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and Bring Christ to People.

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NOVEMBER 2019
3

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

*Zacchaeus ran ahead
and climbed a
sycamore tree in
order to see Jesus.*

LUKE 19:4

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Summary

Last week, we focused on two types of prayer. The self-righteous prayer of the Pharisee and the humble prayer of the tax collector. This week's readings are about God's mercy.

Zacchaeus was not a popular man. The short, wealthy chief tax collector was probably one of the most despised men in the community. The tax collectors in Israel were known for "taking a little off the top." And they were working for the oppressive Romans who were taxing the Jewish people. Little wonder tax collectors were at the very bottom of the popularity list of the time.

Unpopular as Zacchaeus would have been, this is precisely the person whom Jesus seeks in this week's Gospel reading. The Gospel of Luke tells us that as Jesus was passing through the city of Jericho, Zacchaeus was anxious to see Jesus. He climbed up a sycamore tree to get a better look, and to his surprise, it was not just Zacchaeus who was seeking Jesus but actually Jesus who was seeking Zacchaeus! Jesus tells Zacchaeus that he will come to his home, much to the shock of Zacchaeus and the whole crowd.

This story offers great insight into the nature of God. Jesus tells Zacchaeus that he wants to dine at his house. Imagine the expressions of the other people in the crowd that day. "What kind of a

prophet is this?" Going to the chief tax collector's house was not a recipe for Jesus' popularity! But God isn't after popularity; he's after people's souls. Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus changes his life. He comes down from the tree with joy. He confesses his sins of extortion and pledges to restore whatever he



had stolen. Jesus says in the Gospel passage that he came to "seek and save what was lost." In Zacchaeus' case, he has great success!

Unpack the First Reading Wisdom 11:22-12:2

This reading is a magnificent combination of poetry and religious and philosophical reflection. What a wonderful insight it is that God cannot hate the sinner. He would only create and preserve in existence what he loves. Even the most heinous sinner is God's creation of love. God isn't the enemy of the sinner; it's the sins of the sinner that are a threat to him.

One author says of this reading that it presents a "theology of anxiety," God's anxiety for those souls who have rejected him. All

of his actions in the economy of salvation have this anxiety over the sinner at their root. Our faith in the God of love requires that we believe that every action he's reported as taking in the Scriptures is inspired by one motive only—love of souls. We must always remember that God's mercy doesn't aim at excusing or condoning sin. He loves the sinner too much to do that. Rather, Wisdom tells us, "you overlook people's sins that they may repent." Our repentance is nothing other than our way of reciprocating God's love for us.

Unpack the Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

Written twenty years or so after Christ's death, both the first and second letters to the Thessalonians are rich with encouragement for the local church which Paul had founded. This little church seems to have been blessed with God's favor since it flourished, even in the absence of the apostolic presence of Paul. His praise and direction aims largely at making slight corrections in teaching and in seeing that their faith is properly expressed. In this reading, one of Paul's concerns is the misunderstanding that some seem to have gained from possibly fabricated reports that "the day of the Lord" had arrived. That phrase was used to refer to the Second Coming of Jesus.

Paul assures the faithful that the day hasn't arrived and goes on to remind readers of what he told them while he was with them about the events which must transpire before Christ's return. It's worth noting that nothing Paul says suggests that the events surround the coming of the "lawless man," who's to precede the Second Coming, are imminent at the time of his writing. From what Paul tells us here, the common assertion that the early Christians believed that Jesus was to return at any moment could be questioned.

Unpack the Gospel **Luke 19:1-10**

This week Jesus again addresses himself to a covenant outsider, Zacchaeus, a tax collector in Jericho. Zacchaeus was a rich man, the chief tax collector in a wealthy region. Chief tax collectors often employed tax collecting agents to do the dirty work of extortion of the local people in collaboration with the Roman authorities, which made these men outcasts in Jewish society. Zacchaeus'

small stature would've made it a necessity to employ others to handle the rough stuff, which likely made him all the more hated by the local populace.

When those who observed that Jesus had allowed himself to be invited to the house of a sinner began to murmur, Zacchaeus doesn't dispute what they assert about him, but, by repenting, instantly turns himself into a righteous "descendant of Abraham," as Jesus calls him. Zacchaeus wouldn't have been required by the Mosaic Law to make a fourfold restitution for the evil he had done, still less to give half his wealth to the poor. He demonstrates for us that in the new regime which Jesus establishes as the kingdom of God, covenant outsiders such as Zacchaeus can, in an instant, become "descendants of Abraham."

Reflect & Discuss

Watch the short Opening the Word video on FORMED. Then reflect and discuss these questions with a friend or use them as journal prompts:

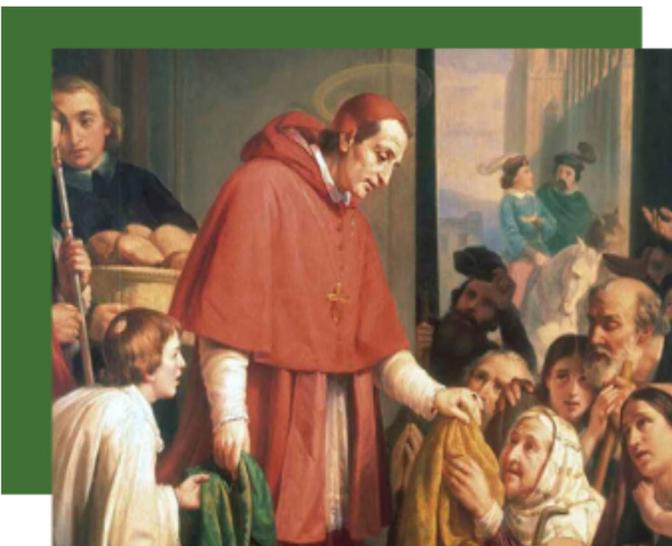
1. In what ways is Zacchaeus' life changed as a result of his encounter with Jesus?
2. Imagine that Jesus showed up and asked to visit your house. How would you respond?
3. Why might we be hesitant to welcome Jesus to our homes?

Digging Deeper: **Conversion—Radical Reorientation of Our Life**

"Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace."

—CCC 1431

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



St Charles Borromeo

Feast Day: November 4

As the nephew of Pope Pius IV, Saint Charles Borromeo was one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in Rome. Yet he chose the extraordinary challenge of reform, and willingly spent himself in the service of his flock.

Go to **FORMED.org** and watch *True Reformers*, episode 4: Saint Charles Borromeo.

Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 11/2

All Masses For the Souls in Purgatory

Sunday 11/3

6:45am Jack & Bernice Rooney †
8:00am Joseph Mary Pham Dang †
9:30am John & Jose Aflague
11am * Refugio Telles †
John J. Vericella †
Brid Brosnan †
Jean Kruger †
John Aflague †
Lola Bobba †
12:30pm Refugio Telles †
6:00pm Mass for Our Parish

Monday 11/4

8:30am Robert T. Boyle, Jr †

Tuesday 11/5

8:30am Sophie Lemaigen

Wednesday 11/6

8:30am John & Kate Egan †
7:00pm Mary & Ed Volpe †

Thursday 11/7

8:30am Amanda Maltez †

Friday 11/8

8:30am Isabel Nunez †

**The first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 am Mass is a "Communal Mass" where several intentions are offered.*



Prayer

Building on today's Gospel reading, imagine Jesus has come to visit your town. But instead of going to the house of your parish priest or even the most generous, kind, faithful members of your community, he goes straight to the home of the person you dislike the most. How would that make you feel? Would you rejoice that Jesus was calling this perhaps lost soul into a relationship? Or would you be like the people in Zacchaeus' time—grumbling and complaining, wondering why on earth Jesus would want anything to do with that person? Now imagine that as Jesus gets ready to enter that person's house, he turns to you. What would you say to Jesus before he entered that house?

Resolution

Think of the person in your life that you most struggle with for whatever reason. Ask Jesus to visit that person, to show his love to him or her in a new way. Ask him how you can be a better friend, neighbor, etc., to that person. Perhaps ask Jesus how you can show his love to him or her.

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



Join Liturgical Ministry

"If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy."
– St. John Vianney

Dear St Michael Family,

The Mass is the source and summit of Christian life; there is no higher form of prayer or praise. Although hidden to the casual observer, it is the most joyful moment of all of creation, because heaven actually touches earth as the Son of God becomes truly present in the Eucharist. I am inspired and encouraged by the number of people who attend Mass at St Michael! It is a sign of a healthy parish. But with our pews so full at each Mass, I need your help. **Will you consider training to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) or a Lector?**

Some are wondering if all our liturgical ministers have quit. No! Rather, it has come to my attention that a small number of people have been doing multiple jobs and offering their time

every single week. While I am grateful for the generosity of these faithful parishioners, it is my duty to both care for them spiritually and to invigorate a culture of invitation by welcoming new people to join.

It is my vision that each Liturgical Minister works just one or two Sundays each month, allowing for the other days to simply rest in the Lord as a member of the Assembly. This is both a healthy approach for our parish community and for each minister personally. It is also my goal and desire, as guided by our baptismal call, that each family and each individual take on a ministry to serve the liturgical, pastoral and evangelical work of the parish. Imagine if all or even 50% of our families are intentionally serving the Lord and His Church!

In order to make this vision a reality, we need to pray that God chooses new members of this vibrant community to be trained to become Extraordinary Ministers of

Holy Communion and Lectors. We have training dates coming up in November. After this training, you will know exactly what to do! Is the Lord speaking to you to join Liturgical Ministry?

Need Per Mass:

Sat, 5:00 pm: 5 EMHC
Sun, 6:45 am: 18 EMHC, 4 Lectors
Sun, 8:00 am: 13 EMHC, 1 Lector
Sun, 9:30 am: 6 EMHC
Sun, 11 am: 13 EMHC, 2 Lectors
Sun 6 pm: 13 EMHC, 4 Lectors

Daily Mass at 8:30 am: 1 or 2 EMHC and Lectors for each day, Mon-Sat.

Our scheduling system allows you to choose how frequently you serve, or if you just want to fill in at the last minute!

Thank you for your prayerful consideration, and may God richly bless you and your families.

Fr Carl



EMHC Training

Monday, November 4 at 6:30 pm in the Church or
Saturday, November 16 at 9:30 am
StMichaelLivermore.com/EM

Homebound Ministry Training

Monday, November 4 at 6:00 pm in the Convent.
Contact Sridhar Ramanathan at 650-219-4500.

Lector Training

Monday, November 25 at 6:30 in the Church
StMichaelLivermore.com/Lectors.

Reminders for the Week

Monday-Friday, November 3—8
 The Church parking lot will be closed for restoration. Daily Mass will continue as scheduled. Street parking only.

Monday, November 4
 Homebound Minister Training at 6 pm in the Convent. To register, contact Sridhar at 650-219-4500.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Training at 6:30 in the Church. Register at StMichaelLivermore.com/EM

Friday, November 8
 Parish offices are closed.

Next Weekend
 Traditional Latin Mass on Sunday at 8:00 am.



The U.S. bishops ...

gather twice a year as a body to vote on important issues affecting the U.S. Church. Their November meeting begins early next week. For updates, you can follow @USCCB social channels or watch a livestream on www.usccb.org.

DONATE A TURKEY

Saturday, November 23, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 St Vincent de Paul Food Locker
 Behind St Michael Church

Vocations Awareness Week

During this first full week of November, the USCCB recognizes Vocations Awareness Week.

We invite you to join with us in praying for more vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life from our community.

Visit oakdiocese.org/vocations for more information.

THANKSGIVING MASS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28
8:30 AM AND 10:00 AM

Bring the bread and beverages for your family feast in a basket for a special blessing

Collection Report

10/27/19	\$14,135.10
Month-to-Date	\$77,123.98
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
Percentage Reached	89%
Faith Direct	\$12,236.00
Maintenance (Oct)	\$9,469.93
World Mission	\$2,531.35
Fr. Peter's Kenya Mission	\$9,628.56

Save These Dates!



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.

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest Saturday, Nov 16, 9 am -3 pm Large Hall

All are invited to help make simple dresses for girls in poverty-stricken countries.

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

Celebrate Mass in Tagalog, followed by a potluck in the hall. For mass intentions, please visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Filipino

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 in a care facility or residential home.

Wrapped gifts with tags need to be brought back to the church the following weekend of November 23 and 24.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 5:30 pm, followed by individual (bilingual) confessions (4 priests available) until benediction at 7:00 pm. Mass in Spanish will begin at 7:15 pm.

XLT (Exalt!) Friday, December 6 at 7:00 pm Church [NEW DATE]

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 call Tina at 925-667-4051

First Sunday in Advent is December 1

Drive Through Prayer
M-F, Dec 2-20

Why Church Matters
Nov 28-Dec 19

XLT [exalt]
Dec 6

Reconciliation
Dec 4, 11 and 18

**AT A
GLANCE**
Advent

Immaculate Conception
(Not a Holy Day This Year)

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec 12

Las Posadas
Dec 18 - 23

Simbang Gabi
Dec 16-24

Quick Links

Parish Website, the info hub of everything going on at St Michael's:

StMichaelLivermore.com

Flocknote, the parish email/texting platform and also the access point for all of Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire videos:

StMichaelLivermore.flocknote.com

FORMED, a vast digital library of Catholic movies, video programs, audio talks, eBooks and more. St Michael's has paid for your subscription, so you have unlimited access!

FORMED.org

FaithDirect is a safe and easy way to offer financial gifts to St Michael Parish. You can set up weekly or monthly giving, or make a one-time gift. The user-friendly online system lets you manage all aspects of your account so you are always in control of your donations
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St Vincent de Paul 5th Sunday Collection Report

The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank the parishioners of St. Michael's for their generosity in the September 5th Sunday collection. We received a total of \$5,420.

In the third quarter of 2019 we distributed 297 food bags and helped 832 people. Our major expenses for that period were \$4639 in food purchases, \$5337 for help with utilities, \$1,127 in rental assistance and \$366 for emergency shelter/motels. We also spent \$1136 on clothing and household items from the SVdP store and another \$170 on travel aid.

Our neighbor "Rose" had been homeless until about a year ago when she secured subsidized senior housing. She struggles to make ends meet each month, and after some of her Social Security funds were stolen, was unable to pay her rent. She received a three-day notice to quit. Through your generosity, we were able to pay her rent and some other expenses she had incurred at her housing complex, thus keeping her from being turned out into the streets once again.

Is God calling you to be a Vincentian?

Would you like to serve the Lord by serving the poor?

For more information on the Society and what we do please contact Janet Graham (janet.graham@comcast.net) or Paul Kuzmenko (kuzmenko@att.net).

Thank you for helping us help others.



Join the
Advent 2019

DRIVE THROUGH
PRAYER TEAM!

December 2-20
5:30 - 6:30 pm

[StMichaelLivermore.com/
DriveThroughPrayer](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/DriveThroughPrayer)



Los obispos

estadounidenses se reúnen como cuerpo dos veces al año para votar sobre los asuntos importantes que afectan a la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos.

Su reunión de noviembre empieza a principios de la próxima semana.

Para estar al día, puedes seguir los canales sociales @USCCB o la transmisión en vivo en www.usccb.org



Mision de Adviento

11, 12, 13 de Noviembre a las 7:00 pm

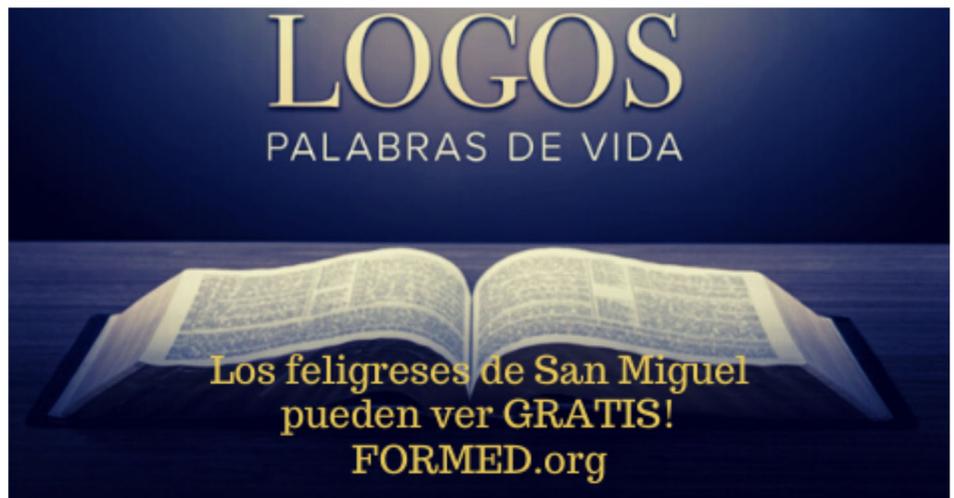
Queridos hermanos:

Acercandonos al tiempo de Adviento, la Iglesia en el Mundo se prepara en "vigilante espera" para recordar y conmemorar una vez mas, el nacimiento de Jesus en Navidad. La Iglesia nos exhorta a renovarnos espiritualmente para este gran acontecimiento mediante la oracio y la renovacion del espiritu para asi celebrar mas dignamente el Nacimiento del Salvador, que vino a traernos la redencion de parte de Dios.

Para ayudarnos a estar preparados y vigilantes para dicho acontecimiento, en nuestra parroquia tendremos una **Mision de Adviento los dias 11, 12, 13 de Noviembre a las 7:00 PM** en el templo parroquial. Vengamos y seamos renovados por el Espiritu de Dios y asi podamos celebrar con renovada fe las fiestas de la Navidad.

Con afecto y oraciones,

Padre Alfonso



Durante toda la primera semana de noviembre, la USCCB reconoce la Semana de Concientización Vocacional. Les invitamos a unirse a nosotros para orar por más vocaciones al sacerdocio, al diaconado y a la vida religiosa en nuestra comunidad:

En el nombre de Jesús, te pedimos que nos envíes tu Espíritu para que los hombres y las mujeres entre nosotros, jóvenes y viejos, respondan a tu llamado de servicio y de liderazgo en la Iglesia.

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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



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