow the consumption of foods which God has now declared acceptable).

Peter, at first perplexed at this, realizes the deeper meaning of this revelation when a Roman centurion (a Gentile, Cornelius) from Caesarea sends for him, so that he might hear Peter's gospel announcement. When Peter hears that this Gentile had received a revelation to call Peter, just as he had, the deeper meaning of his vision is made clear: "I see that God shows no

partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” Suddenly in the middle of Peter’s announcement of this Good News, the Holy Spirit falls upon these Gentiles as a corroboration of this message!

## Gospel Reflection

**Matthew 3:13–17**

This wonderful feast of the Baptism of the Lord is part of a triptych of mysteries in the mind of the Church. In the Liturgy of the Hours for the celebration of the Epiphany, the antiphon for the Canticle of Mary (for Vespers or Evening Prayer) says, “Three mysteries mark this holy day: today the star leads the Magi to the infant Christ; today water is changed into wine for the wedding feast; today Christ wills to be baptized by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation.” That prayer suggests that the mystery of the magi celebrated last Sunday on the Epiphany is continued in another “epiphany” in this feast of the Baptism of the Lord. That word in the Greek

means “a showing forth” and the thing shown here is the Christological mystery of our faith, that Jesus is the Incarnate Son of God and the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity. All three divine Persons are present in the tableau that we see both here and in Luke’s gospel, the voice of the Father, the dove as a sign of the Holy Spirit and, of course, the presence of the Son in the waters of the Jordan. This revelation that the one God is a loving communion of three Persons that Jesus came to disclose is what the Catechism calls the “central mystery of Christian faith and life” (CCC 234). By our Baptism we enter that mystery of the Son, overshadowed by the Spirit we become the favored sons and daughters of the Father.

## Reflect & Discuss

Watch the short *Opening the Word* video on FORMED.org

What does it mean to you that Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and raised the dead both as God and as man?

At our Baptism and Confirmation, we are anointed to carry out a unique mission that can never be fulfilled by anyone. In your journal, write down some ideas about how you are fulfilling your mission.

## Digging Deeper True God and True Man

“The unique and altogether singular event of the Incarnation of the Son of God does not mean that Jesus Christ is part God and part man, nor does it imply that he is the result of a confused mixture of the divine and the human. He became truly man while remaining truly God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. During the first centuries, the Church had to defend and clarify this truth of faith against the heresies that falsified it.” —CCC 464

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

# REBORN

YOU, YOUR CHILD AND THE HEART OF BAPTISM



**Reborn** explores the deeply personal power of Baptism, bringing to light the spiritual reality. It presents the foundation of the Church's teaching on Baptism, with a step-by-step explanation of the rite itself, including its profound place in Scripture and Tradition.

Parishioners watch FREE at [FORMED.org](https://www.formed.org)

# Pray Throughout the Week

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 1/11

8:30am Russel Mueller †  
5:00pm Walter & Joyce Bannister †  
7:00pm Emilio & Fernando Morales †  
Maria Torres †

### Sunday 1/12

6:45am Thomas Heise †  
8:00am Russell Mueller †  
9:30am Richard Gandolfo, Jr †  
11:00am Kevin Milne  
Sally DiScenza  
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish  
6:00pm Jessette Prospero-Escolar

### Monday 1/13

8:30am Mathilde & Anton Gapp †

### Tuesday 1/14

8:30am Mary Lynn Janicke

### Wednesday 1/15

8:30am Joseph Pham  
7:00pm Emilio & Fernando Morales †  
Maria Torres †

### Thursday 1/16

8:30am Bernard Lucas

### Friday 1/17

8:30am Bob Martinez †

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

In the second reading from Paul, we are told that “after the baptism that John preached...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” Now apply those words to yourself: “After my baptism, God anointed me with the Holy Spirit and power. I go about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God is with me.” What do you feel as you hear those words applied to you? Do you truly believe that you have been anointed by the Holy Spirit? Do you trust that God is with you? Let the truth of this statement take root in your heart and say to yourself, “God is truly with me.”

## Resolution

This week, trusting that you have been anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit through your Baptism and Confirmation try your best to explain what the Church really teaches the next time you hear someone misunderstand or even misrepresent Catholic doctrine.

## Special Intentions

**For our next Alpha Course** that begins in February: that our team will be guided by the Holy Spirit in every decision; that our parish groups and ministries will be inspired to respond to Fr Carl's request to sponsor a meal; that our parishioners will be empowered to invite people to attend.

Please pray for all the intentions sent to the **Parish Prayer Team** at [Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com) and the prayers written in the book of intentions in the Adoration Chapel.

# Fr Carl's Message

## A “Maintenance” Church or a “Mission” Church?

Father James Mallon, diocesan priest from Nova Scotia, has a book entitled Divine Renovation: from Maintenance to Mission. He starts with his observation and experience that parishes around the world are emptying, aging, sleeping, dying. For years – even decades – they have allowed themselves to fall into a “maintenance” model and have forgotten the mission.

### What does a maintenance church look like?

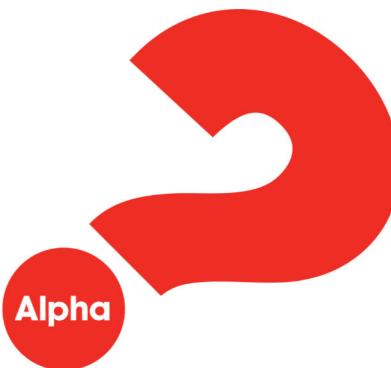
1. Parishioners go to Mass and follow a patterned routine, with bare minimum effort.
2. Zero evangelization effort, and all energy focuses on those inside the church and neglecting those outside.
3. Leadership aims to just make people happy, without rocking the boat and certainly without challenging anyone.
4. Ministries and groups who haven’t invited new members and are therefore dwindling.
5. Lack of happy faces, joyful exuberance and energy.

Do we want St Michael’s to look like this kind of maintenance church? I believe this is not the direction that God desires for us. Matthew 28:20 always reminds us to go out through all the world to tell the Good News and make disciples. God wants us to be in Church where we can use our gifts and talents for the spread of

the Good News and to humbly submit to the direction and guidance of our Bishop and Pastors. Even our Church Leaders need also to be aware of this direction and pursuit towards an evangelizing and missionary church.

### But here is the hope:

Our ministries of charity, such as St Vincent de Paul, Homebound Ministry, Drive Through Prayer, Grief Support and our parish volunteers who serve meals at St Mary’s Center and Open Heart Kitchen are just a few, touch lives



with the mercy of Jesus. Our welcoming ministry, liturgical ministers and all parishioners who warmly smile and greet people make Jesus present. Our Parish Prayer Team and all of our devotional groups who pray for our community connect us to the Lord.

### But I must ask you to take a step further:

Invite as many people as you can to Alpha which starts on February 10. Alpha is a series of dinners

perfect for those who don’t consider themselves “religious” people. It’s a non-intimidating event that might be an easy entry into exploring Christianity. You and your guests will be greeted by friendly people and have dinner around a table of fun people. On the first night, you’ll watch an engaging video asking the question, “Is there more to life than this?”. Then you’ll have a chance to discuss it amongst your tablemates. Alpha offers a welcoming environment to take the first small steps toward encountering Jesus. Alpha is also perfect for people who are returning to the Church, for people who have a lot of “head” Christian knowledge, but not “heart” and for Catholics who are looking for a community of friends.

Please see page 6 of this bulletin. Cut out the Alpha invitation and give it to someone. Everyone is welcome to attend: parishioners or non parishioners, religious or non-religious. No matter where you are on the spiritual journey, Alpha is for everyone.

Share the link with as many as you can!

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

Together we can ensure that St Michael is a parish geared for the mission. God is calling you!

Fr. Carl

# WE MUST **invite** TO HAVE A CHURCH



Jesus' final command before ascending to heaven, is to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). It's known as the Great Commission, not "the really good suggestion". Why? Because Jesus entrusted his disciples with a partnership in the salvation of the world. The transmission of Gospel message depends on US. Jesus is counting on us to reach a particular person or persons with the message of His love and redemption. But how do we go about this?

## Just invite.

Inviting someone to come to Mass might be a little too intimidating for someone who is unfamiliar with liturgy. But inviting them to dinner? That's easy. Non-threatening. At Alpha you can bring your friend, coworker, colleague, hairstylist, daughter's boyfriend, UPS driver for a meal. You'll be greeted by really friendly people and have a great (free!) dinner. You'll watch a video on the very basics of the Christian faith, then have a chance to discuss it with your tablemates. And any and all questions and comments are allowed! Seriously. At Alpha, everyone gets a chance to voice their thoughts and be heard, without correction or judgment. Alpha is a place to have a meaningful conversation, to explore the biggest questions of faith. It's a welcoming place to begin a journey that will change a life forever.

## Who will you invite?

## save the date

Mondays at 6:30 pm  
Starting February 10, 2020  
St Michael Parish Hall, 326 Maple Street  
Livermore, CA  
Register: [StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha)

who  
will you  
invite?

**Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.**

**#TryAlpha**



**You are invited to Alpha!**

**Join us for a great meal and conversation with others who are exploring life and faith; no strings attached.**

**If you come, we won't call you after, write, or ask you to pick up the check — the ball is completely in your court.**

**What do you have to lose?**

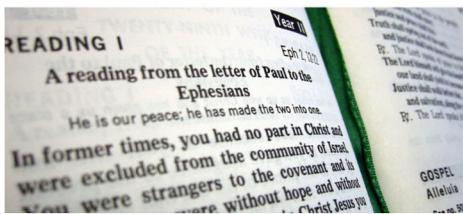
# **Holy Hour for Alpha**

**Join our clergy in praying for our Alpha guests**

**Adoration Chapel  
Mondays, Feb 10 - Apr 27  
5:00 - 6:00 pm**

# LECTOR TRAINING

Saturday, January 18  
at 10:00 am  
in the Church



Register at  
[StMichaelLivermore.com/  
Lectors](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Lectors)

# EUCARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

February 4 at 6:30 pm OR  
February 8 at 9:30 am  
in the Church



Register at  
[StMichaelLivermore.com/  
EM](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/EM)



## A 90-DAY SPIRITUAL EXERCISE FOR MEN COMING SOON!



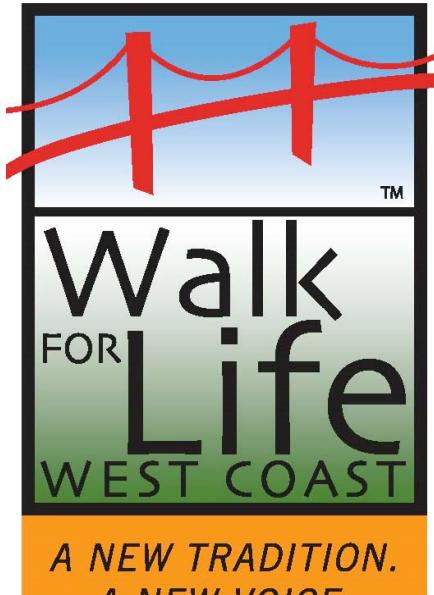
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## BUNCO!



Sunday, January 19  
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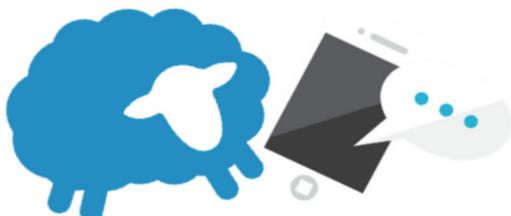
January 25 at 12:30 pm  
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Tuesdays at 7:00 pm  
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Contact Rachael  
510-501-1411



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Search for St Michael by zip code 94550

# Mensaje del P. Carl

## ¿Una iglesia de "mantenimiento" o una iglesia de "misión"?

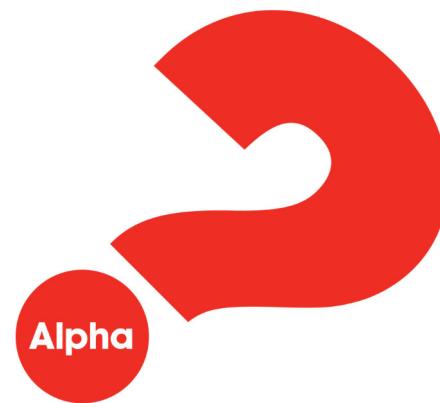
El padre James Mallon, sacerdote diocesano de Nueva Escocia, tiene un libro titulado Renovación divina: del mantenimiento a la misión. Comienza con la observación y experiencia que las parroquias de todo el mundo se están vaciando, envejeciendo, durmiendo, muriendo. Durante años, incluso décadas, se han permitido caer en un modelo de "mantenimiento" y han olvidado la misión.

### ¿Cómo es una iglesia de mantenimiento?

1. Los feligreses van a misa y siguen una rutina con un mínimo esfuerzo.
2. Esfuerzo de evangelización cero, y toda la energía se enfoca en aquellos dentro de la iglesia y descuidando a los de afuera.
3. El liderazgo tiene como objetivo hacer felices a las personas, sin sacudir el bote y ciertamente sin desafiar a nadie.
4. Ministerios y grupos que no han invitado a nuevos miembros y, por lo tanto, están disminuyendo.
5. Falta de caras felices, alegría y exuberancia.

¿Queremos que San Miguel se parezca a este tipo de iglesia de mantenimiento? Creo que esta no es la dirección que Dios desea para nosotros. Mateo 28:20 siempre nos recuerda que salgamos por todo el mundo para contar las Buenas Nuevas y hacer discípu-

los. Dios quiere que estemos en la Iglesia donde podemos usar nuestros dones y talentos para difundir las Buenas Nuevas y someternos humildemente a la dirección y guía de nuestro Obispo y Pastores. Incluso nuestros Líderes de la Iglesia también deben estar conscientes de esta dirección y búsqueda hacia una iglesia evangelizadora y misionera.



### Pero aquí está la esperanza:

Nuestros ministerios de caridad, como San Vicente de Paul, Ministerio en el hogar, Drive Through Prayer, Grief Support y nuestros voluntarios de la parroquia que sirven comidas en St Mary's Center y Open Heart Kitchen son solo algunos, tocan vidas con la misericordia de Jesús. Nuestro ministerio de bienvenida, ministros litúrgicos y todos los feligreses que sonríen y saludan calurosamente a las personas hacen presente a Jesús. Nuestro equipo de oración parroquial y todos nuestros grupos devocionales que oran por nuestra comunidad nos conectan con el Señor.

Pero debo pedirle que de un paso más allá:

Invite a tantas personas como pueda a Alpha, que comienza el 10 de febrero. Alpha es una serie de cenas perfectas para aquellos que no se consideran personas "religiosas". Es un evento no intimidante que podría ser una entrada fácil para explorar el cristianismo. Usted y sus invitados serán recibidos por gente amable y cenarán alrededor de una mesa con gente divertida. La primera noche, verá un interesante video haciendo la pregunta: "¿Hay algo más en la vida que esto?". Entonces tendrá la oportunidad de discutirlo con sus compañeros de mesa. Alpha ofrece un ambiente acogedor para dar los primeros pequeños pasos hacia el encuentro con Jesús. Alpha también es perfecto para las personas que regresan a la Iglesia, para las personas que tienen mucho conocimiento cristiano "principal", pero no para el "corazón", y para los católicos que buscan una comunidad de amigos.

Consulte la página 6 de este boletín. Recorte la invitación Alfa y déselo a alguien. ¡Comparta el enlace [StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha) con todos los como pueda!

Juntos podemos asegurar que San Miguel sea una parroquia preparada para la misión. Dios le está llamando!

El p. Carl

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# Information | Información

## St. Michael Parish | La Parroquia de San Miquel

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA 94550 925-447-1585 StMichaelLivermore.com

Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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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

### 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

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Kathy  
Hawkins, Travis Cox, 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 Carrillo & Ricardo Garcia  
Hispano1@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 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 Wilke, School Principal awilke@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