



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA
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St Michael School
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THIRD SUNDAY

OF Advent

As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord God make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11



DECEMBER 17, 2017

Joy Prepares Our Hearts

There are many paradoxes in our Christian Faith. For example, there are three Persons in one God; this God made something out of nothing; God's mother is one of his creations, etc. It can be easy to respond by simply ignoring the discrepancies. But these paradoxes are not meant to be ignored. They are mysteries of our Faith, not meant to be kept secret, but to be unveiled by God himself.

One of the greatest mysteries of our Faith is that there can be profound joy even in the depths of the worst suffering, and this is the mystery that the Church draws to our attention on Gaudete Sunday. In the midst of a season of penance and waiting, we find ourselves celebrating a day completely devoted to joy!

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is shown reading this very passage from Isaiah to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth. With every eye riveted on Jesus in anxious anticipation, he says, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Lk 4:21).

The breathless astonishment in that synagogue expressed the recognition on the part of those present that this passage from Isaiah was universally understood to be a reference to the awaited Messiah, a title which means, "Anointed." Note that in verse 1, Jesus would have read the words, "the Lord has anointed me." The crowd, which had heard of his growing reputation, was probably wondering if Jesus were the Messiah, the anointed one, and now he was speaking the very words that

foretold his coming. Having been recited for hundreds of years by thousands of Jews, this phrase finally was spoken by the One who had inspired its writing!

Imagine the joy of the listeners who



realized that they were finally encountering the promised Messiah. We should find the same joy as we encounter Christ in the Mass and the Eucharist, intimately united with the Savior who came to redeem us from the power of sin and death.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

"Rejoice always." These words, which begin this reading from St. Paul, best describe the appropriate attitude for the liturgy on this Third Sunday of Advent. Our hearts ought to be lifted by the nearness of the Lord's coming.

In this season, we focus on several of the Lord's advents or comings: past, present, and future. It is interesting to note that the section that precedes our reading from 1 Thessalonians addresses the question of the

Lord's second coming. Again, the consideration of the end of time, or the end of our lives, is not a reason for abject fear on the part of Christians. On the contrary, as "children of light and of the day" (1 Thessalonians 5:5), we are called to share in the joy of his coming. If we are his, we have nothing to fear from his coming; we will not receive judgment, as will the children of darkness, but vindication.

And although in this Advent Season we await both the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas and the second coming of Christ, we are able to participate in his presence with us now in the Church and preeminently in the Blessed Sacrament.

Gospel Reading

John 1:6–8, 19–28

The Gospel this week features John the Baptist again, although we see him in a different light than Mark's Gospel. In St. John's Gospel, the Baptist is the witness to the Messiah; he "was not the light, but came to testify to the light" (John 1:8).

Scholars have noticed that John begins his Gospel with the same phrase as that which begins Genesis: "In the beginning." This suggests a new creation in Christ. Closer attention reveals that John also mentions a series of days in the first two chapters of his Gospel that add up to seven in all! The phrase "the next day" is used three times in chapter one, suggesting the passing of four days, and the story of the wedding feast at Cana in chapter two begins with the words, "On the third day," suggesting the passing of three more days. John describes the beginning

of the re-creation in Christ, just as Genesis describes creation itself in a series of seven days.

The Baptist describes the Messiah as “one among you whom you do not recognize” (John 1:26). This idea of God among us is a central theme of both the Old and New Covenants. God dwelt among his people during the Exodus from Egypt, in the Tabernacle, and in the Temple. Of course, Jesus is our Emmanuel, “God with us,” in a special way during Advent. Most profoundly, he is “one among us” in the Eucharist, under the humble form of bread and wine, and as such is often one whom we “do not recognize.” Each Holy Communion, then, is a little advent, another coming of Jesus, and so the Advent season ought to teach us how to be better prepared to greet Christ in each Mass.

Discussion

When do you find it difficult to rejoice in life? What is one thing that you can rejoice in during that time?

On this Third Sunday of Advent, let us take courage and wrestle with this mystery of what it means to be joyful

in suffering. Is it truly possible to “rejoice always”? Is there always light in the darkness? As you watch the short *Opening the Word* video on FORMED.org, ponder the dark times in your own life where you want to learn to find joy.

In his homily for Gaudete Sunday in 2014, Pope Francis taught that to have joy a Christian must do three things: pray, give thanks, and share the Good News. And St. Thomas Aquinas, the “angelic doctor,” defines joy as a fruit of the Holy Spirit that flows immediately from charity, or love of God.

What do you think is the relationship between prayer and joy? Joy and thanksgiving? Are these necessary for joy? How can you pray more and be more thankful?

Now let’s focus on Pope Francis’s last point. To receive joy, we must give joy, and the greatest joy that we can give is the Good News. A Christian who has been loved by God longs to share that love with others. How can you take John the Baptist as your model to reflect Christ in someone’s life? How can you prepare the way for the Lord in the lives of the people around you?

DIGGING DEEPER: The Eucharist

The great spiritual masters teach us that a key to “rejoicing always” is to work intentionally to give thanks. A heart overflowing with gratitude does not succumb to darkness. Our word for Eucharist actually comes from the Greek *eukharistia*, meaning “thanksgiving.” At Mass, we offer Jesus’s sacrifice in thanksgiving to the Father. By being with Jesus in Adoration, we can rest in this thanksgiving. In the Eucharist, we give thanks for our greatest gift, God himself, and there we learn how to keep this gift always present in our minds so that we can truly give thanks and “rejoice always.” This week, try to attend Adoration or Mass with your group, or encourage them to do so on their own.

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

Mary of Nazareth

Who was Mary, Mother of the Messiah?

Experience life with Christ through the eyes of his mother in this beautiful film capturing Mary’s special role in God’s plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Jesus, and the mysterious joys and sufferings she encountered with deep love, profound humility, and unwavering faith.

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Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/16

8:30am Lamb Family (Deceased) ✠
5:00pm Lamb Family (Living)
7:00pm Lilia Palomino
Manuel Perez ✠

Sunday 12/17

6:45am Carolina Jose Garcia ✠
Thomas McVey
8:00am Theresa Blennert ✠
9:30am Melanie Maher ✠
11:00am Billy & Lila Lisky
Jacob Benson ✠
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Elizabeth Be ✠

Monday 12/18

8:30am Dorothy Nunes
Patty Rosa
Ralf & Alyce Grinnell ✠

Tuesday 12/19

8:30am Sofia Ore ✠
Helen & Mike ✠
William & Kathleen O'Shea ✠

Wednesday 12/20

8:30am William & Kathleen O'Shea ✠
Mariano & Rosalina Goce
Francisco L. Cuaresma ✠
7:00pm Jose Saul Ramirez Montoya ✠

Thursday 12/21

8:30am Felicity Oxedine ✠
Linda Wyeta ✠
Michael Gordon ✠

Friday 12/22

8:30am James Carlisle Barringer

To arrange a Mass intention, please visit the Church Office.



Prayer

Now, let us ponder these moments of rejoicing in the Scriptures today. The mysterious thing about these figures is that they are able to rejoice in the midst of darkness and before the fulfillment of God's promises. Isaiah, along with all of Israel, was still awaiting the Messiah. Mary was anticipating the birth of the Messiah to bring about the salvation of her people as the angel had promised. John the Baptist was preparing the way for the Messiah to come. St. Paul, who wrote his letter to the Philippians from prison, was awaiting the return of the Savior in the second coming, just as we are today. But each anticipated the coming good and believed so deeply that God would fulfill his promises, that they experienced the joy of the promise before it was ever fulfilled. What are the dark areas of your life where you can follow their example? How can you proclaim, "I rejoice in the Lord always!" even in the midst of suffering?

Let us particularly reflect on Mary's words in the Magnificat. Take a word or phrase that strikes you and reflect for a moment on what it means to you personally. For example, you might have been drawn to the words, "He has filled the hungry with good things." Where in your heart do you feel you have a hunger, possibly emotional or spiritual hunger? How do you think the Lord wants to fill this hunger?

Resolution

In a homily from Gaudete Sunday in 2002, Pope St. John Paul II said, "In the face of the inevitable difficulties of life, the uncertainties and fears for the future, the temptation to give in to despair and disappointment, the Word of God always proclaims again the 'glad tidings' of salvation: the Son of God comes to heal 'the wounds of the broken-hearted.'" Ask God where he wants to pour his mercy into your life. How can repentance actually prepare your heart to receive joy? What practical thing can you do this week to let Jesus heal the wounds of your broken heart?

Parish Prayer Requests

For the repose of the souls of Helen Makepeace (mother of Monique Makepeace), Kenneth Gels, Lexy Garcia, Jeff Castner and Lydia Amaral.

Please send your prayer requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com



Catholic Schools Week Open House

Sun, Jan 28

All are invited to attend our Catholic Schools Week Open House on Sunday, January 28. We will begin with Mass at 9:30am in the Church, followed by our Open House at the school until 1:00pm. Additionally, tours of St Michael School will be offered by appointment.

St Michael School is a ministry of St Michael Church in Livermore. Saint Michael School is dedicated to providing a well-rounded, academically rigorous education steeped in Catholic identity for students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. Our vision is to provide a student-centered environment stressing the development of the whole person, so that our students develop the skills and values necessary to become responsible, contributing citizens of the 21st century.

Please contact the School for admissions information: (925) 447-1888 or contact Principal, Alison Wilkie: awilkie@csdo.org.

5th Sunday Collection for St Vincent de Paul is Sunday, Dec 31

Thank you in advance for your generous "5th Sunday" donations for the St Michael Chapter of St Vincent de Paul Society.

Some of the money collected on the 5th Sunday helps pay utility bills for needy families right here in Livermore through the Help Desk at the St Vincent de Paul store on 2nd Avenue. Last year, about \$22,000 was given to needy families to help with their utili-

ties. The help desk is open 3 afternoons each week.

The St Vincent de Paul Food Locker is located behind St Michael Church and is open Monday through Thursday from 7:00—8:00 pm where people who are financially struggling can receive free groceries.

If each parishioner could donate \$10.00, it would so help St. Michael's

Chapter of St Vincent de Paul assist many more families in Livermore. You can make difference by donating to St Vincent de Paul through Faith Direct, by the church offering envelopes you receive in the mail, or by using the pink St Vincent de Paul envelopes that will be found in the pews.

Thank You and God Bless

Need Help with Flocknote or FORMED?

If you're having trouble with Flocknote or FORMED, call Tina!

Flocknote is the parish's email and texting platform where you get parish and ministry updates.

FORMED is a huge library of Catholic movies, video-based study programs, audio talks and books. Don't miss out! Usually, an over-the-phone walk-through is all that you need to get you all dialed in. 925-667-4051.

Collection Reports

Thank you for your generous offerings to St Michael Parish. It is only with your help that we can achieve our mission to celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples and bring Christ to people.

12/03/17	\$22,206.63
12/10/17	\$22,711.77
Month-to-Date	\$53,709.90
Month Goal	\$107,843.14
Percentage Reached	50%
Faith Direct for Dec	\$8,791.50
Maintenance for Dec	\$6,358.77

Year-End Giving: Make an Impact!

Make a tax-deductible offering to St Michael's to close out 2017 online at FaithDirect.net and enter church code CA602. You may also drop off a check or mail it to St Michael Church, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

You can also donate stock options to St Michael's. Contact Eric Hom, business manager, for more information at 925-667-4052 or EricHom@StMichaelLivermore.com

This Week

MONDAY, DEC 18

Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Events:

Simbang Gabi Mass at 6:00 am

Suggestion:

Watch *Christmas in Rome* free on FORMED.org. follows the celebration of the Nativity throughout history.

THURSDAY, DEC 21

St. Peter Canisius

Readings: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Events:

Simbang Gabi Mass at 6:00 am

Suggestion:

Spend time in the Adoration Chapel to prepare for Christmas.

SUNDAY, DEC 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Events:

Simbang Gabi Mass at 5:30 am

Adoration Chapel closed

Celebrate Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent AND ALSO for Christmas!

Take time to visit Deacon Dave's famous light display. It's a Livermore tradition!

TUESDAY, DEC 19

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Events:

Simbang Gabi Mass at 6:00 am

Suggestion:

Watch *Brother Francis O' Holy Night* on FORMED.org with your children.

FRIDAY, DEC 22

Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Events:

Simbang Gabi Mass at 6:00 am

Suggestion:

Download *Christmas with Bernadette* by Emily Ortega on FORMED.org to read aloud with your children.

WEDNESDAY, DEC 20

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Events:

Simbang Gabi Mass at 6:00 am

Confession at 2:30 pm in the Convent

SATURDAY, DEC 23

St. John of Kanty

Readings: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Events:

Simbang Gabi Mass at 5:30 am

Confession at 9:15, 3:45 and 6:15

Adoration Chapel closed after the 5 pm Mass



Merry Christmas

Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

Christmas Eve Masses

3:00 pm Mass with Cantor
 5:00 pm Mass with Children's Choir
 7:00 pm Mass with Youth Choir
 9:00 pm Mass in Spanish
 11:30 pm Prelude of Christmas Carols
 12:00 am Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses

6:45 am Mass with organ only
 8:00 am Mass with Cantor
 9:30 am Mass with Cantor
 11:00 am Mass with Choir
 12:30 pm Mass in Spanish

Mary, Mother of God

January 1 (Not a Holy Day This Year)
 8:30 am Mass in English

Adoration Chapel Hours

December 23:

Reposed after the 5 pm Mass

December 24: Closed

December 25: Closed

December 26: Exposition after the 8:30 am Mass, and 24/7 resumes.

Want to sign up for a regular weekly hour? Email Kathy at Adoration@StMichaelLivermore.com

Church Offices Closed

The Church Offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday from December 26 - January 1.

Celebrate Mass on BOTH 4th Sunday in Advent AND Christmas!

ATTEND ONE OF THESE Masses For the 4th Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 23

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

Sunday, December 24

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

ALSO ONE OF THESE Masses For Christmas

Sunday, December 24

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

Monday, December 25

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

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.

Puzzles

A New Ministry to Help Put the Pieces Together after a Loss
Wed, Jan 10

Join us in a gentle, safe environment to share your feelings of any kind of loss: health and aging, friendships and family, relocations and career, addictions and special needs... any kind of loss. Puzzles is a place to help put the pieces together and feel whole again in Christ.

Join us Wednesday, January 10 in the new upstairs Conference Room in the Ed Center at 6:00 pm. Contact Tommie Hogan at 925-292-1653 or tommie1943@gmail.com

Latin Mass Returns

Sun, Jan 14 at 8:00 am

As part of our Centennial celebration, we will offer the traditional Latin Mass every second Sunday at 8:00 am, from January through June. This is an opportunity to experience the same Mass that parishioners at St Michael's celebrated in this same building from 1918 through about 1970. Come and worship in the ancient and unchanging Catholic tradition! More information found at:

StMichaelLivermore.com/Latin

Who Would You Invite

to a free dinner to talk about life's biggest questions and faith?

The first session is Tuesday, January 9, at 6:30 pm
St Michael's "Small Hall"
326 Maple Street, Livermore

If you like it, come back each Tuesday through March 20.

Please RSVP so we know how much food to prepare!

Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com or
925-352-8447. More info at StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha



New Bible Study Class on the Mass

Thurs, Jan 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 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. Email Ken at steamboatwillie1928@comcast.net

CYO Track & Field Sign Ups

Jan 9, 11 and 18. 6:30-8pm

3rd through 8th graders are welcome to join St. Michael/St. Charles 2018 CYO Track and Field/ Signups in the Small Hall at St. Michael. The Parent's Meeting is scheduled for January 29th at 6:30 in the Large Hall at St. Michael.

More info at www.smisctrack.org, or email mandy.costello@hotmail.com.

Walk for Life West Coast

Sat, Jan 27, 12:30-2:30 pm
Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco

Walk with us in the 12th annual peaceful protest of abortion, and a joyous celebration of LIFE! Thousands of walkers of all ages, backgrounds, races, and creeds join us every year in San Francisco.

For more information, visit: WalkForLifeWC.com

Knights of Columbus 45th Annual Crab Feed

Sat, Feb 10

Join us for the best crab and pasta in town, live entertainment, dancing, raffles and auctions!

Robert Livermore Community Center
4 pm - 11 pm
\$55 per person

Tickets sold after Mass or by calling Mark & Claire at 925-443-5873





Perdonado

Un encuentro con la misericordia de Dios

En la confesión, Jesús nos invita a tener un encuentro con Su misericordia y a ser sanados por Su amor.

En ella, también nos otorga la gracia para cumplir lo que nos pide.

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RECOMENDACIONES ADICIONALES

- Guadalupe: El Milagro y el Mensaje
- La Biblia y la Virgen María, Lección 6: Nacido de Una Virgen

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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.

RADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

El día 16 de diciembre comienza la Novena de Aguinaldos en Colombia y otras partes de Latinoamérica. La novena consiste en 9 partes que se repiten por 9 noches:

- 1- Oración inicial
- 2- Oración Mariana
- 3- Oración de José
- 4- Reflexión del día
- 5- Gozos
- 6- Oración al Niño Jesús
- 7- Un Salmo
- 8- Invocación final
- 9- Villancicos (cantos navideños)

Los participantes buscan aguinaldo (regalo). Para esto los colombianos tienen la costumbre de jugar "pajita en boca" buscando quien no trae una pajita en boca. La persona que no pueda mostrar que trae pajita en boca tiene que dar un regalo a quien lo descubrió. Los aguinaldos son recuerdo del regalo que nos dio Dios en su Hijo Jesús, prenda de su amor. Y si Dios nos da un aguinaldo tan grande es porque Dios no tiene pajita en boca cuando nos dice que nos ama.

En el corazón de la Novena está el refrán de Gozos:

Dulce Jesús mío / mi niño adorado
ven a nuestras almas / ven no tardes tanto.

Muy buen mensaje para el Adviento.

-Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM,
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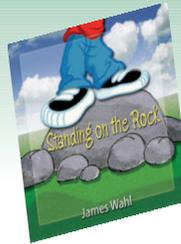
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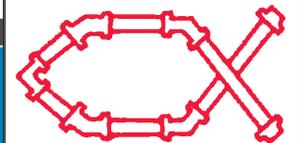
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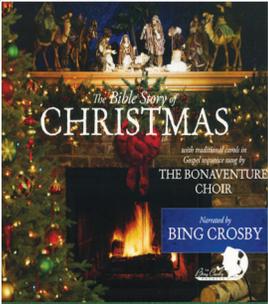
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Mass | Misa

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 during 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

Pastoral Council |

Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair: Mike Pereira
michaelpereira@comcast.net

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

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Consejo Financiero

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daveruth@alrinc.com

Fr. Van Dinh, Eric Hom, Cynthia Garay, Edna McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa Suarez

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925-447-1888 smliv.org

Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-453-6494 Niños



Deacon Dave Rezendes, 925-447-1585
Temporary Administrator

Fr Van Dinh, Pastor
(on administrative leave)

Fr Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar 925-667-4053

Eric Hom, Business 925-667-4052

Deacon Bill Archer 925-667-4056

Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper 925-667-4058

Church Front Office 925-447-1585

School Front Office 925-447-1888

Lourdes Kay, Faith Formation 925-667-4096

Priscilla Stutzman, DRE 925-667-4097

Joseph Garcia, 925-667-4093
Youth Minister

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