



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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OCTOBER **27**
2019

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The tax
collector prayed,
“O God, be merciful
to me a sinner.”

Luke 18:13

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Free audio presentation on The Crisis of Happiness by Jim Owens — page 3
- Fr Carl on the Rosary as a path to holiness—page 5
- All Saints and All Souls Mass times—page 6
- Upcoming Events—page 7

Summary

Last week we read the story of the widow and the unjust judge and how her persistence made him grant her request. We learned that this isn't a story about God as a judge, but rather an encouragement to persist in prayer. This week, our readings take us to a focus on being poor.

Our modern culture hates weakness, poverty, and neediness. The world tells us that to get ahead we have to be strong, competent, and self-sufficient. We certainly aren't supposed to reveal our flaws or fears. This approach lies in stark contrast to our readings today in which we are called to embrace our inherent poverty and allow God to transform it, and us, into incredible riches.

God loves us in our poverty. Just as parents are drawn to the needs of their children, so is God drawn to us in our neediness, especially when we recognize how much we need his help and humbly ask him for it. The Gospel reading shows us this in the powerful story of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The Pharisee approaches God with confident assertion; the tax collector comes humbly before God in his need. As the story unfolds, we see that the tax collector has a much better grasp of his condition before God. He is a model for us of how to approach God, in humility, as a "poor man." The Gospel way is to admit our utter poverty before

God, as did the tax collector. When we do so, God stands ready and eager to fill our emptiness with his own Spirit.

This theme of God's response to our poverty continues throughout the readings. "The Lord hears the cry of the poor," (from the responsorial psalm) and "The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds: it does not rest till it reaches its goal" (from the first



reading). Reinforce that call to a completely different way of life—one that recognizes and accepts our poverty. The lesson this week shows us that we need a poverty that allows God to become our richness, a weakness that allows God to be our strength, and a neediness that draws God to hear our prayers and answer them.

Unpack the First Reading Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

The wisdom of Jesus Ben Sirach sets the stage for the coming Messiah. He represents the mature religious reflection of Israel in the last couple of centuries before the coming of Christ. In the early Christian Church, Sirach was used as a kind of catechism

of righteousness for catechumens and held a very prominent place in the liturgy.

The maturity of Sirach's conception of righteousness can be seen in this passage. The level of material prosperity, social standing, or power that someone has received doesn't necessarily describe their righteousness before God. Worldly blessings don't always signal beatitude, and God's "not unduly partial toward the weak" either.

In every age, people have been tempted to make surface judgments about other people such as all the rich are refined; all the poor are lazy. Or the reverse: all the rich are cruel; all the

poor are humble. Sirach cuts through appearances and states that he "who serves God willingly is heard" and the "prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds." Humble service is the hallmark of righteousness, not any accidents of state such as possession or poverty of money, power, or fame.

Unpack the Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

We find Paul reflecting briefly on what awaits him in heaven, a merited crown. Paul says that he has "competed well," "finished the race," and "kept the faith." These are the sources of his merits. Of course, Paul would certainly admit that all of these were only possible by God's grace. He

testifies to God's work in supplying his every need in ministry in the second half of the reading.

In those days, all the nations were represented in the Roman capital. God made it possible—in an unexpected way—for Paul to complete his apostolic commission at the cultural center of the then-known world. Had he not been arrested in Jerusalem and had to appeal to Rome for a hearing in a higher court, he might never have had the chance to reach all nations with the saving message of Christ. Paul certainly cooperated with God's direction and grace and so merited his reward, but in the end—as at the end of our reading—to God must be given all “glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Unpack the Gospel Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisees have been mentioned more than once as representative of covenant insiders, or those who belong to God by virtue of his covenant with Israel. Luke's Gospel is primarily interested in addressing people who have been outside of the covenant of Israel but who have gained access to the covenant through

Christ. So in this story that Jesus tells us about a Pharisee (an insider) and a publican or tax collector (an outsider), Luke prefaces the story with an explanation that Jesus was addressing “those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.” This story isn't just aimed at Pharisees, but all who trust that their own virtues will win them God's favor.

The moral of the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector is that those who exalt themselves will be humbled and the humble exalted. Here, Jesus shows us the mechanics of that reversal of position of the lowly and the proud. It's humility that's the fulcrum of the seesaw that brings down the proud and lifts up the lowly. When we come before God with humble hearts waiting on his mercy, then he grants us justice or righteousness or holiness in proportion to our humility. Pride drives away God's gift of holiness, but humility invites it in.

Reflect and Discuss

With a friend, watch the *Opening the Word* video reflection on FORMED.org. Then reflect and

discuss these questions:

The presenter, Jim Beckman, helps us to see how God does not always see things the way we do. What are some differences you noticed about how the Pharisee approaches God with his prayer and how the tax collector approaches God?

How does being “poor” before God go against the way you have been taught to think about yourself and others?

The readings today encourage us to approach God in our poverty, as a “poor” person. But it is often our deep fears and insecurities that prevent us from admitting our weaknesses and our “poverties,” and instead we try to hide them. What do you want to hide? What are you afraid of letting others see? Do you have a deep fear or insecurity inside you that sometimes drives the way you relate to others, especially those closest to you? How does that fear affect your relationship with God?

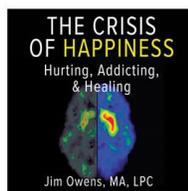
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PICK OF THE WEEK

The Crisis of Happiness

by Jim Owens, MA, LPC



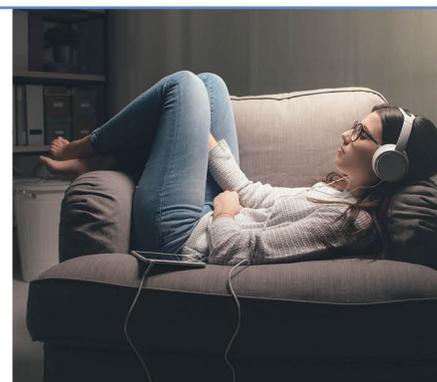
Find Answers to Today's Happiness Crisis

Jim Owens gives scientific evidence about how addictions and distractions are hurting us and practical advice for how to overcome our wounds.

“Engaging, and made me examine my life on a meaningful level.”

—Martin P., Tallahassee, FL

[LISTEN ON FORMED.ORG](#)



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Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 10/26

8:30am Marion Swadley †
5:00pm Quintina Echon †
7:00pm Pedro Hernandez Fonseca †

Sunday 10/27

6:45am Virginia Tynan †
8:00am Ilda Rosa †
9:30am Semplicio Fortes †
11:00am Jane Crespín †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Jean Kruger †

Monday 10/28

8:30am Joseph & Marvel Valent †

Tuesday 10/29

8:30am Alexys (Lexy) Garcia †

Wednesday 10/30

8:30am Wilfredo Nunez
7:00pm Quintina Echon †

Thursday 10/31

8:30am Alfredo Inton
6:00pm Mass for Our Parish
7:30pm Mass for Our Parish

Friday 11/1

All Masses for Our Parish

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



Prayer Meditation

Place yourself in the Temple scene of today's Gospel reading. You see the Pharisee standing at the front and hear him tell God about his accomplishments. Then you notice the tax collector and hear him simply admit his weaknesses to God. Which one do you sympathize with? Which one do you feel the most in common with? Now invite the Holy Spirit to join you. Ask the Spirit to show you an area in your life that you are afraid to let him see. It's ironic—he sees it already, but we can spend all kinds of energy trying to hide it, even acting as if it isn't even there. Our anger, our struggle trusting God, our resentment about a past injury or wound, our struggle with selfishness, insecurity, or lust. Pray that God would help you see an area like this in your life, in your heart. And ask for the grace to let him into it. Now, imagine that it is your turn to pray with the Pharisee and tax collector. Where do you stand? What do you say? How do you feel?

Resolution

As the Holy Spirit helps you become aware of an area of your life that you are not fully letting him into, ask him in prayer what you can do practically this week to more fully invite God's grace into that area of your life.

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

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



The Rosary: A Path to Holiness

Dear St Michael Family,

October is the Month of the Rosary, and the Rosary is an integral part of our Catholic identity and a path to holiness.

The development of the Rosary has a long history. The earliest devotion dates to the 3rd century as a practice of praying 150 "Our Fathers" in imitation of the 150 Psalms. Later, a parallel practice developed of praying the "Hail Mary" 150 times. Soon a mystery of Jesus' life to meditate upon was attached to each "Hail Mary".

Though Mary's giving of the rosary to Saint Dominic in 1208 is recognized as a legend, the development of this prayer form owes much to the followers of Saint Dominic. One of them, Alan de la Roche, was known as "The Apostle of the Rosary." He founded the first Confraternity of the Rosary in the 15th century.

In the 16th century the Rosary was developed to its present form—with the 15 mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious. In 2002, Saint John Paul II added the Mysteries of Light - or the Luminous Mysteries - to this devotion. Why Pray the Rosary?

In "*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*," Saint John Paul II eloquently shared his thoughts and feelings about the beautiful, holy devotion known as the Rosary. "The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer..."

The repetition of prayers assists our minds to focus and meditate on the life of Jesus and the mysteries of our Christian Faith. It is a means towards knowing Jesus more, and Mary's mission is to open our entire being and our hearts to Jesus.

Though it is not a Sacrament for the giving of sanctifying Grace, it is a sacramental or a form of Catholic prayer that is so powerful that it leads many people to sanctifying grace, to sainthood and holiness. Without question, the Rosary is the greatest of all sacramentals. It is rare to find a saint after 13th century that did not have a devotion to the Most Holy Rosary!

Praying the Rosary has been a marker of Catholic identity for centuries. Devotion to Mary is intimately tied with being Catholic. Catholic communities that remove veneration to Mother Mary, discount the Rosary, and give no importance to her feast days and memorials are communities displaying signs of the invasion of protestant elements in the Catholic Church.

This may sound like a strong statement, but I am convinced that by removing or downplaying the role of Mary in the Life of the Catholic Church - especially the praying of the Most Holy Rosary - leads to the demise of our identity as Catholics.

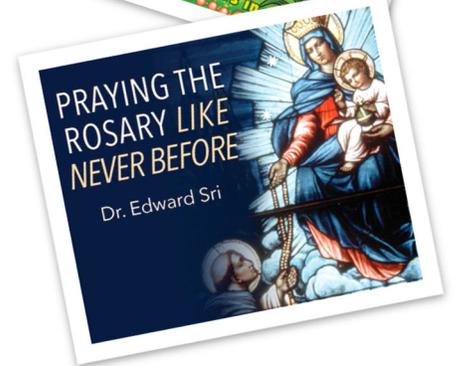
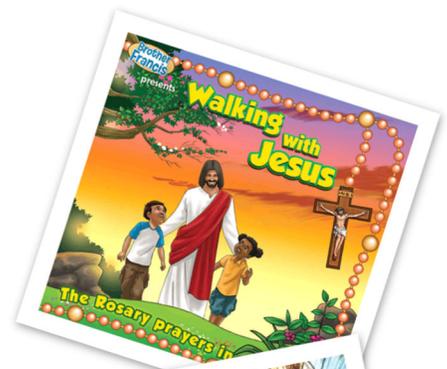
We are so blessed in this parish with opportunities to pray the Holy Rosary publicly together. In

our chapel every day, in our church before every Sunday Mass, and in many languages with our cultural groups. I hope this prayer will be prayed as well in our school every week and in our homes.

If you are new to the Rosary, or if you would like to grow deeper in your Rosary practice, please visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Rosary for many Rosary resources for you and your family.

May Our Lady of Most Holy Rosary, pray for us and lead us closer to her Most Precious Son, Our Lord Jesus.

Fr Carl



Find these Rosary resources and more at FORMED.org

(enter "rosary" in the search bar)



SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

*Holy Day of Obligation
Mass Times*

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)



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ALL SOULS DAY MASSES

Saturday, November 2

**7:00 am & 8:30 am
in the Church**

**11:00 am
at St Michael Cemetery**



New Parking Lot Coming!

Thank you to all parishioners who have supported our monthly Maintenance & Improvement Fund, parishioners who have generously given to this project and everyone who purchased a raffle ticket, and attended our St. Michael Feast dinner & auction.

Through the generosity of this community, we are able to move forward with this large capital improvement project and have scheduled the repair of our Church parking lot. Phase 2 of the project which is the school yard will be scheduled in the Spring when children are not in school.

Here are the details.

The Church Parking Lot will be

closed: Monday, November 4th – Friday, November 8th, 2019. All scheduled Masses will continue. Street parking will be the only parking available during this time. Parish Office will be closed on Friday, November 8th.

For any questions, please email Eric Hom, Parish Business Manager at **EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com**

Save These Dates!



Homebound Minister Training Monday, Nov 4 at 6:00 pm Convent

If God is calling you to bring the Blessed Sacrament to the sick and injured who are homebound or in care facilities, please attend this training.

Golden Friends Black Oak Casino Trip Thursday, Nov 14

Come and join the fun! \$35 includes bus ride, \$10 of free play, \$5 of match play and \$5 of food credit. We leave St Michael's parking lot at 8:00 am and plan to return by 5:00 pm. Call Mary at 925-784-1812 to reserve your seat on the bus.

Mass in Tagalog Sunday, Nov 17 at 3:30 pm

Celebrate Mass in Tagalog, followed by a potluck in the hall.

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.

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 Training](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/LectorTraining) is in the Church.

Thanksgiving Day Mass Thursday, Nov 28 at 10:00 am

Celebrate Thanksgiving with Mass at 10:00 am. Bring your bread and wine for a blessing along with your whole family!

Advent Reconciliation Wednesdays, Dec 4, 11 and 18 5:30 pm in the Church

Four priests will be available in the Church each Wednesday in Advent for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 5:30 pm, followed by individual (bilingual) confessions until benediction at 7:00 pm. Mass in Spanish will begin at 7:15 pm.

XLT (Exult!) Saturday, December 14 Large Hall 7:00 pm

Adoration with Praise & Worship and short reflections for youth and families. Encounter Jesus! For more information and to RSVP, contact Joseph Garcia at Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com

Why Church Matters Advent At-Home Study by Bishop Robert Barron Starts November 28

Celebrate Advent, the new year of the Church, by exploring *Why Church Matters*, a series by Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire. When you sign up, you will receive a weekly video each Thursday, November 28 through December 19. Watch it with friends or family, and discuss the reflection questions.

Sign up by clicking the link in the Friday Flocknote or by emailing Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com

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Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Monday, Nov 4 at 6:30

OR Saturday, Nov 16 at 9:30 am in the church

Register at StMichaelLivermore.com/EM

Homebound Ministry

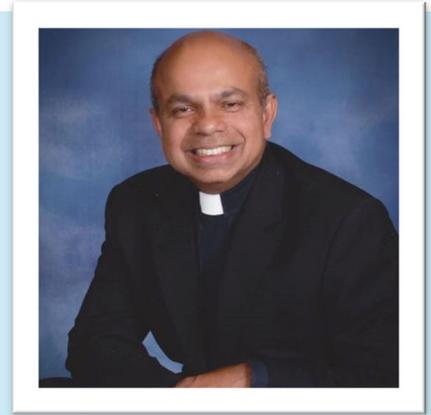
Monday Nov 4 at 6:00 pm in the Convent

Register with Sridhar a 650-219-4500

Lector

Monday, Nov 25 at 6:30 pm

Register at StMichaelLivermore.com/Lectors



Dear Parishioners in the Diocese of Oakland,

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the death of Father Matthew Vellankal, pastor of St. Bonaventure who was in an automobile accident in Colusa County on Thursday, October 10, 2019. Archbishop Dominic Jala, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Shillong in Meghalaya, India also died as a result of the accident. Accompanying them was Father Joseph Parekkatt who was injured but is now in stable condition in the hospital.

Arrangements are pending as an autopsy is required.

Our deepest condolences to the people of St. Bonaventure and Holy Spirit, Fremont as well as the Archdiocese of Shillong.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and the soul of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Amen.

Very Reverend George Mockel
Vicar General

DONATE A TURKEY

Saturday, November 23, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

St Vincent de Paul Food Locker

Behind St Michael Church



Collection Report

Thank you for your continued financial support of St Michael Parish. Because of you, we are able to forward Christ's mission!



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 10/13/19 Collection | \$20,350.31 |
| Month-to-Date | \$44,287.71 |
| October Goal | \$87,058.82 |
| % Reached | 51% |
| Faith Direct | \$8,122.00 |
| Maintenance (October) | \$8,565.93 |

A Checkbook?

No need to remember to write a check with Faith Direct! Set up electronic weekly or monthly offerings or make a one-time gift to St Michael's.

FaithDirect.net/CA602



El rosario: un camino hacia la santidad

Querida familia de San Miguel,

Octubre es el mes del rosario, y el rosario es una parte integral de nuestra identidad católica y un camino hacia la santidad.

El desarrollo del Rosario tiene una larga historia. La primera devoción data del siglo III como una práctica de rezar 150 "Nuestros Padres" en imitación de los 150 Salmos. Más tarde, se desarrolló una práctica paralela de rezar el "Ave María" 150 veces. Pronto se unió un misterio de la vida de Jesús para meditar en cada "Ave María".

Aunque la entrega de María del rosario a Santo Domingo en 1208 es reconocida como una leyenda, el desarrollo de esta forma de oración debe mucho a los seguidores de Santo Domingo. Uno de ellos, Alan de la Roche, era conocido como "El Apóstol del Rosario". Fundó la primera Cofradía del Rosario en el siglo XV.

En el siglo XVI, el rosario se desarrolló a su forma actual, con los 15 misterios: alegre, triste y glorioso. En 2002, San Juan Pablo II agregó los Misterios de la Luz, o los Misterios luminosos, a esta devoción.

¿Por qué rezar el rosario?

En "*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*", San Juan Pablo II compartió eloquentemente sus pensamientos y sentimientos sobre la hermosa y santa devoción conocida como el Rosario. "El Rosario, aunque claramente de carácter mariano, es en

el fondo una oración cristocéntrica ..."

La repetición de oraciones ayuda a nuestras mentes a enfocarse y meditar en la vida de Jesús y los misterios de nuestra fe cristiana. Es un medio para conocer más a Jesús, y la misión de María es abrir todo nuestro ser y nuestros corazones a Jesús.

Aunque no es un sacramento para dar la gracia santificante, es una oración sacramental o católica que es tan poderosa que lleva a muchas personas a la gracia santificante, a la santidad y la santidad. Sin lugar a dudas, el Rosario es el más grande de todos los sacramentales. ¡Es raro encontrar un santo después del siglo XIII que no tuviera una devoción al Santísimo Rosario!

Rezar el Rosario ha sido un marcador de identidad católica durante siglos. La devoción a María está íntimamente ligada a ser católica. Las comunidades católicas que eliminan la veneración a la Madre María, descuentan el Rosario y no le dan importancia a sus días de fiesta y los monumentos conmemorativos son comunidades que muestran signos de la invasión de elementos protestantes en la Iglesia Católica.

Esto puede sonar como una declaración fuerte, pero estoy convencido de que al eliminar o minimizar el papel de María en la vida de la Iglesia católica, especialmente la oración del Santísimo Rosario,

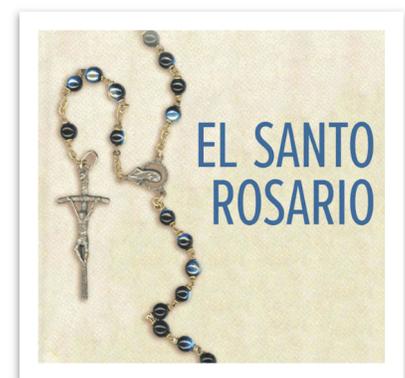
conduce a la desaparición de nuestra identidad como católicos.

Somos muy bendecidos en esta parroquia con la oportunidad de rezar el Santo Rosario públicamente juntos. En nuestra capilla todos los días, en nuestra iglesia antes de cada misa dominical, y en muchos idiomas con nuestros grupos culturales. Espero que esta oración también se haga en nuestra escuela cada semana y en nuestros hogares.

Si es nuevo en el Rosario, o si desea profundizar en su práctica del Rosario, visite StMichaelLivermore.com/Rosary para obtener muchos recursos del Rosario para usted y su familia.

Que Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario, ore por nosotros y nos lleve más cerca de su Hijo Más Precioso, Nuestro Señor Jesús.

P. Carl



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Information | Información

St. Michael Parish | La Parroquia de San Miguel

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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

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 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



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|--|--------------|
| 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 |