



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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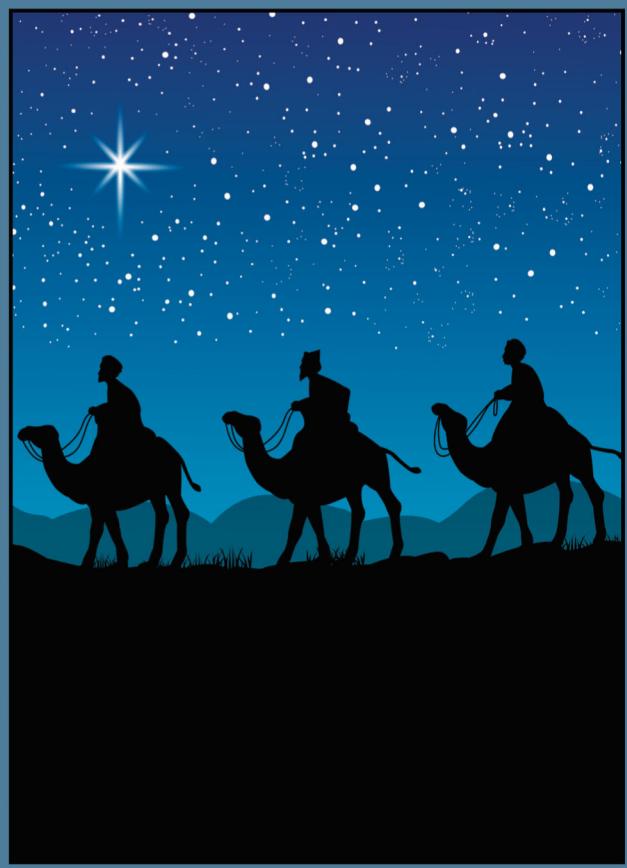
We're Social!

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 6, 2019

*They opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Matthew 2:11



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Gifts for the King

On this day we encounter the Magi coming from the East to worship the baby Jesus. Magi were originally part of the Median or Persian priestly class, and later this term came to be used more broadly to refer to people who had some sort of mystic abilities. From a distant land in the East, the Magi in today's Gospel reading see a great star in the sky, which in ancient times signified the birth of a great ruler. They follow the star in search of this new king in Israel, and their journey takes them to the town of Bethlehem.

Matthew tells us that they prostrate themselves before the child Jesus. This is a significant detail in the story because these Magi were important men, probably serving in royal courts back in the East. And yet these foreigners bow down to worship a baby in Israel. The Church Fathers recognized that this scene shows how the child who came to be the king of Israel was also the king of the whole world.

Another interesting detail from today's reading is that the Magi bring the new king Jesus three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gold is a fitting gift for a king, and points to Jesus as the true king. Frankincense was a perfume used as incense in worship, and so it points to Christ's divinity. Since myrrh was an expensive spice used in burial, this gift points to Christ's mortality and tells us that this king one day will die.

What can this mean for our lives? As we approach Jesus on this day of Epiphany—and on every day—we want to approach him in great reverence as our Lord and our King. Like the Magi we bow down before him as our king, we recognize his divinity and worship him, and we bring



the gift of self-sacrifice, just as the Magi offered him myrrh.

First Reading Reflection Isaiah 60:1-6

This text from Isaiah is one that prophetically points to the Adoration of the Magi that we celebrate on Epiphany, which means "manifestation." Light is a prominent theme in the Liturgy at this time of year. The light of course is the star of Bethlehem. But who is the star? Christ is not only the babe born in Bethlehem, but the light of the world. The light of the star that guides the wise men symbolizes the light that Christ casts by his coming into a dark world.

As a foretelling of the role those three wisdom seekers would play, they bear gifts that are in themselves prophetic. The gold prophesies Jesus' Kingship and the frankincense his Divinity and

High Priesthood. Isaiah doesn't mention the myrrh, the ointment that represents the prophecy of Jesus' death, so as to not intrude at this time of great rejoicing over the coming of the King.

Second Reading Reflection Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

In St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we see an expression of the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Magi represent. God, as the author of not only Scripture but of time and history as well, can use people and events to symbolize or to prophesy to other people or events. So the way in which events fit together prophetically in the Scriptures is dramatic proof that God's hand is at work in both the Scripture and history to affect our salvation.

The Magi from the East come to pay homage not only to the King of the Jews but also to the King of Kings. That Christ is the King of all mankind isn't made finally clear, however, until after the birth of the infant Church and the special revelations given to St. Peter and St. Paul that direct them to extend the Church to the Gentiles. The early Church probably reflected on the Jewish Scriptures and realized that God's promise to Israel had been a universal promise from the beginning, that his choice of Israel was that of a Father choosing his firstborn son to share the revelation of himself with his other brothers and sisters.

Gospel Reflection

Matthew 2:2-12

The Wise Men left their homes in the East in search of the Messiah, which means “anointed one” in Hebrew. The journey of the Wise Men may tell us something about the best way to find Christ. First, they listen to the prophetic word of the Old Testament, which alerts them to the coming of the Messiah. Second, they look to the world around them (the star) for the sign that the time is at hand. Finally, they go to Jerusalem, reasoning that the king would be in his capital. There they consult with the chief priests and scribes of the Jews who interpret the prophecies and point to the place where the child is to be born. Our road to Christ may take the same route: Scripture, nature, reason, and the Church’s teachers (magisterium) all work to guide us to him. If we follow the guides God has given us, we too may be called “wise.”

Weekly Bible Study

Make a new holy habit for 2019! The Church gives us a built-in

weekly bible study, and with FORMED.org, it's easy to reflect on the Sunday Mass readings. Ponder the questions below in your journal, with your friends and family. Watch the short *Opening the Word* reflection video on FORMED.org on the “Community tab”. Post your reflections there too!

Discussion Questions

Imagine that you are setting out on a great journey to pay your respects to a new king. What gift would you bring? Since a king can have any material goods he wants, what will make your gift special?

Who were the Magi, and what do their three gifts signify?

How do the Magi's gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh shed light on the ways in which we offer our lives as a gift to Jesus? Which of these do you feel is the hardest gift for you to offer, and why?

Reflections reprinted here with permission from Augustine Institute.



La Maternidad Divina de María

¿Por que la iglesia proclama la maternidad divina de la Virgen María? El Dr. Fernando Casanova Ph.D. nos da las herramientas para poder defendernos frente a los ataques.

Logos Palabras de Vida

El día de hoy celebramos la manifestación del Señor y la palabra del Señor nos habla de cómo tres reyes magos acudieron a su encuentro para adorarle y llevarle regalos de oro, incienso y mirra. El evangelio de hoy nos dice como el Señor quiere y desea manifestarse en tu vida y así como los tres reyes magos nosotros debemos de tener disposición de adorarlo y seguirlo a donde Él nos llame.

Ver en FORMED.org —> “Community”

FORMED PICK

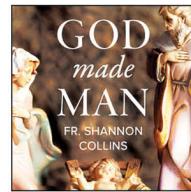


God Made Man By Fr. Shannon Collins

Rediscover the True Meaning of Christmas

Fr. Shannon Collins sheds new light on the biblical narratives of the birth of Jesus Christ, as well as the beautiful traditions of the Church during Christmas. Listen before the Christmas season ends!

[Listen on formed.org](#)



“An enlightening talk about how and why our very Creator came down to a lowly place to save the world!”

—Julie L., Sterling, VA

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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 1/5

- 8:30am Meletina Aducayen †
5:00pm Mary Caothi Ly &
Anthony Pham Van Hoi †
7:00pm Maria C. Torres †

Sunday 1/6

- 6:45am Mass for Our Parish
8:00am Betty Banke
9:30am Edna & Bob Ridsdale
11:00am Maria Fernandes Ferriera
12:30pm Barbara Paulsen &
Linda Banwell †
6:00pm Robert O'Rourke †

Monday 1/7

- 8:30am Francis Xavier Nguyen †

Tuesday 1/8

- 8:30am Dominic Mower †

Wednesday 1/9

- 8:30am Emma Sailer †
7:00pm Nieves Ornelas †

Thursday 1/10

- 8:30am Raymond Yurko †

Friday 1/11

- 8:30am James Hartigan, Jr. †

To arrange a Mass intention, please visit the Church Office. The suggested donation of \$10 per intention goes to the priest who celebrates the Mass.



Epiphany Prayer

The heavens are shining with the clear beauty of the stars, O Lord, and the very earth is made beautiful by a shining light, because thou didst vouchsafe to appear to the world from out thy holy dwelling place. Remove, therefore, from our hearts all sadness, for unto this end art thou come, that thou mayest make all things new. Grant also that light unto our eyes which may purify us and fit us to behold thee forever; that thus we who preach to the nations the glad joys of thy Apparition, may be made glad with thee in infinite joy. Amen.

Meditation

Prayerfully place yourself in today's Gospel reading. Imagine that you are with the Magi following the star to find the newborn king of the Jews. When you arrive at the humble house in Bethlehem and finally see the child Jesus with his parents, how do you feel? What would you say as you come forward to offer him a gift?

Resolution

The Magi brought the precious and significant gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to offer to Jesus. What gift can you give King Jesus this week? Perhaps you can give him "gold" in the sense of accepting him as King in your life by living more according to his will? Or maybe you can give him more "frankincense" in the sense of dedicating more time for prayer. Or you might want to offer him more "myrrh" in the sense of making sacrifices to serve others or uniting to him more in a particular suffering you are experiencing. In prayer with the Lord, choose one specific gift you could give to Jesus this week, and ask for the grace to carry out this resolution.

Need Prayers?

Send requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com



The Purpose of a New Year's Resolution

Dear St Michael Family,

Happy New Year! What is the purpose of a New Year's resolution? Wikipedia gives us a good definition:

"A New Year's resolution is a tradition, in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behavior, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life."

Each year, many of us make resolutions to improve in these areas:

-Physical: eat healthier, lose weight, exercise more, drink less alcohol or quit smoking.

-Mental: think more positively, laugh more often or enjoy life more fully.

-Financial: pay off debts, save money and make small investments.

-Career: perform better at work, get a better job or establish one's own business.

-Education: improve grades, take a class, learn something new or read more books.

-Organization: "de-junk" living spaces, manage tasks better or re-evaluate priorities and time management.

All of these are excellent suggestions for personal growth. In its Christian sense, these resolutions mean getting rid of bad habits and growing good habits or virtues that help us in our pursuit and desire for Holiness.

I urge you to consider also a spiritual resolution for 2019: to improve in prayer life and works of charity. Like party less and pray more. Shop less and give more. Complain less and thank God more. Say no to the things/people who pull us away from God, and yes to the things/people that draw

us closer to God. Talk less about nonsense and talk more about what God is doing in our lives. And frequent the sacraments of Confession and Eucharist!

Though it is not easy to fulfill this resolution, with God's grace and help, it can be done. God is our inspiration, and He will motivate us to do our very best. Remember what His message was through the Angel Gabriel, "...for nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

I encourage you to spend some prayerful time to write down your New Year's Resolution on a piece of paper. Then offer it to God by inserting the paper into your Bible, prayer book or journal. Every first Sunday of the month take time to review it as your reminder.

May God bless you and your family!

May St. Michael defend and protect you!

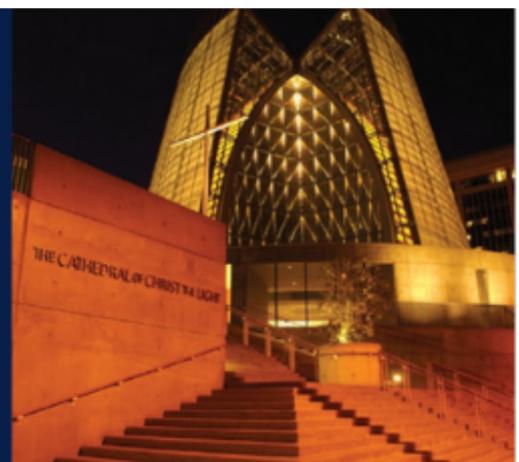
Happy New Year!!!

Fr. Carl
Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com

Diocese of Oakland

SEMINARY
COLLECTION

January 13, 2019



Moved to Tears by Drive Through Prayer

I was walking down the street one night when a beacon of flashing lights and moving signs caught my attention. As I got closer, I saw the words "Drive Through Prayer". I wasn't exactly sure what it was all about, didn't have any cash on me for a donation, and I obviously was on foot. But I was warmly invited to walk up the short drive to receive a prayer - no questions asked and nothing needed to give back in return. As I walked up, I was greeted by a brother and sister team who took their time in prayer over me. It was so heartfelt and compelling, it literally moved me to tears.

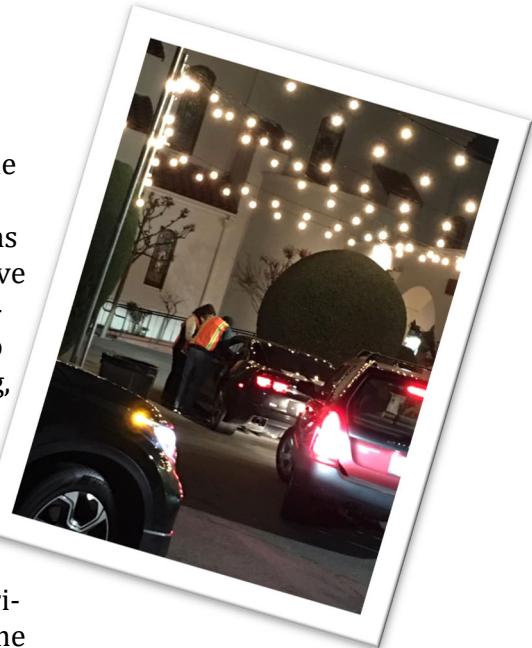
See, my grandmother, whom I was very close to, had just recently passed and I happened to go out on a walk that evening to clear my head. I truly believe she, and divine intervention, was leading me to where I needed to be in that moment. I am so thankful for this experience that I wanted to volunteer a few nights myself and hold the same sign and light that called to me that night. This experience, and the people I have met within it, have been an undeniable blessing sent from above. Thank you, Drive Through Prayer ministry!

Thanks,

Amanda Lingle

We would like to continue to serve more people like Amanda with Drive Through Prayer in January and throughout the year.... But we need about 20 more ministry members. The commitment is one night per week, from 5:15– 6:45 pm. Sign up to be on the prayer team, or a "booster" directing traffic with the arrow sign, or praying for the ministry in the Adoration Chapel. Training is provided.

Sign up at StMichaelLivermore.com/DriveThroughPrayer



ST. MICHAEL / ST. CHARLES CYO BASKETBALL Crab Feed

January 26 at Shrine Event Center 170 Lindberg Ave, Livermore

All you can crab with salad, pasta and bread included with Auctions, Raffle, 50/50 (tickets sold separately) and Dancing!

Visit smsc.cyo.org to purchase your dinner, drink and raffle tickets.
Email smsc.cyo.reg@gmail.com with questions.

MONDAY, JAN 7

St. Raymond of Peñafort

Readings: 1 Jn 3:22 -- 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

New Lector Reader Training (1st of 5) at 7 pm in the Church. We need about 20 more people to read the Scripture readings at Mass. If God is calling you to this ministry, please email Liturgy @StMichaelLivermore.com

TUESDAY, JAN 8

Readings: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

CounterPoint is a faith-based support group for people with friends and family who are alcoholics or addicts. You are not alone. Join us at St. Michael Education Center, 345 Church Street, Room 21 at 7 pm.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 9

Readings: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72: 1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thinking about becoming Catholic? The first step is stopping by Inquiry on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Convent. It's a low-key place to ask questions and find answers about the Catholic faith. Contact Marjorie at RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com for more info.

THURSDAY, JAN 10

Readings: 1 Jn 4:19 -- 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

NEW Eucharistic Ministers Training at 7 pm in the Church. Our parish is growing, and we need about 20 more new Eucharistic Ministers. If you are a baptized Catholic who has received First Communion and Confirmation, and are feeling drawn to this ministry, please email Liturgy @StMichaelLivermore.com

FRIDAY, JAN 11

Readings: 1 Jn 4:19 -- 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

Confession at 7:30 am

All Fridays are a day of penance. The preferred observation is for Catholics to abstain from meat on all Fridays except solemnities. However, Canon Law #1251 allows for a substitute some other food for meat as the object of abstinence. Acts of piety or charity can also be performed.

SATURDAY, JAN 12

Readings: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Free Throw and 3-Point Competition, for kids ages 9 to 14 10:30 am - 2:00 pm at Livermore High Main Gym.

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest, 9am-1pm Large Hall.

YLI Bunco Party, 1-4 pm Large Hall.

SUNDAY, JAN 13

The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Diocese of Oakland Seminary Collection at all Masses.

Pancake Breakfast after 6:45, 8:00 and 9:30 am Masses.

After the Baptism of the Lord, the Christmas season is over, and we resume with Ordinary Time.



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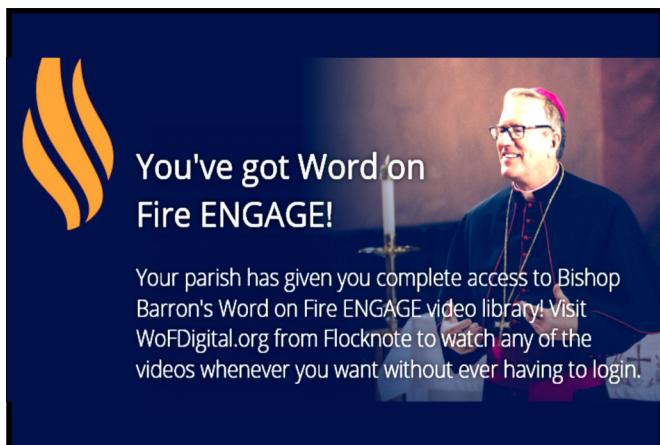
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, JAN 13
7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
LARGE HALL



Were the Magi at Jesus' Birth?

Luke and Matthew's gospels seem to contradict each other on whether or not the magi came to Jesus' birth. In this short 3-minute video, Trent Horn breaks down the story of the magi and explains why this isn't a reason to discredit the gospels. Watch free on FORMED.org under "Watch" then "Apologetics"



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Just go to Flocknote.com/sml and login with the email address that you receive your Flocknote messages. Enter your password (if you've never logged in before, click "create password"). Then click Word on Fire ENGAGE banner and enjoy!

If you have trouble, contact Tina at 925-667-4051 or TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com



Got AppleTV?

Download the free FORMED app on the AppleTV app store and enjoy the best Catholic movies, video-based studies and audio presentations on your big screen! Perfect for families and home-based small groups who want to grow in their faith.



Chalk Your Lintel

A traditional new year house blessing involves prayers and using chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 19. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words Christus mansionem benedicat, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2019 is the year.

For the full prayers for blessing your house, visit Aleteia.org and in the upper right search bar, enter "Epiphany chalk".



El propósito de una resolución de año nuevo

Querida familia de San Miguel,

¡Feliz año nuevo! ¿Cuál es el propósito de una resolución de Año Nuevo? Wikipedia nos da una buena definición:

"Una resolución de Año Nuevo es una tradición, en la que una persona resuelve cambiar un rasgo o comportamiento no deseado, para lograr un objetivo personal o mejorar su vida".

Cada año, muchos de nosotros hacemos resoluciones para mejorar en estas áreas:

-Físico: comer más sano, bajar de peso, hacer más ejercicio, beber menos alcohol o dejar de fumar.

-Mental: pensar más positivamente, reír más a menudo o disfrutar más de la vida.

-Financieras: saldar deudas, ahorrar dinero y hacer pequeñas inversiones.

-Carrera: trabajar mejor, obtener un mejor trabajo o establecer un negocio propio.

-Educación: mejorar las calificaciones, tomar clases, aprender algo nuevo o leer más libros.

-Organización: limpiar nuestros espacios de vida, gestionar mejor las tareas o volver a evaluar las prioridades y el uso del tiempo.

Todas estas son excelentes sugerencias para el crecimiento personal. En su sentido cristiano, estas resoluciones significan deshacerse de los malos hábitos y cultivar buenos hábitos o virtudes que nos ayuden en nuestra búsqueda y deseo de Santidad.

Les insto a que consideren también una resolución espiritual para 2019: mejorar la vida de oración y las obras de caridad. Ir menos de fiesta y rezar más. Comprar menos y dar más. Quejarse menos y agradecer más a Dios. Decir no a las cosas / personas que nos alejan de Dios, y sí a las co-

sas / personas que nos acercan más a Dios. Hablar menos sobre tonterías y hablar más sobre lo que Dios está haciendo en nuestras vidas. ¡Y frequentar los sacramentos de la confesión y la eucaristía!

Aunque no es fácil cumplir esta resolución, con la gracia y la ayuda de Dios, se puede hacer. Dios es nuestra inspiración, y Él nos motivará a hacer nuestro mejor esfuerzo. Recuerde cuál fue su mensaje a través del ángel Gabriel: "... nada será imposible para Dios". (Lucas 1:37)

Lo invito a pasar un tiempo de oración para escribir su resolución de Año Nuevo en un papel. Luego ofrézcalo a Dios insertando el papel en su Biblia, libro de oraciones o diario. Cada primer domingo del mes tómese el tiempo para revisarlo como su recordatorio.

¡Que Dios le bendiga a usted y a su familia!

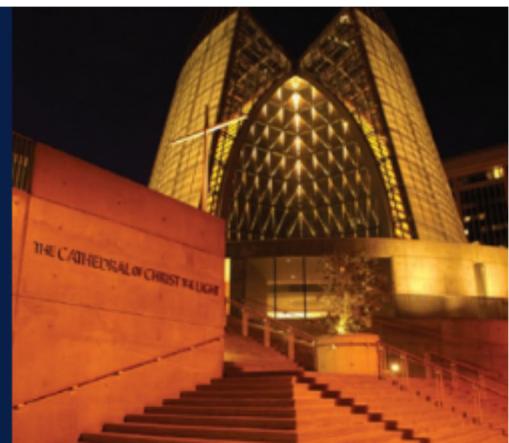
¡Que San Miguel los defienda y proteja!

¡¡Feliz año nuevo!!!
P. Carl

Diócesis de Oakland

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13 de enero de 2019



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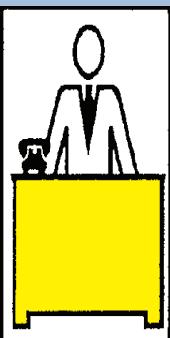
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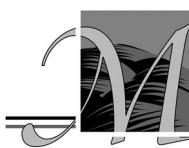
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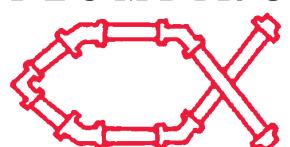
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Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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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 in the chapel
en la capilla

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

Monday & Friday in the church |

Lunes y viernes en la iglesia
7:30 am in English & español

1st & 3rd Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel

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 775-772-6369 |
24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de
acceso después de las horas, llame al
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. Deacon Bill Archer
Rev. Deacon Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Pastoral Council | Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair:
Mike Pereira
michaelpereira@comcast.net

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

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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



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