



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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

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We're Social!



*Well done, my good and faithful servant.
Since you were faithful in small matters,
I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.*

Matthew 25:21

Using Our Talents

As we approach the final weeks of the Church year, we read the last parable Jesus taught. It's not only the final parable, but it is also one of the longest and most detailed. In it, Jesus tells the story of a wealthy man who gave each of his servants a substantial sum of money to take care of in his absence. When he returns, he is pleased at the two servants who have doubled his investment, but he is angry at the one who simply hid the money out of fear of losing it.

We can interpret this story on a purely financial level, talking about the need to shrewdly use our money, but the parable goes deeper than that. It also addresses the wise stewardship of the gifts and talents God has given us.

Clearly Jesus is telling us that we must put our abilities at the service of the Master, God our Father. But before we can do that, we have to discern what our gifts are. We all have been given special abilities by God. It's up to us to figure out what those abilities are and how we can best put them into practice so that at the end of our lives we will hear the words of the Master telling us, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

First Reading

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

This first reading picks up where our Gospel last week left off. Then, we saw the Groom entering into the eschatological wedding feast; that is,

the eternal marriage between God and his creatures in heaven. This reading from Proverbs on the virtues of a "worthy wife" can be read in a very straightforward, literal fashion, as a description of the ideal spouse. But it can also be read as a description of the Bride of Christ, the Church at her best. This makes for an especially cogent reading when our first reading is read in the light of the



parable of the talents in our Gospel this week. The worthy wife is one who uses what comes to hand to enrich the family and yet has enough left over to see to the needs of the poor. Read in this way, we get perhaps a clearer picture of what it means for the Church to render a return of double to her Groom in this passage from Proverbs than we do in our Gospel.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1–6

This passage indicates to the Thessalonians the need for vigilance in regard to Christ's coming again. It indicates the same to us, but it also indicates to us the coming end of the

liturgical year. We always read these sorts of passages as we come close to the season of Advent—the end of the old, and the advent of the new year.

There's often a tension in these eschatological passages between knowing and not knowing the time of his coming. Those who live in the dark can't see the signs of his coming. Those who live in the day or in the light have some idea, but still don't know the exact time of his coming. The Lord's coming is the day—it's a determined time—and to recognize it for what it is, we must live in the day. Our liturgical recollection of his Second Coming each year is one of the ways we do that. The light we receive from the Scriptures proclaimed in the liturgy is a way of accustoming our eyes to the light of the day of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14–30

Viewed as an expression of the workings of grace, we can distinguish two levels in the parable that Jesus tells. The initial sums of money given to the servants could be actual grace—that grace given to all, Christian or not, to encourage good actions. God rains these graces down on us incessantly. However, he doesn't expect us to simply behave well. Even under the influence of actual grace, our works won't win us salvation. It's only when actual grace leads us to sanctifying grace, the grace we receive in the sacraments, that we can be said to be living in a state of grace. That's so because the

grace of the sacraments unites us to Christ, who also opens the gates of heaven to us and makes us capable of living there. We must invest the actual graces he gives. It isn't enough to simply return them in the amount we received. His actual grace should prompt us to also receive the sacraments as acts of perfect worship and transformation. Having received the sacraments, having invested his actual grace there, we receive a tremendous return in the reception of sanctifying grace. That sacramental grace moves us in turn to real, supernatural repentance and charity.

Discussion Questions

We hear a lot in the Church about stewardship. What does that word mean to you?

As we near the end of the Church year, we hear one last parable from Jesus—the parable of the talents. Let's see what new insights we might

get from the presenter about this story. Watch the short *Opening the Word* video right at the top of the home page on FORMED.org

The parable of the talents can be read on two levels; one is financial responsibility and a possible lesson in investing. What is the other?

What does this parable tell us God expects us to do with our talents?

What are some of the talents the presenter talks about that you may possess?

DIGGING DEEPER: Talented Money

A talent was a standard sum of money in the ancient world. While its exact value is difficult to calculate, one way is by looking at what members of the military received. During the Peloponnesian war in Ancient Greece, a talent was the amount of silver need-

ed to pay the crew of a trireme for one month. Each crew member was commonly paid one drachma for every day of service, and 6,000 drachma made a talent. If we assume that a Greek rower was paid about the same as a junior enlisted member (E-2) of the US armed forces, a talent would be about \$300,000 in today's money.

Challenge

On page 5, you will see opportunities to use your talents to be a Christmas Usher or Crossing Guard, a member of the Altar Society or a member of one of the Christmas Choirs. Are you being called?

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

True Reformers

Presented by Dr. Christopher Blum

Meet the Six Great Heroes of the Catholic Reformation



Join Dr. Christopher Blum on a pilgrimage with the saints who led the Church's rebirth from the ashes of confusion caused by the Protestant Reformation. Beautiful, engaging and informative, this most recent program by Augustine Institute Studios unveils the power of the human heart's free response to God's grace.

[Watch on formed.org](#)



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—Christine from New York

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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 11/18

- 8:30am Donnie Lamb
Souls in Purgatory †
5:00pm Melanie Maher †
Gregory Ure †
7:00pm Jenniffer Ibarra
Ramon Salcedo †

Sunday 11/19

- 6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am Eleanor Biel †
9:30am Chukwuemeka Ezekwem †
11:00am Eleanor Sahlin †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Melanie Maher †

Monday 11/20

- 8:30am Steve Lamb
Arturo B. Gorospe †

Tuesday 11/21

- 8:30am Ramu Ramanathan †
Maria & Antonio Martinez †

Wednesday 11/22

- 8:30am Kiko Mitkov
Ron Wilson
James & Harold Pimentel †
7:00pm Benjamin Navarro

Thursday 11/23

- 8:30am Jeffrey Croker
Julie, Richard & Emily Boerger †
Fahrnhorst Family

Friday 11/24

- 8:30am Brooke Higgins †
Ramiro Rezendiz †
Sofia & Hector Hernandez †

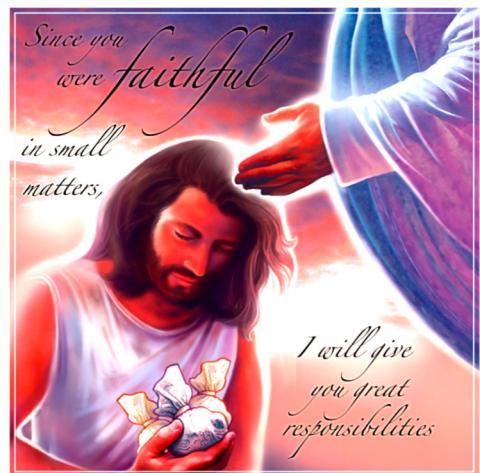
To request a Mass intention, please visit the church office.

Prayers & Devotion

This week, let's enter ourselves in the parable of the talents and see what God might have to reveal to us.

Prayer

Think of yourself as one of the servants in the parable. Consider that a talent would be worth about \$300,000 in today's money. How many "talents" has the master given you? Look at them and then, honestly, decide what you would do if you were given responsibility for \$300,000, \$900,000 or \$3,000,000. Would you be excited about investing it, or would you be afraid to lose it? What would you do with that much money? Now focus on your own gifts and abilities. How are you using them? Are you afraid to "invest" them for fearing of losing them?



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Resolution

Take a few minutes to write down some of the talents and gifts you possess. Make a decision to take at least one small step in implementing a neglected or undeveloped talent that you can put in the service of others this week.

Use the free *Opening the Word* guide on FORMED.org to write down your thoughts and reflections and your resolutions.

Parish Prayer Requests:

For Cherie Bates, Greg Morris, Maria Lopez, Anna Marie Soldo Peralo and Carlotta Schauer's grandson, who are battling cancer.
For Veldon who is recovering from an injury.
For Alexander Martinez Castro, a little boy who major brain/cranial surgery.
For Cheryl Ruth who remains in a coma.
For Margo as she battles sepsis and heart issues.
For Katie, recovering from severe injuries and surgery after being hit by a drunk driver.

Please send your prayer requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

View upcoming funerals at StMichaelLivermore.com/Funerals

News & Announcements

Announcing Our New Accompanist

8 am, 9:30 am and 11 am Sunday Masses

Welcome Michael Bernal, our new accompanist (organ and piano) for the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Masses.

Michael holds a Vocal Performance and Composition degree from CSU, Stanislaus, teaches voice and piano at Galina's Music Studios here in Livermore and recently moved here with his new bride. Michael's desire is to bring glory to God through enriching our worship through music.

Please stop by the piano or organ to welcome Michael to our community!



The Hall Needs New Tables and Chairs

Over the past month, the Facilities Committee has talked about getting new chairs and tables for our newly remodeled Hall. **New chairs and tables would cost around \$7,500 - \$12,000.**

Would you like to donate a year-end tax-deductible gift for new chairs and tables? Please send me an email at EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity.

Collection Report

Thank you for your generous support of our parish! If St Michael's is your home parish and you have not set up regular offerings, please prayerfully consider contacting the church office this week at 925-447-1585.

11/12/17 Collection	\$15,565.55
Month-to-Date	\$47,930.33
Month Goal	\$86,274.51
Percentage Reached	56%
Faith Direct for Nov.	\$9,009.00
Maintenance for Nov.	\$10,567.50

Advent Devotional Books

The Little Blue Books (available in English, Spanish & Vietnamese) contain daily reflections based on the Infancy Narrative of Matthew. Reflections begin December 3, 2017 and end on January 8, 2018.

Pick up yours in the church office foyer or contact Maryann Johnston at 925-447-5881.

Suggested donation is \$1.00.

Christmas Ushers and Crossing Guards

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, our church is joyfully overflowing with people! We need your help.

Please think about which Mass you will attend, and sign up to serve by calling Dave and Natascha Parks at 925-371-2276 or talk to one of the ushers at Mass!

Altar Society Needs Help

Can you help one Saturday, every 6-7 weeks doing some light "housekeeping" in the church?

Duties take about 1 1/2 hours. Jobs include: changing the holy water light dusting, cleaning wax off candles, and tidying up the pews.

Contact Vicki Borzileri at 925 487 2073 or vborzileri@comcast.net

Join Christmas Choir!

If you've been wanting to join a choir but were waiting for the right moment, NOW is the time! We are inviting everyone to join one of our choirs and start learning music for our upcoming Christmas celebrations.

Please contact JaNet Hancock, Director of Music, at music@StMichaelLivermore.com or 925-292-5071 for more information.

This Week

MONDAY, NOV 20

Readings: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Events:

Deadline to submit content for all December bulletins. 925-667-4051.

TUESDAY, NOV 21

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10

Events:

CounterPoint Support Group for friends of addicts at 7pm in Room 22.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 22

St. Cecilia

Readings: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28

Events:

Discover the Catholic Faith "Inquiry" meeting at 7pm in the Convent.

THURSDAY, NOV 23

St. Clement I, St. Columban; Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro

Readings: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44

Events:

Parish Offices closed.

Mass at 8:30 am as usual.

FRIDAY, NOV 24

Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions

Readings: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11-12; Lk 19:45-48

Events:

Parish Offices closed.

Mass at 8:30 am as usual.

SATURDAY, NOV 25

St. Catherine of Alexandria

Readings: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40

Events:

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

SUNDAY, NOV 26

Readings: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

Events:

No LifeTeen meeting

No Vietnamese Mass this month

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
(The last day of the liturgical year)

When the world ends, we are told that God is going to focus on one thing: How did we care for the poor, the sick, the suffering? Nothing else will matter. Just how we treated who Jesus called "the least" among us. The world at large has the final judgment wrong, but so do many Christians. The bottom line for God is going to be how we treated others because, as Jesus says, the way we treat others is ultimately the way we treat him.

Latin Mass

Returns in January

Is receiving Communion different at the Latin Mass?

Yes. Communicants kneel at a Communion rail and receive on the tongue. We do not respond with "Amen". The priest will bring Communion to those who are unable to leave their pews. Those who wish to come forward but who cannot kneel may stand.

How does the congregation actively participate?

With attentive hearts and minds, united with the priest, we adore God together, much like we do in the Adoration Chapel.

For more information at resources about the Latin Mass, please visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Latin

When will Latin Mass take place?

On the second Sunday of the month at 8:00 am, January—June.

Will missals be provided?

Missals will be provided with the English (and also Spanish) translation of the Latin.

Will there be music?

The "Low Mass" will be celebrated without music. If well attended, adding organ music will be the next step.

Will the priest have his back to the congregation?

Yes—but that is the wrong way to think about it. It is not a question of turning his back on the people. Instead, the priest and the people together *face the same direction*, toward God.

Upcoming Events

Serve at Open Heart Kitchen Wed, Nov 29

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

Deacon Dave's Lights Opening Ceremony: Fri, Dec 1 at 6:30 pm

Deacon Dave's famous light display will open with a colorful Christmas Procession down Hillcrest Ave from Fordham Way to the House of the Dove where opening ceremonies will take place. Deacon Dave is attempting to break last years Light Count. Will he do it? What do you think the Light Count will be?

Hours of Operation

Sun – Thurs: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Fri-Sat: 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Christmas Eve: 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Christmas Night: 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Dec 26 to Jan 1: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

LLNL's HOME Campaign Last Day is Dec 1

If you work at LLNL, please consider participating in the HOME campaign payroll deduction giving program. You can choose St Michael Parish AND St Vincent de Paul, St Michael's Conference.

Parish Hall Grand Opening & Blessing Sat, Dec 2, 6:15 pm

At long last, the Parish Hall will be officially reopened! Are you curious what it looks like now?

Join us in blessing the newly remodeled Parish Hall after the 5:00 pm Mass.

There will be a reception in celebration of the new hall and Deacon Dave's 35th Ordination Anniversary.

Deacon Dave's Anniversary Sat, Dec 2 at 5 pm Mass

Come celebrate Deacon Dave's 35th Ordination Anniversary and his retirement from the position as Diocesan Representative and Director of Personnel after 22 years of service. (No, he's NOT retiring from St Michael's!) Reception to follow in the newly remodeled Hall!

Young Adult Christmas Dinner Dance Sat, Dec 2

Come have a great time with other Catholic young adults at St Augustines Catholic Church 7-11 pm. Contact Trivallyyam@gmail.com

Family Mass Sun, Dec 3 at 9:30 am

St Michael School families, Faith Formation Families and Parish wide families are invited to celebrate with us at 9:30 am.

Dress-a-Girl Christmas Luncheon

Sat, Dec 2 at 11 am

if you have been involved in any way with our Dress a Girl ministry, please come to our Christmas luncheon!

December 2, 11am—2 pm, at the convent. Please bring a dish to share. Instead of a gift exchange, bring your offering for Dress A Girl, That can be our Christmas gift to ourselves and to God!

Toy Drive for the Children of Inmates

Dec 2-3

Toys for children of the inmates, migrant workers and hospitalized: The Catholic Detention Ministry is collecting toys primarily for children of the inmates at Santa Rita Jail.

Any excess toys will be brought to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland as well as to the children of migrant workers. The toys are for children ages 0-12 and need to be NEW and UNWRAPPED. Drop off at the bins on Sat, Dec 2 and Sun, Dec 3. Contact Rachael at 510 501-1411.

Golden Friends Black Oak Casino Trip

Wed, Dec 6

Join us for a day of fun and games! We will leave St Michael's at 8:00 am and return at 5:00 pm. The cost is \$27 per person. Reserve your seat by Nov 17 by contacting Wilma at 925-447-8198.

Nativity Display Sun, Dec 10

The Italian Catholic Federation will display nativity scenes from all over the world at St Elizabeth Seton, from 9:00 am-8:00 pm.

Upcoming Events

Immaculate Conception: Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, Dec 8

We celebrate the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was conceived by normal biological means in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, but God acted upon her soul, keeping it "immaculate" and free from original sin.

Catholics honor their commitment and obedience to Jesus and His church by attending Mass on Holy Days. Mass at St Michael's as follows:

Vigil on Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm (Spanish)

Friday, December 8 at 8:30 am, 12:15 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm (Spanish)

If you will be out of the area, check MassTimes.org for a parish near you.



4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Masses

Dec 23-25

This year, the 4th Sunday in Advent falls on December 24. Catholics are obliged to celebrate Mass for BOTH the 4th Sunday in Advent AND Christmas. Vigil Mass the day before fulfills our Mass obligation. Please plan your schedule accordingly.

ATTEND ONE OF THESE

12/23

4th Sunday in Advent Vigil: 5:00 pm English, 7:00 pm Spanish

12/24

4th Sunday in Advent: 6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish)

AND ALSO ONE OF THESE

12/24

Christmas Vigil: 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm (Children), 7:00 pm (Youth), 9:00 pm (Spanish), Midnight

12/25

Christmas Day: 6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish)

Adoration Chapel Closed

Dec 24 and Dec 25

The Sacrament will be reposed 12/23 after the 5 pm Mass, then exposed on 12/26 after the 8:30 am Mass.

New Bible Study Class on the Mass

Thurs, January 11

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass takes a unique tour of the Liturgy, exploring the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience in the Mass. This intriguing look at the Mass is sure to renew your faith and deepen your devotion to the Eucharist.

This 5-session series will meet on Thursdays from January 11-February 8 at 6:30 pm in the Convent. Please order your materials in advance from AscensionPress.com or 1-800-376-0520 for \$19.95.

Questions? Email Ken at steamboatwillie1928@comcast.net

Free Dinner & Faith Conversation

Tues, Jan 9

Who would you invite to enjoy a free dinner and ask questions about the big questions of life and the basics of Christianity? No pressure. Just a safe place to enjoy a meal and have a conversation.

The first dinner is Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 pm in the Small Hall. If you like it, come back the next week too!

Register and get more info at: StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha

Training for New Readers

Mon, Jan 8

Do you hear the call to proclaim Sacred Scripture at Mass? Come and attend 5 training and practice sessions to be held on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm starting on January 8, 2018. These sessions will be held in the Sacristy and altar area of the church. Please register in advance. Call 925-667-4095 or email: Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com.

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Inmaculada Concepción: Día de obligación Viernes, 8 de diciembre

Celebramos la concepción de la Santísima Virgen María, quien fue concebida por medios biológicos normales en el vientre de su madre, Santa Ana, pero Dios actuó sobre su alma, manteniéndola "inmaculada" y libre del pecado original.

Los católicos honran su compromiso y obediencia a Jesús y a su iglesia al asistir a la Misa en los Días Santos. Las Misas en San Miguel serán las siguientes:

Misa de Vigilia el jueves, 7 de diciembre a las 6:00 p.m. y 7:30 p.m. (español)
Viernes, 8 de diciembre a las 8:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Español

Si va estara fuera del área, visite MassTimes.org para encontrar una parroquia cerca suyo.

La Misa en latin regresa a San Miguel en enero

La Misa tradicional en latin volverá a San Miguel, en el segundo domingo de cada mes, a las 8:00 AM., desde enero a junio. Esto es parte de los festejos del 100 aniversario de nuestra iglesia, y una oportunidad para celebrar la misa de la misma manera que las personas lo hicieron en esta Iglesia de San Miguel durante años. Es también una oportunidad, para que nuestras diversas culturas étnicas se unan en adoración. Tendremos misales disponibles con traducción del latin al español, para que podamos seguir las oraciones en latin.

Registration de Flocknote

Regístrese para recibir anuncios especiales de San Miguel en español a través de texto o correo electrónico. Sólo mandar texto MIGUEL al 202-765-3441.

USO DE LOS TALENTOS

“Si usamos los talentos que Dios nos ha dado, notaremos que se multiplican con el uso. Creímos tener dos, y resulta que tenemos cinco.”

--Richard Meux Benson

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Saint Margaret Sunday Missal

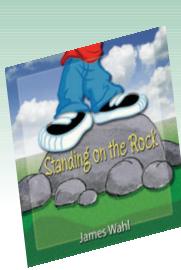


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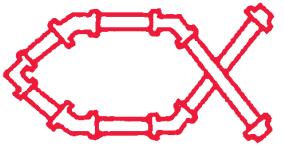
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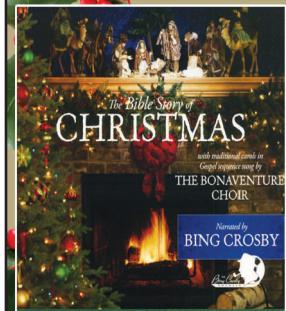
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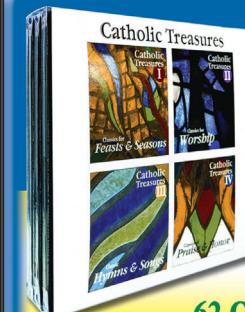
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Mass | Misa

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 dur-
ing 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

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

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Garay, Edna McCombe, Analy Palo-
mino, Vanessa Suarez

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Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper	925-667-4058
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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