



St. Michael Catholic Parish

Where we celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples, and bring Christ to people.

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JANUARY 14, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



AS JOHN THE BAPTIST WATCHED
JESUS WALK BY, HE SAID,

"Behold, the Lamb of God."

JOHN 1:36

Hearing and Seeing Spiritually

Have you ever wondered why God seems to stay so hidden from us? As a Christian trying to live a life of prayer, sometimes it can seem like God doesn't want to be known at all. Or maybe it can even seem as though God just doesn't exist.

But God does exist—and he longs to be known! But God draws us to himself more mysteriously. We get two great examples of this in today's readings. First, when God is calling Samuel, it takes Samuel three times before he finally realizes God is speaking to him. And in the Gospel, Jesus simply tells his disciples, "Come and see."

"Come and see." This is the method of God. He doesn't just want to give us answers, but to live life with us. When the disciples follow Christ, the Gospel says that they "stayed with him." When we stay with God, we can begin to hear and see clearly, and begin to find him in the quiet of our hearts.

First Reading Reflection

1 Samuel 3:3b–10, 19

This reading from 1 Samuel is often used for Masses which celebrate the taking or renewal of religious vows and continues to touch the hearts of religious brothers and sisters who have heard it read at their ceremonies of profession. The story of the call of Samuel has become a standard depiction of God's call to us all.

God's call comes to Samuel three times, perhaps to show its divine origin. The first two times the young Samuel, who hasn't heard the Lord's

voice yet, goes to Eli thinking that the old priest is calling him. After the second call, Eli realizes that the Lord is speaking to the boy and instructs him to answer, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Responding in this way, Samuel is given a prophetic message by the Lord for Eli, and Samuel's vocation as a prophet is underway.

This reading reminds us of the importance of readiness in responding to God's call. Samuel speaks the phrase "Here I am" four times in this passage, demonstrating his eagerness to serve—and he is eager both to serve Eli, the representative of God, and God himself. This can also teach us the importance of obedience to the Church in responding to our vocational call.

Second Reading Reflection

1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a, 17–20

"The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body." St. Paul is not just telling the Christians of Corinth to behave: rather, he is informing them of the dignity of the body which God has bestowed on it. The next line refers to the resurrection of the body as a proof of this dignity: "God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power." The dignity of our bodies is made clear by their heavenly destiny. Unlike anything else on this earth, our bodies will be glorified by God to participate in the life of Heaven.

A Protestant minister, after attending his first Catholic Mass, remarked to a friend, "Now I know why God



gave me a body!" Our bodies are for the worship of God. Jesus himself offered the perfect act of worship to the Father by offering his Body on the Cross. Therefore, sins against the body, like fornication, are evil, not because sexuality is bad, but because our bodies are holy! They are "for the Lord," as St. Paul says. It should not be surprising, then, that our vocations (those ways in which we live out our commitment to the Lord) should have a bodily component. Chastity, that singular offering of one's whole self to Christ, the Church, or to one another, is the bodily expression of the singularity of our devotion to God. By chastity—celibate or married chastity—we live out our common Christian vocation as temples of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading Reflection

John 1:35–42

The place of this meeting is "Bethany across the Jordan," where John was baptizing. This is thought to be the place where the Israelites crossed

the Jordan into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. Now under the leadership of a new Joshua, which is the Hebrew form of the name Jesus, Israel is about to cross to the shore of a new Promised Land, the eternal Promised Land of Heaven.

Jesus, upon meeting the two disciples asks, "What do you seek?" (RSV) or "What are you looking for?" (NAB). This is similar to the question that Jesus will later ask those who come to arrest him in the Garden of Gethsemane and Mary Magdalene when she first meets the resurrected Jesus. But instead of answering directly, they answer Jesus's question with another question: "Where are you staying?" The word stay used here is from the Greek *meno*, and means to "abide" or "dwell." It is used again and again by Jesus at important times to describe the way in which he will remain with those who follow him.

Jesus answers simply: "Come and see." In response to Jesus's invitation, the disciples "went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day." We may learn from this that by faith, a disciple will remain in the Lord and the

Lord in the disciple.

Discussion

Today let's turn our gaze to the Lord and meditate on his desire to be in a relationship with us. How is he speaking to us in our daily lives? This matters not only for the big questions in life, but also for learning how to have a living relationship with the Lord where we can hear his voice and respond. As you watch the short **Opening the Word** video available at FORMED.org, ponder how the Lord could be communicating with you in small ways every day.

When we work to hear and to see spiritually, we begin to see that God longs for an intimate friendship with us. Listening for God isn't just about figuring out his will and doing what he tells us, but about living a life of friendship with him and responding to his love out of love for him. When speaking of prayer, St. Alphonsus Liguori encourages us to "acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends."

When you are speaking to God and listening for him, do you think of him as a friend? Do you find it difficult to know if it's his voice? When has it been difficult to respond to what you thought he was asking? How could seeing his call as coming from a friend help you?

When has God spoken to you through events in your life? Can you think of specific people through whom God speaks into your life? When have you been able to be God's voice to someone else, like Eli to Samuel?

Challenge

Make a new year's habit! Write down your answers to the above discussion questions in a journal and/or have a weekly meeting with a friend to talk about them.

This **Opening the Word** reflection by FORMED.org has been printed with permission from Augustine Institute.

Download this week's **Opening the Word** prayer journal at FORMED.org

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

40

The Most Important Human Rights Issue of Our Time

With compassion, love, and hope, 40 explores inspiring stories and deeply personal interviews some of the most prominent figures in the pro-life movement including Abby Johnson, Lila Rose, and Fr. Frank Pavone. Their stories will change hearts and make the pro-life movement more determined in the fight to end abortion.

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Mass Intentions

Saturday 1/13

8:30am Maria Vinh Thi Dinh †
5:00pm Mary Ly Cao
Anthony Hoi Van Pham †
7:00pm Jose Saul Ramirez Montoya †

Sunday 1/14

6:45am Ramiro Rezendiz †
Sofia & Hector Hernandez †
8:00am Clifford Bates †
The Volponi Family
9:30am Gilberto Gutierrez †
11:00am Richard J. Gandolfo, Jr
Alice Balint †
12:30pm Domingo Madera †
6:00pm Maria Vinh Thi Vinh †

Monday 1/15

8:30am Don Scullion †

Tuesday 1/16

8:30am Maria Vinh Thi Vinh †

Wednesday 1/17

8:30am Elizabeth Taylor †
7:00pm Nosadini Oserno Garcia & Caranza Families †

Thursday 1/18

8:30am Alfredo & Guillerma Gorsope †
Jacob Benson

Friday 1/19

8:30am Reinaldo Bustos †

***To arrange a Mass intention,
please visit the Church Office.***



In today's readings we saw how God is always working to communicate with us through our eyes, ears, and the events and people we encounter in life.

It can be easy to go through life without seeing God or realizing that he is trying to talk to us. It takes spiritual sight to begin to live in the reality that God is real and very active in our daily lives.

PRAYER

Let's turn back to the Gospel, where we see Jesus calling the disciples so mysteriously. Ponder the scene where they come to him seeking answers, and he draws them in to intimate friendship with him. How is Jesus calling you into deeper friendship with him right now?

Take a word that comes to mind and reflect a moment on what it means to you personally. For example, you might have been attracted to the words "they stayed with him that day." Ask yourself what they mean in your own life. When do you find yourself wandering from Jesus during the day? How can you stay with Jesus more in your daily life?

RESOLUTION

Later in his Gospel, John records Jesus saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Jesus alone is the way we must travel, the truth we must see and proclaim, and the life we are meant to live.

Take a moment and ponder over how you live these words in a typical day in your life. How often do you see with spiritual sight? Do you instead live as though God were not real? How can you open your eyes and ears to God working in your life? What practical thing can you do this week to bring the Lord to mind more consistently, and live a life that proclaims with St. John the Baptist, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

Parish Prayer Requests

Cherie Bates, Greg Morris, Maria Lopez, Mary Jo and Carlotta Schauer's grandson, who are all battling cancer.

For the repose of the souls of Sr. Bartholomew, former principal at St Michael School, and Mr. John Douglas Maitland.

***Please send your prayer requests to
Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com***



80 Invested into the Brown Scapular Confraternity

On Jan 1, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, nearly 80 parishioners gathered to be invested into the Brown Scapular Confraternity. Immediately following, a couple of dozen faithful Consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary.

The next 33-day Consecration: Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 2018.

Christmas Collection Report

Thank you for your generosity this Christmas!

12/24/17 Collection	\$18,738.50
12/31/17 Collection	\$28,126.71
Month-to-Date	\$143,192.04
Month Goal	\$107,843.14
Percentage Reached	133%
Faith Direct for Dec.	\$34,016.50
Maintenance for Dec.	\$10,525.11
Christmas (total)	\$44,211.50



Golden Friends Had a Great Christmas

St Michael's Church Golden Friends gathered in December to celebrate Mass and have a nice lunch in our newly remodeled Hall. We were also treated with a skit by the St. Michael School 8th graders and enjoyed each others' company during the luncheon. Many thanks to fellow parishioners Gerarda and Barney Stocking at the Rock House Sports Pub and Grill for catering our luncheon.

Please join us for another gathering on Fri, Jan 26 at 10:00 am.

If you have an elder relative, friend, or visitor but don't feel "old enough" to be a Golden Friend, feel free to bring them and enjoy the celebration and luncheon with them and us!

Please RSVP with names and contact information by Wed, Jan 24, to Mary Pineda 925-784-1812.

Our expenses are now between \$15.00 and \$20.00 per person and not everyone has the means to donate, so please donate as much as you comfortably can when you arrive.

January Collection Report

We have much to accomplish in 2018, and thanks to our generous parishioners, we can do it!

1/7/18 Collection	\$22,446.28
Month-to-Date	\$22,446.28
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
Percentage Reached	26%
Faith Direct for Jan	
Maintenance for Jan	\$5,445.53

Our Knights Rang in the New Year with Livermore Veterans

Veterans, their families, and staff of the Livermore VA hospital enjoyed a fun filled New Year's Eve party. Knights of Columbus from Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon, and Danville prepared a sumptuous feast to brighten the day for inpatient Veterans. With assistance from Boy Scout Troop 924, meals and treats were served in the dining hall and brought to the rooms for patients who could not leave their beds. Knight Tim Logsdon and the RJT Jazz Trio provided festive music for the delight of all.

This Week

MONDAY, JAN 15

Readings: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22

Events:

Parish Offices Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Pray for the Alpha Participants, that they may have a lasting encounter with Jesus.

TUESDAY, JAN 16

Readings: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28

Events:

Alpha Course, Session 2 at 6:30 pm in the Small Hall. Join us for dinner and conversation about life's biggest questions and faith.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 17

St. Anthony

Readings: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6

Events:

Deadline to register for the Golden Friends trip to Thunder Valley Casino. Contact Wilma at 925-447-8198 or wilma.matuska@gmail.com

Confession at 2:30 pm in the Convent

THURSDAY, JAN 18

Readings: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12

Events:

WINGS at 9:30 am at St Charles, featuring Julie Gallagher who will speak on "Understanding Annulments & the Process: An Advocate's Perspective." Contact: Janet Schott 925-373-9346 or Phyllis Clearwater 925-337-4299

CYO Track sign ups at 6:30 pm, Hall.

FRIDAY, JAN 19

Readings: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19

Events:

Make a Holy Hour: Schedule an hour this week to spend in quiet prayer in the Adoration Chapel. Pray for an end to the culture of death, and for all those who will be walking in the Walk for Life West Coast next week.

SATURDAY, JAN 20

St. Fabian; St. Sebastian

Readings: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21

Events:

Confession at 9:15 am and 3:45 pm in English, 6:15 pm in Spanish.

SUNDAY, JAN 21

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Events:

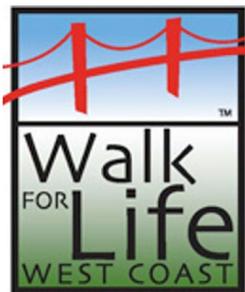
Parish Directory Pick Up in the Courtyard after the 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am Masses.

This is the Time: Though it can be easy for us to live our days as though Christ hasn't come, he has. And when he came, he fundamentally changed our world and redeemed it. His kingdom has come, and as Christians we are called to shake ourselves from the illusion of this world and to be witnesses to the presence of God.

PRAY THE ROSARY ONLINE!



StMichaelLivermore.com/Rosary



Walk for Life West Coast

Sat, Jan 27, 12:30-2:30 pm
Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco

WANTED: 100 Pro-Life Parishioners from St Michael Parish to Walk!

Join over 50,000 advocates for life from all over California at the 14th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 27, 2018. There will be Mass at 8:30 am at St. Michael's, followed by a rosary and hospitality in the courtyard. The rally begins at 12:30 PM in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk begins at 1:30 PM. Visit www.walkforlifewc.com for more information.

Please join the communities of St. Michael and St. Charles for the walk. We will assemble for the march at 1:00 PM on Grove St., between Larkin St. and Polk St. Look for the St. Michael banner. For questions, email nicklibby@earthlink.net.

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest

Sat, Jan 27 from 9:00 am—3:00 pm
St Charles

Come make simple dresses for girls in developing countries. We need all kinds of help, sewing, ironing, cutting; bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands and we will put you to work!

Contact: Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or suzbeck@yahoo.com.

Catholic Schools Week Family Mass

Sun, Jan 28 at 9:30 am

St Michael School students, Faith Formation students and all families with young children are especially invited to celebrate Mass with us on Sunday, January 28 at the 9:30 am Mass.

St Michael students, please wear your uniforms!

Serve at Open Heart Kitchen

Wed, Jan 31
Asbury United Methodist Church

St. Michael's Parish provides volunteers every 5th Wednesday at Open Heart Kitchen, Tri Valley's free hot meal service for those in need. Volunteers prepare the food on site as directed by the Open Heart Kitchen staff, set tables, serve the food, organize donated items and clean up afterwards. There are two shifts: 9:30 am-11:45 am and 11:45 am-2:00 pm.

To volunteer, contact Diane Schord at dhschord@sbcglobal.net or 925-447-4344



Knights of Columbus 45th Annual Crab Feed

Sat, Feb 10, 4 pm—11 pm
Robert Livermore Community Center

Join us for the best crab and pasta in town, live entertainment, dancing, raffles and auctions! All proceeds go to Knights of Columbus charities.

Tickets sold after Mass or by calling Mark & Claire at 925-443-5873
\$55 per person



Ministry Appreciation Mardi Gras Party

Tues, Feb 13, 5:00-8:00 pm
(drop in when you can!)
Large Hall

St Michael Clergy and Staff invite all those who have volunteered in all of the various parish ministries to a special appreciation party. Our parish community has grown this past year because of your tireless efforts. Let us treat you to some food, drink, music and fellowship with your fellow hard-working community ministers!

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WHY I LEFT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

ABBY JOHNSON



Abby Johnson is a widely recognized Catholic speaker who was once the director of one of Planned Parenthood's largest clinics where she came face to face with the reality of abortion. She shares an insider's perspective about the true motivations of the abortion industry, and her courageous journey away from it and towards life.

THERE IS LIFE IN THE WOMB

VENERABLE FULTON J. SHEEN



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was one of the best-loved and most influential preachers of the 20th century and author of over 90 books. He reached nearly 30 million people through his weekly program, Life is Worth Living, and his Cause for Canonization was officially opened in 2002. He explains the Church's teaching on life from a philosophical and historical perspective.

Feminism Misunderstood

JANE BRENNAN



Jane Brennan, a former member of NOW and former Planned Parenthood volunteer, shares her heart-wrenching story of abortion and subsequent years of depression to her final conversion to the Catholic Church.



Forgiven: **The Transforming Power of Confession** **A 3-Night Workshop Series for Our Parish Lenten Mission**

Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, **Forgiven** communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Join us at 6:30 pm in the Large Hall for three nights exploring the Sacrament of Confession. Our mission series will culminate with the Bilingual Parish Reconciliation Service in the Church.

Thursday, February 15: Session 1 – Where are You?

Thursday, February 22: Session 2 – An Encounter with Mercy

Tuesday, February 27: Session 3 – The Rite Explained

Tuesday, March 6: Bilingual Parish Reconciliation Service at 7:00 pm in the Church

Please save these dates on your calendar. Watch for registration instructions coming soon!

POR QUÉ ME FUI DE PLANNED PARENTHOOD



ABBY JOHNSON

Abby Johnson enfrentó la realidad del aborto cuando era directora de una de las clínicas de Planned Parenthood más grandes. Ahora, como conferencista católica reconocida, nos comparte una mirada al interior de la industria abortista y sus verdaderas motivaciones, además de su valerosa travesía alejándose de ella y acercándose a la vida. Su historia nos habla de la gracia y el amor misericordioso de Dios, así como del gozo que representa el ser un defensor de la vida.

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CORDERO DE DIOS

"Este es el Cordero de Dios". Escuchamos esta frase todos los domingos en la Misa pero es muy probable que muchos católicos no sepan quién la pronunció originariamente en la Biblia. La frase aparece en el Evangelio de Juan, en los labios de Juan Bautista a quien dice dos veces. En la lectura del Evangelio de hoy, Juan proclama que Jesús es el Cordero de Dios y entonces dos de los discípulos de Juan siguen a Cristo. Un poco más tarde Andrés, quien escuchó a Juan y siguió a Jesús, lleva a su hermano Simón para que reciba un nuevo nombre: Kefás, es decir Pedro. Si estudiamos a fondo estos versículos de la Biblia vemos la misión de todos los bautizados en el Cuerpo de Cristo: Siempre debemos proclamar nuestra fe en Cristo, para que otros lo sigan. Quizás no sepamos de qué manera la voluntad de Dios obrará en los que llevamos a Cristo, pero eso no es lo importante. Lo que importa es que nuestra misión constante como Iglesia es llevar a otras personas a Cristo, el Cordero de Dios, que quita el pecado del mundo.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura -- Samuel responde al llamado del Señor: "Habla, Señor, tu siervo te escucha" (1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19).

Salmo -- Aquí estoy, Señor, para hacer tu voluntad (Salmo 40 [39]).

Segunda lectura -- Tu cuerpo es un templo del Espíritu Santo; por tanto glorifica a Dios en tu cuerpo (1 Corintios 6:13-15, 17-20).

Evangelio -- Los primeros discípulos empiezan a seguir a Jesús y declaran que es el Mesías (Juan 1:35-42).



Perdonado: El Poder Transformador de la Confesión Una serie de talleres de 3 días para la Cuaresma

Perdonado explora la gracia y sanación que se otorgan en la Confesión y muestra cómo es que este sacramento de misericordia revela la profundidad y la abundancia del amor de Dios. Contemplando la revelación de la misericordia de Dios en las Sagradas Escrituras y haciendo un examen detallado del Rito en sí, la serie **Perdonado** manifiesta la invitación de Dios a cada uno de nosotros para

que experimentemos Su amor indescriptible en el Sacramento de Reconciliación.

Únase a nosotros a las 19:00 en la sala grande durante tres noches para explorar el Sacramento de la confesión. La serie finalizará con un servicio bilingüe de reconciliación en la iglesia.

Viernes, 16 de febrero : Sesión 1: ¿Dónde Estás?

Viernes, 23 de febrero : Sesión 2: Un Encuentro de Misericordia

Viernes, 2 de marzo : Sesión 3: Explicación del Rito

Martes, 6 de marzo : Servicio de reconciliación bilingüe a las 19:00 en la iglesia

Por favor, guarde estas fechas en su calendario. Este atento para las instrucciones de registro en poco tiempo!

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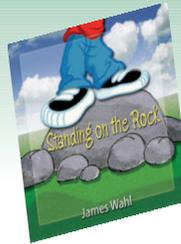
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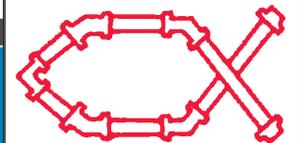
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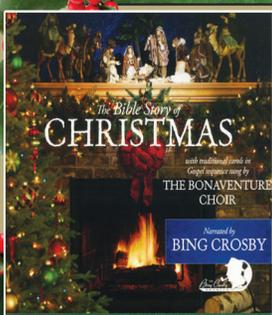
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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

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

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

1st & 3rd Wed in the Convent Chapel,
at 2:30 pm in English

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 925-980-4826 |

24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de acceso
después de las horas, llame al 925-980-4826

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 8:30 am—5:00 pm (closed during lunch)

Sun 8:30 am—12:30 pm

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Van Dinh, Pastor

Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar

Rev. David Staal, Associate

Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence

Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Rev. Deacon Bob Vince

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michaelpereira@comcast.net

Eric Hom, Ricardo Echon, Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Dave Parks, Frank Draschner, Ken Varallo, Irving Garcia, Cynthia Garay and Glenda Dubsy.

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Consejo Financiero

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daveruth@alrinc.com

Fr. Van Dinh, Eric Hom, Cynthia Garay, Edna McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa Suarez

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925-447-1888 smliv.org

Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-453-6494 Niños



Deacon Dave Rezendes, 925-447-1585
Temporary Administrator

Fr Van Dinh, Pastor
(on administrative leave)

Fr Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar 925-667-4053

Eric Hom, Business 925-667-4052

Deacon Bill Archer 925-667-4056

Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper 925-667-4058

Church Front Office 925-447-1585

School Front Office 925-447-1888

Lourdes Kay, Faith Formation 925-667-4096

Priscilla Stutzman, DRE 925-667-4097

Joseph Garcia, Youth Minister 925-667-4093

Tina Gregory, Communication 925-667-4051

JaNet Hancock, Music 925-292-5071

Debbie Pizzato, Liturgy 925-667-4095

Marjorie Melendez, RCIA 925-447-2925

Ana Fregoso, RICA 925-344-7150