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and Bring Christ to People.

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ONE OF THE LEPERS,  
REALIZING HE HAD BEEN HEALED,  
RETURNED, GLORIFYING GOD  
IN A LOUD VOICE.

LUKE 17:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.



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*October 13, 2019 • Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

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# Unpack Today's Mass Readings



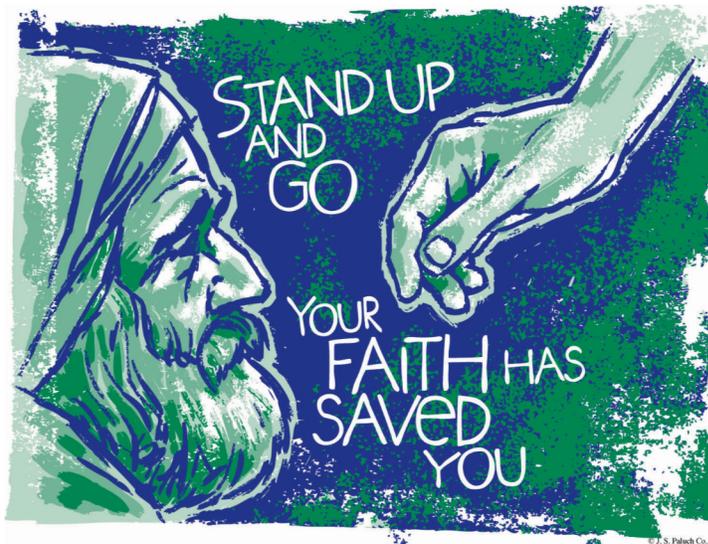
## Summary

Last week we talked about the gift of faith and how even the smallest amount of faith could move mountains. This week our Scripture readings focus on gratitude.

We've all heard the saying "Have an attitude of gratitude." For Christians, this is more than a greeting card saying; it is a basic command of Christian life. The theme of gratitude underlies this week's Gospel reading that tells of ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. In the reading, ten lepers earnestly long for healing since leprosy was one of the great curses of their time, causing those who suffered from the disease to live apart from family and friends. All ten turned to Jesus in faith with their request. However, after they are healed, only one of the ten returns to thank him for answering their prayer.

While Jesus makes it clear that it was the man's faith that healed him, the story has another lesson as well. Although we must begin our prayer requests in faith, they should end in gratitude. All too often, we are quick to make requests, but slow to return in thankful prayer. Like the nine lepers who did not come back, we neglect to express our thanks to God when our prayers are answered. However, thankfulness is

a hallmark of a true disciple. As 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." Meister Eckhart, a medieval mystic, once said, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." How often do you remember to say "thank you" to God?



## Unpack the First Reading 2 Kings 5:14-17

There are sacramental resonances, including Baptism, found in this story. The seven washings is another. In Hebrew, "seven" means completeness and is virtually synonymous with the covenant, owing to the importance of the Sabbath or seventh day. In our seven sacramental celebrations we receive faith in the one God, as did Naaman, and the abundance of divine life of grace.

Naaman still holds to the ancient idea that gods are resident in particular places and invoked by

the people of that place for their protection. That's why he requests some earth to carry with him back to Damascus. He may have had in mind erecting an altar to Yahweh on the earth brought from the Promised Land and so constructing for himself a little island of Israel in Syria. Christ reveals that God's covenantal favor extends to every person of every nation, that he's the one God of all. How ironic it is that Naaman is used by us as a symbol of the universal sovereignty of God and yet he still believes that he must take Israel with him to Syria if he is to worship God there.

## Unpack the Second Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-13

The real reason that Paul and millions like him have been willing to exert themselves to the point of death is found in two simple lines in our reading. The first is, "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead" was "a descendant of David." Jesus is the messianic heir of the eternal throne promised to David and, as proof of that, he rose from the dead. That terse statement contains the whole of the Gospel. The second simple line explains Paul's willingness to undergo unbelievable trials, "I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen." He's not suffering for his own reward, although that's promised, but that others "may obtain the salvation that is in

Christ Jesus together with eternal glory.”

The whole paradigm of the Christian life is contained in those two short phrases. Anything necessary, including loss of life, is worth the salvation of even one soul. Each of the chosen of God is loved so completely by Christ that he was willing to die for that one. His love for us and others calls forth a response of love in us. It comes down to the great commandment—love of God and neighbor.

### Unpack the Gospel Luke 17:11-19

It’s important to note that this episode is set on the border between Galilee and Samaria, both of which were avoided by pious Jews. The fact that Jesus is skirting Samaria may indicate that his destination, Jerusalem, makes him unwelcome even by the outsiders in Samaria. So the location itself suggests that Jesus is addressing the needs of covenant outsiders and as an outsider himself.

The “distance” between Jesus and the lepers is, like the setting of the story, more than a simple question of geography. Leprosy didn’t simply impose a physical distance upon its victims but a religious one as well. Leprosy left one unable to participate in Jewish ritual practices and was considered symbolic of the ravages of sin. Jesus invites the ten lepers back into the covenant family of Israel and in so doing, was invoking Levitical Law which required that someone cured of leprosy present himself to the priest for examination. The one leper who returned to thank Jesus was a Samaritan—the outcast among the leprous outcasts. He receives the faith that brings him into communion with Jesus and the new covenant community. Jesus declares to him, “your faith has been your salvation.” Ironically, it’s the ultimate outsider who’s received by Jesus into the kingdom.

### Reflect & Discuss

Please watch the short Opening the Word video. Then reflect and discuss these questions with a friend:

One of the themes of this week’s Gospel is our response to answered prayer. What are some prayers that have been answered in your life?

What are some of the characteristics shared by the ten lepers? From the details in the passage, describe the one leper who returned to thank Jesus.

Leprosy was one of the biggest social stigmas of Jesus’ time. Lepers were not allowed to live in society, but had to live apart. They could not participate in the worship of God in the Temple, as they were unclean; they had to announce their presence by shouting, “unclean, unclean!”

What are some examples of modern-day lepers? How do our fears cause us to treat certain people or groups of people without the dignity that they deserve? What does Jesus’ behavior teach us?

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



PICK OF THE WEEK

## True Reformers

Episode 5: Saint Teresa of Ávila: A Study in Perseverance



### Living Completely for God

Wealthy and headstrong, Teresa was an unlikely choice for a great reformer. But after years as a complacent Carmelite, she learned to live totally for God.

*“We often, or at least I do, think of saints as ‘them’, not really like ‘us’... so it is SO refreshing to hear what they were really like.”*

—Matt S., Smartsville, CA

[WATCH ON FORMED.ORG](https://www.formed.org)



# Pray Throughout the Week

## **Mass Intentions**

### **Saturday 10/12**

8:30am Robert T. Boyle, Jr. †  
5:00pm Ricardo Roque †  
7:00pm Carmen & Enrique Morales †

### **Sunday 10/13**

6:45am Thomas Heise †  
8:00am James & Eileen Sweeny †  
9:30am Mass for Our Parish  
11:00am Lillian Kupski †  
12:30pm Florence Chioma Ezeh  
6:00pm Jovita Ramos Orosco

### **Monday 10/14**

8:30am Ralph Melendez †

### **Tuesday 10/15**

8:30am Mr Pius Enechukwu †  
Msgr. John Uzuakpundu †  
Msgr. Anthony Aso †  
Fr Tim Anunobi †

### **Wednesday 10/16**

8:30am David Hom †  
7:00pm Tomas Sanchez

### **Thursday 10/17**

8:30am John Sarboraria

### **Friday 10/18**

8:30am Danilo Tiojanco †

***To request a Mass Intention, please visit the Church Office. It is customary to offer a \$10 donation for the celebrating priest.***



## **Prayer Meditation**

Prayerfully place yourself in today's Gospel reading. Imagine that you are the widow, persistently bringing your request before the unjust judge. How do you feel presenting your request over and over again? What motivates you to be persistent? Now imagine that instead of petitioning an unjust judge, you are bringing your request before the most honest, just, and merciful judge, God himself. How do you feel presenting your petition now?

## **Resolution**

We are called to be persistent in prayer, and we have confidence because we petition our loving Father, not an unjust judge. Prayerfully ask God to help you see an area in your life in which you need to pray more and be more persistent in prayer. What can you do this week to remedy this?

## **Weekly Prayer for Alpha**

For our 40 Alpha guests who have made the decision to explore more meaning in their lives, that they may have a powerful encounter with the Lord.

## **Prayer Team**

Our prayer team of over 70 members receives prayer requests weekly. Please send your requests or join the team by emailing [Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com)

# Fr Carl's Message of the Week



## **Safeguarding and Respecting Life: A Sacred Calling and Mission**

My Dear Parish Family,

Let us continue our October reflection on the beauty and sacredness of human life. In his 1995 encyclical letter *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae)*, Pope John Paul II said:

"We are very much in danger of giving into a 'culture of death.' Modern debates on abortion and euthanasia are a symptom and leading edge of something more profound and insidious -- an entire view of the world that will lead us to forsake our ideals of human dignity and equality and 'revert to a state of barbarism'." (EV 14)

In our culture today, human life is cheap. Babies are aborted. Unborn human embryos are "reduced" in the process of in vitro fertilization. The elderly, sick and dying are euthanized. Countless people are human trafficked across the globe. Humans are being treated as objects of pleasure, livelihood or pieces of trash to be discarded. So many people have been deprived of their human dignity, due to poverty, war, violence, materialism and hedonism. Or worse, by simply not caring. The culture of death that is pervasive in our world now is against natural law and against what God divinely willed for human beings. No one has a God-given right to terminate human life. No one must treat people like objects.

As a Church, we also have our share in this problem due to the

horrible sexual scandals of clergy. However, even amid this darkness, we are called even more to the light of holiness. We must strive evermore to protect life and treat people with the utmost respect from conception until natural death. Our stance in proclaiming the truth on life, its dignity and its value, must remain constant.



Let us make a living and active statement that our parish is pro-life.

FR CARL ARCOSA

St Pope John Paul II reminds us: "... How much more can we say as people of faith! To us, life is not just a "given" -- it is our first and most basic gift, from a Creator who loves us with an unsurpassable love. What, then, is human life in this vision? It is, in the Holy Father's words, "As manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory... in man there shines forth a reflection of God himself." (EV 34)

Catechism of the Catholic Church also reminds of our Catholic position (#2258):

"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill: and whoever kills shall be lia-

ble to judgement.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgement. 'Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."

All of us are made in the image and likeness of God. It is a dignity that cannot be diminished and therefore must be protected, preserved, and always respected at all cost and all times. But, how? We can pray. We can inform our conscience. We can study the issue. We can attend rallies. We can vote wisely in alliance with our Catholic faith. We can support pro-life efforts. We can start here in our own parish. Let us make a living and active statement that our parish is pro-life.

I would like to end my reflection with the Word of God from the Book of Deuteronomy 30:19.

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So, choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants".

May God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

# Special Reminders

## Throughout October

October is the Month of the Rosary. Join us every night at 7:00 pm in the Courtyard to pray.

October is also Respect Life month. Please pray for an end to the culture of death.

## Monday, October 14

Parish Offices Closed in observance of Columbus Day.

## Tuesday, October 15

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Prayer Vigil at 6:30 pm in the Courtyard.

## Sunday, October 20

Pancake Breakfast Benefiting the newly re-named *Cheryl Ruth Coats for Kids Drive*.

Cheryl was a beloved St Michael Parishioner and founder of our Welcoming Ministry. Cheryl's generosity was an inspiration to our community, and we have renamed this drive in her memory, hoping to follow her example. Please join us for a FREE pancake breakfast and offer a donation, so that we can ensure no child in the Tri-Valley area goes without a coat during the winter season.

# Collection Report

9/29/19 Collection	\$15,579.92
September total	\$98,725.67
September % reached	91%
10/6/19 Collection	\$15,815.40
October Goal	\$87,058.82
October % reached	18%
Faith Direct	\$13,200.75
Maintenance (for Sept)	\$9,137.21
Maintenance (for Oct)	\$6,381.43
St. Vincent De Paul	\$5,420.00
St. Michael Novena	\$1,636.89
Priest Retirement	\$4,053.51

# You Are Needed

Our goal is to train enough **NEW** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors in order to...

1. Schedule each volunteer every third or fourth week.
2. Offer both the Sacred Body and the Precious Blood at all Masses.
3. Invite new members to the ministry.

Below are the number of new ministers we need at each Mass.

See training dates on the next page --->

Mass	New EMHC	New Lectors
Saturday 5 pm	5	More are welcome!
Sunday 6:45 am	18	4
Sunday 8 am	13	1
Sunday 9:30 am	6	More are welcome!
Sunday 11:00 am	13	2
Sunday 6:00 pm	13	4



## Faith Direct is eGiving Made Easy!

Give to any collection offered by St Michael's. Choose your credit/debit card or a bank account for payment. Schedule monthly recurring gifts or make a one-time gift at any time. Faith Direct is easy and secure!

Sign up for Faith Direct at [FaithDirect.net/CA602](http://FaithDirect.net/CA602)

# Save These Dates!



## Mass in Tagalog Sunday, Oct 20 at 3:30 pm

The Filipino Ministry invites you to celebrate Mass in Tagalog, followed by a potluck in the Hall.

## KofC Baby Gift Drive October 26-27 After all Masses

Join our Livermore Knights in helping mothers and babies at Birthright of Concord. Bring to Mass on Oct 26-27 new or gently used baby clothes (size 12 and 18 months), baby socks, diapers (sizes 3,4 & 5), baby wipes and gift cards for Target and Walmart to buy maternity clothes. The Knights will be collecting these donations at the church exits and the courtyard after all Masses.

## Serve at Open Heart Kitchen Thursday, October 31

Come prepare hot meals at Open Heart Kitchen for people in Livermore who are in need. There are two shifts: 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm and 2:00 pm-3:30 pm. To volunteer, contact Diane Schord at [dhschord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dhschord@sbcglobal.net) or 925-447-4344.

## The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) Saturday, Nov 2

Although All Souls is not a Holy Day of Obligation, all are invited to celebrate Mass to pray for the souls in Purgatory.

7:00 am and 8:30 am at Church

## Dia de Los Muertos Saturday, Nov 2 at 11:00 am St Michael Cemetery

All are invited to attend the Dia de los Muertos Celebration: a bilingual Mass, followed by festive music and delicious Mexican treats prepared by our Hispanic Ministries. Contact Frank Draschner 925-455-9696.

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training Monday, Nov 4 at 6:30 OR Saturday, Nov 16 at 9:30 am

If you are being called to assist in distributing Holy Communion at Mass, please register for one of these training dates at: [StMichaelLivermore.com/EM](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/EM) Training is in the Church.

## Santa's Secret Service Gift Appeal Nov 16 & 17 At All Masses

At all Masses on November 16 and 17, you will have the opportunity to pick up an instruction sheet and purchase a gift for a special person. Wrapped gifts with tags need to be brought back to the church the following weekend of November 23 and 24.

Founded in 1959 at St Michael Parish, Santa's Secret Service is dedicated to witnessing Jesus Christ's call to service and charity. The organization has solicited and delivered well over a million Christmas gifts to those in care centers, hospitals and home-bound people.

## Lector Training Monday, Nov 25 at 6:30 pm

If you are being called to proclaim the Word at Mass, please come to this training. Register at: [StMichaelLivermore.com/Lector](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Lector) Training is in the Church.



# SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

**October 31**

6:00 pm English  
7:30 pm Spanish

**November 1**

7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am (School)  
12:15 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm (Spanish)



# Feast of St Michael the Archangel 2019



## Mensaje de la semana del Padre Carl



### Salvaguardar y respetar la vida: un llamado y una misión sagrada

Mi querida familia parroquial,

Continuemos nuestra reflexión de octubre sobre la belleza y lo sagrado de la vida humana. En su carta encíclica de 1995 El Evangelio de la Vida (Evangelium Vitae), el Papa Juan Pablo II dijo:

"Estamos en grave peligro de ceder ante una 'cultura de la muerte'. Los debates modernos sobre el aborto y la eutanasia son un síntoma y una vanguardia de algo más profundo e insidioso: una visión completa del mundo que nos llevará a abandonar nuestros ideales de dignidad humana e igualdad y 'volver a un estado de barbarie' ". (EV 14)

En nuestra cultura actual, la vida humana es barata. Los bebés son abortados. Los embriones humanos no nacidos se "reducen" en el proceso de fertilización in vitro. Los ancianos, enfermos y moribundos son sacrificados. Innumerables personas son víctimas de la traficantes de personas en todo el mundo. Los humanos están siendo tratados como objetos de placer, medios de vida o pedazos de basura para ser descartados. Muchas personas se han visto privadas de su dignidad humana, debido a la pobreza, la guerra, la violencia, el materialismo y el hedonismo. O peor, simplemente sin preocuparse. La cultura de la muerte que está presente en nuestro mundo ahora está en contra de la ley natural y en contra de lo que Dios divinamente ha querido para los seres humanos. Nadie tiene el derecho otorgado por Dios de ter-

minar con la vida humana. Nadie debe tratar a las personas como objetos.

Como Iglesia, también tenemos nuestra parte en este problema debido a los horribles escándalos sexuales del clero. Sin embargo, incluso en medio de esta oscuridad, somos llamados aún más a la luz de la santidad. Debemos esforzarnos cada vez más para proteger la vida y tratar a las personas con el mayor respeto desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural. Nuestra postura al proclamar la verdad sobre la vida, su dignidad y su valor, debe permanecer constante. San Juan Pablo II nos recuerda:

"... ¡Cuánto más podemos decir como personas de fe! Para nosotros, la vida no es solo un "regalo", es nuestro primer y más básico regalo, de un Creador que nos ama con un amor inmensurable. ¿Qué es, entonces, la vida humana en esta visión? Es, en palabras del Santo Padre, "Como manifestación de Dios en el mundo, un signo de su presencia, un rastro de su gloria ... en el hombre brilla un reflejo de Dios mismo". (EV 34)

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica también recuerda nuestra posición católica (# 2258):

"Has oído que se dijo a los hombres de la antigüedad: 'No matarás; y el que mata será juzgado'. Pero te digo que todos los que estén enojados con su hermano serán juzgados. 'La vida humana es sagrada porque desde su inicio involucra la acción creativa de Dios y permanece para siempre en

una relación especial con el Creador, quien es su único fin. Solo Dios es el Señor de la vida desde el principio hasta el final: nadie, bajo ninguna circunstancia, puede reclamar por sí mismo el derecho de destruir directamente a un ser humano inocente ".

Todos nosotros estamos hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios. Es una dignidad que no puede disminuirse y, por lo tanto, debe protegerse, preservarse y respetarse siempre a toda costa y en todo momento. ¿Pero cómo? Podemos rezar Podemos informar a nuestra conciencia. Podemos estudiar el tema. Podemos asistir a manifestaciones. Podemos votar sabiamente en alianza con nuestra fe católica. Podemos apoyar los esfuerzos pro-vida. Podemos comenzar aquí en nuestra propia parroquia. Hagamos una declaración viva y activa de que nuestra parroquia es pro-vida.

Me gustaría terminar mi reflexión con la Palabra de Dios del Libro de Deuteronomio 30:19.

"Llamo al cielo y a la tierra para testificar contra ti hoy, que he puesto ante ti la vida y la muerte, la bendición y la maldición. Por lo tanto, elige la vida para que puedas vivir, tú y tus descendientes".

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias.

P. Carl

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# Information | Información

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

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

Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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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. Stanislaus Poon, Retired

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

### Pastoral Council |

#### Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair:

Mike Pereira

PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

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

### Finance Council |

#### Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair:

Edna McComb

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Edna  
McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa  
Suarez and Erleene Echon

### St. Michael School |

#### Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

### Faith Formation in

#### English

925-667-4096

### Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos

### Ministerio Hispano

Veronica:

Hispano1@StMichaelLivermore.com

Ricardo:

Hispano2@StMichaelLivermore.com



Rev. Father Carl Arcosa, Pastor Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4057
Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen Parochial Vicar Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4053
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer	925-447-1585
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 Wilkie, School Principal awilkie@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