



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN
SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON,
AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL,
WHICH MEANS “GOD IS WITH US.”

MATTHEW 1:23



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2019

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Photo: Mosaic, the Annunciation of Mary, Santa Maria del Fonte, Caravaggio, Italy; mattia/Adobe Stock. Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.

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Introduction

This week's Gospel tells us how the "birth of Jesus Christ came about." More specifically, it tells us how an angel appeared to Joseph, explaining to him that Mary's son would save the people from their sins. While Joseph might not have understood it at the time, we know that Jesus is the fulfillment of the great prophecy of Isaiah 7:14ff, that the Messiah would come from the line of David and be born of a Virgin. In our readings this week, we first read that prophecy and then see its fulfillment in the Gospel.

While today's reading focuses on Joseph, Mary is also present. It is because of her, and her willingness to do God's will by accepting the responsibility of bearing his Son, that our sins can be forgiven. But we cannot overlook Joseph's role either. As the Gospel tells us, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded—taking Mary to be his wife and accepting his responsibility toward the child in her womb.

As we examine both Mary's and Joseph's responses to the Lord, we are shown two examples of the way that we, as Christians, are to be open to the Lord's movement in our own lives. Mary, the spotless virgin, readied a place in her body for the coming of the Messiah. We, too, can prepare a place for him in our hearts. Joseph, the faithful husband, accepted what he did not understand and trusted that the

Lord was at work. Inspired by his example, we who often can't understand what is happening to us can learn to trust more that the Lord is truly working in our lives.

With only a few days left before we celebrate the coming of the Lord at Christmas, let us take this time to ask both Mary and Joseph to help us truly "prepare the way of the Lord" in our hearts, our minds, and our souls.

virginal conception fulfill this passage from Isaiah the prophet. In Matthew 1:22–23, the Evangelist, working under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit, cites this passage from Isaiah and declares that it was fulfilled in the announcement of the birth of Jesus made to St. Joseph by an angel. It wasn't until the mid-eighteenth century that the Magisterium (Pius VI had to condemn an interpretation to the contrary.



Unpack the First Reading Isaiah 7:10–14

Much has been said about this passage from Isaiah regarding its original significance in the time and place in which it was written. Although modern scholars have noted that the Hebrew term translated as "virgin" (*almah*) isn't the technical word for virgin—the word means a young woman of marriageable age—such a woman would ordinarily be understood to be a virgin. This understanding is reflected in the Septuagint, the ancient Greek version of the Old Testament, which uses the term *parthenos*—a word that ordinarily means "virgin."

The tradition of the Church is unanimous that Mary and her

The Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium* also identifies the young woman spoken of in Isaiah 7 as the Virgin Mary and makes a further connection with "the woman" mentioned in Genesis 3:15 who would ensure the victory over the

serpent (LG, 55). Without any other credible candidates for *almah* and in the face of the consistent teaching of the Scripture and the Church, we can feel utterly confident that the woman prophesied is indeed Mary, Mother of Immanuel.

Unpack the Second Reading Romans 1:1–7

St. Paul provides a wonderful link between the first reading from the Old Testament and the Gospel reading. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we stand at the very cusp of the event that we call the Incarnation, which is fully disclosed in a beautiful way on the Feast of the Nativity that we call Christmas.

Joseph is the "son of David," and

so through him the prophecy of Isaiah to the “house of David” can be fulfilled. Emmanuel, “God is with us,” was with Joseph, the son of David, when in obedient and trusting faith he “received [Mary] into his home.” In receiving Mary, he also received Jesus, who was already within her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That’s why Mary figures so prominently in a Catholic Advent. She’s the bearer of Emmanuel. God first takes up his dwelling in her. She’s the model in the flesh of the Church that receives the indwelling of the Savior in his flesh. If the core of the Catholic faith is expressed in the name Emmanuel, the “dwelling with us” is best shown in the persons of Mary, who received him into her womb, and Joseph, who received her into his home, the house of David.

Unpack the Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

This Gospel passage features that mysterious name “Emmanuel,” which we apply to our Savior, Jesus Christ. It literally means “with us is God.” In that name is a capsule description of our Catholic

faith. The single difference between Christianity and all other religions is that God has come to dwell among us as a man. While both Catholics and Protestants believe that Christ came in the flesh, we believe that he also left us his flesh, as promised in John 6 and Matthew 28:20, so that he could remain with us until the end of time. The whole of Catholic life centers on the belief that God has come into our midst and remains among us. The Sacraments make Christ present to us, particularly the Eucharist, which effects what we call His Real Presence among us: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. We could say that “Emmanuel” is another word for Incarnation. It’s only in carne, in the flesh, that God could dwell with us in that kind of intimacy—that’s at the very heart of Christian faith and the life of sanctity which expresses that faith.

Reflect & Discuss

Please watch the short Opening the Word video found at FORMED.org. Then reflect and discuss the following questions with a friend.

The presenter tells us that Mary provides an example for us of how we are to spend these last days before Christmas. What did Mary do that we should be emulating?

Explain how the prophecy from Isaiah about the mother of the Messiah can be seen in relation to Mary.

Digging Deeper Handel's "Messiah"

“The Messiah” was composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel, with Scripture from the King James Bible and from the Psalms included with the Book of Common Prayer. The first performance was in Dublin on April 13, 1742. A man of deep faith, Handel wrote the letters “SDG”—Soli Deo Gloria, “To God alone the glory”—at the end of his work, which was written in a remarkable 24 days.

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



the story of the NATIVITY

Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus in the film “The Story of the Nativity” on formed.org. This fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clarifies widespread misunderstandings of Jesus’ origin.

Parishioners can watch free on FORMED.org.

Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/21

- 8:30am Nona Obaldo Correa †
5:00pm Maria Coelho
7:00pm Ester & Doming Mendez †
Sonia Lopez †

Sunday 12/22

- 6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am Carol Guyan †
9:30am Cheryl Ruth †
11:00am Joseph & Marvel Valent †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Refugio Telles †

Monday 12/23

- 8:30am Victoria Cruz †

Tuesday 12/24

- 8:30am Mass for Our Parish
3:00pm Lt Edward Flemming †
5:00pm Delfin Gatchalian, Sr & Jr †
7:00pm Gregory & Baugh Families
9:00pm Ezekwem Family

Wednesday 12/25

- All Masses For the intentions of our parishioners and guests

Thursday 12/26

- 8:30am Rem Declines †

Friday 12/27

- 8:30am Vivian Sheng

To request a Mass Intention, please visit the parish office. It is customary to offer a \$10 donation per intention for the priest celebrating the Mass.

**Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary
your wife into your home.**

Matthew 1:20



Prayer

Imagine that you are with Joseph when he awakens from his dream. He tells you that even though Mary is pregnant, he is going to marry her anyway because the child she is carrying is the long-awaited Messiah, who will save his people from their sins. What do you think when you hear this? Are you shocked at his decision, or inspired by his trust in the Lord? Do you think you would have the courage to do what Joseph did? Prayerfully reflect on how you tend to respond when God invites you to do something difficult or confusing.

Resolution

Is there an area of your life right now that is bewildering or difficult for you to understand—an area in which you may be wondering, "Why is this happening? What am I to do? Where is God in all of this?" Take this situation to God in prayer. Talk to God about it. Ask him to show you what he is trying to teach you through this difficult situation, and then ask him to help you imitate Joseph's trust and obedience.

Special Intentions

Please pray for all the intentions sent to the **Parish Prayer Team at Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com** and the prayers written in the book of intentions in the Adoration Chapel. Also please check **StMichaelLivermore.com/Funerals** to pray for the recently deceased.

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



Understanding the Mass—Part 3

St Michael Family,

Thank you for your enthusiasm to focus on increasing reverence at Mass during the Season of Advent. Understanding the importance of liturgy or Holy Mass unites us in rightly ordered worship and will bring us closer to Jesus. This week we continue with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

For Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. At its heart, it is the Real Presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, making available his saving work within us. This is the center of everything in the parish. If the center of our life and worship is something else, then our Catholic Identity is diminished.

SIT during the Offertory and Preparation of Gifts and join in singing the offertory hymn. As we offer the bread and wine, we also offer to God all our intentions and what we have in our hearts. Here we also give our love offering to support the parish mission and our ministries. Please give generously. There are times when we pass the basket for the second collection.

STAND as the priest says, "Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours..." and remain standing to respond, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands..." If incense is used, the congregation bows toward the thurifer when the deacon bows to the congregation both before and after he has incensed them.

REMAIN STANDING until the end of the Sanctus ("Holy, holy"), then

KNEEL for the entire Eucharistic Prayer. Please lower kneelers gently. If one cannot kneel due to knee problems and health reasons, one may SIT down and reverently behold the Precious Host and Blood of Christ in the chalice and when the priest kneels, one should bow while seated in adoration.

As a good holy practice, BEHOLD reverently the Sacred Elements when the priest elevates each one of them. After the priest kneels,

The communicant must audibly respond "AMEN" before receiving the Holy Communion.

make a simple bow. These are the words of Saint Thomas when he realized that it was truly Christ who stood before him (John 20:28): Jesus responded, "Because you have seen me, you believed. Blessed are they that do not see and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

STAND at the priest's invitation to recite the Lord's Prayer. Reverently fold your hands together and bow your head as you pray the Lord's Prayer. Holding of hands or doing the ORANS position – out-stretching hands - is not the proper gesture of the Faithful. This gesture belongs to the priest or co-celebrating priests who prays to

God on behalf of the people.

Remain STANDING to exchange the Sign of Peace, if the invitation is made. (The Sign of Peace may be either a handshake or a bow of the head towards those nearest you, accompanied by the words "Peace be with you".)

Remain STANDING at the end of the Agnus Dei "Lamb of God..." (See GIRM #43. Our Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland has decided that standing is customary.)

Questions:

What is the proper way to receive the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus?

Kneeling at the communion rail to receive Holy Communion is an option and a customary practice only at daily Mass from Monday to Saturday at St. Michael and at Traditional Latin Mass on the second Sunday at 8:00 am. At the Saturday Vigil Mass and on Sundays, those who receive Holy Communion process to the Communion Minister to receive the Body of Christ reverently either on the tongue or by hand. The communicant must audibly respond "AMEN" before receiving the Holy Communion. If a communicant desires to receive while kneeling, the person should not be denied receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

Next week, we will discuss the Communion Rite in more detail.

Fr Carl , Pastor

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Drop Off Options:

Sunday,
December 22
after Mass

OR

Monday,
December 23
8:30 - 10:30 am



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Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

- 3:00 pm: English
- 5:00 pm: Children's Mass
- 7:00 pm: English
- 9:00 pm: Spanish
- 11:30 pm: Carols followed by
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

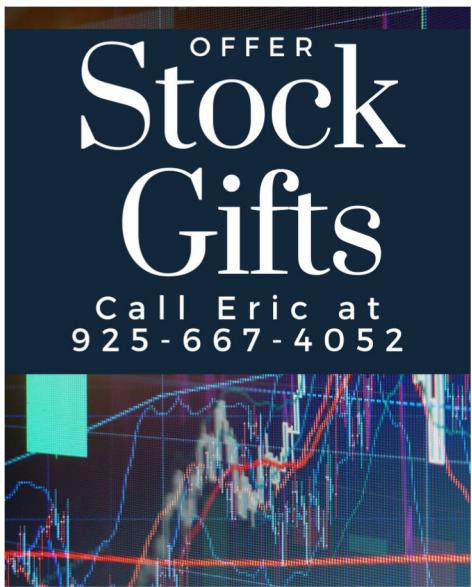
- 6:45 am: English
- 8:00 am: English
- 8:15 am: Spanish in the Hall
- 9:30 am: English
- 9:45 am: English in the Hall
- 11:00 am: English
- 11:15 am: English in the Hall
- 12:30 pm: Spanish



A sign for the Parish Office with a pine branch graphic. It lists the following information:
Parish Office
HOLIDAY HOURS
CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 23
REOPEN THURSDAY, JANUARY 2



A red sign for the Adoration Chapel featuring a gold monstrance icon. It lists the following information:
**Adoration Chapel
Holiday Hours**
Christmas Hours
Chapel closed Tuesday,
December 24 at 4:00 pm
Chapel reopens on Thursday,
December 26 at 9:00 am
New Year's Hours
Chapel closed Wednesday,
January 1 at 1:00 pm
Chapel reopens Thursday,
January 2 at 9:00 am



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Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31

6:00 pm in English,
7:30 pm in Spanish



January 1

7:00 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm
and 6:00 pm English
7:30 pm in Spanish

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[Life in Christ]

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January 17-19
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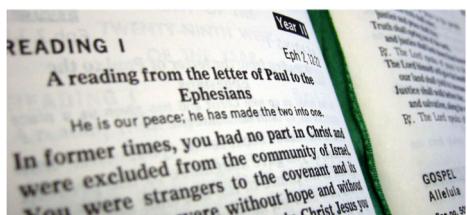
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Sunday, January 5
2:30 to 4:30 pm
St Michael Church

LECTOR TRAINING

Saturday, January 18
at 10:00 am
in the Church



Register at
[StMichaelLivermore.com/
Lectors](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/Lectors)

EUCARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

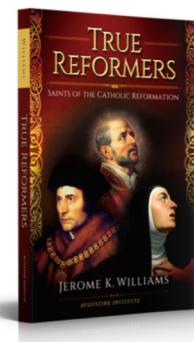
February 4 at 6:30 pm OR
February 8 at 9:30 am
in the Church



Register at
[StMichaelLivermore.com/
EM](http://StMichaelLivermore.com/EM)

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Study Group!

Thursdays
January 9 -
February 13
6:30 pm

Register with Denise at
raptors2@comcast.net

You're Invited to Dinner



Alpha is a place to enjoy a meal, get to know new friends and have a conversation.

save the date

Alpha is FREE! To help us plan food, kindly register
StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha

Mondays
at 6:30 pm
Starting on
February 10
Parish Hall



Thank You, YLI Ladies!

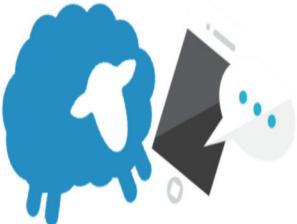
Our lovely members of YLI (Young Ladies' Institute) celebrated their annual District Communion at Mass yesterday. Catholic women of all ages are invited to join YLI to deepen spiritual awareness, form enriching friendships, foster seminarian education, provide charitable support, and develop personal talents in the service of our parish and community. Contact Annie at 925-447-7211.



Thanks for the Turkeys!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank the parishioners who donated turkeys and hams to help feed our neighbors in need at Thanksgiving. We were able to make a happier holiday for about 120 families in our community. We would also like to thank Boy Scout Troop 903 and Cub Scout Pack 903 for collecting canned goods in the Scouting for Food drive as well as Girls Scout Troops 33248, 33634, 33478 and 31177 for their help in sorting, packing and distributing the food.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is composed of women and men who seek their personal holiness through works of charity. If you would like to be involved in helping people right here in Livermore, please contact Paul at kuzmenko@att.net



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Wow! A full church for XLT [Exalt]

...on Friday, December 7, praising and worshiping to the live band "Mended", hearing powerful testimonials, experiencing the Presence of the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration, and reflective prayer. Fr Carl, pictured above, was captured by Cynthia Garay during Benediction.



Thank you, Knights and Welcoming Ministry!

...for feeding us so well at the Pancake Breakfast! And thank you for your Christmas Basket Program - the project that this breakfast benefitted - that helps make the holidays a little nicer for people in our community.

Mensaje de la semana del Padre Carl



Entendiendo la Misa: Parte 4

Familia de San Miguel,

Gracias por su entusiasmo en aumentar la reverencia en la misa durante la temporada de Adviento. Comprender la importancia de la liturgia o de la Santa Misa nos une en la adoración ordenada correctamente y nos acerca a Jesús. Esta semana continuamos con la Liturgia de la Eucaristía.

Para los católicos, la Eucaristía es la fuente y la cumbre de toda la vida cristiana. En esencia, es la Presencia Real del Señor crucificado, resucitado y glorificado, haciendo disponible su obra salvadora dentro de nosotros. Este es el centro de todo en la parroquia. Si el centro de nuestra vida y adoración es otra cosa, nuestra identidad católica disminuye.

Siéntese durante la Ofrenda y la Preparación de Regalos y únase para cantar el himno de la ofrenda. Al ofrecer el pan y el vino, también le ofrecemos a Dios todas nuestras intenciones y lo que tenemos en nuestros corazones. Aquí también ofrecemos nuestro amor para apoyar la misión parroquial y nuestros ministerios. Por favor de generosamente. Hay momentos en que pasamos la canasta para la segunda colección.

DE PIE mientras el sacerdote dice: "Oren, hermanos, que mi sacrificio y el suyo ..." y permanezcan de pie para responder: "Que el Señor acepte el sacrificio en sus manos ..." Si se usa incienso, la congregación se inclina hacia el thurifer cuando el diácono se inclina ante la congregación tanto antes como después de que los haya incensado.

PERMANECER DE PIE hasta el final

del Sanctus ("Santo, santo"), luego

Arrodillarse para toda la oración eucarística. Por favor, baje el reclinatorio suavemente. Si uno no puede arrodillarse debido a problemas de rodilla y razones de salud, puede SENTARSE y contemplar reverentemente la Preciosa Hostia y la Sangre de Cristo en el cáliz. Cuando el sacerdote se arrodilla, debe inclinarse

El comulgante debe responder audiblemente "AMEN" antes de recibir la Sagrada Comunión.

mientras está sentado en adoración.

Como una buena práctica sagrada, MIRE reverentemente los Elementos Sagrados cuando el sacerdote eleva a cada uno de ellos. Después de que el sacerdote se arrodille, haga una simple reverencia. Estas son las palabras de Santo Tomás cuando se dio cuenta de que era verdaderamente Cristo quien estaba delante de él (Juan 20:28): Jesús respondió: "Porque me has visto, creíste. Bienaventurados los que no ven y sin embargo han creído." (Juan 20:29)

De pie ante la invitación del sacerdote para recitar la Oración del Señor. Reverentemente junte sus manos e incline su cabeza mientras reza la Oración del Señor. Tomarse de las manos o hacer la posición de los ORANOS (extender las manos) no es el gesto apropiado de los fieles. Este gesto pertenece al sacerdote o sacerdotes concelebrantes que rezan a Dios en nombre de la gente.

Permanezca de pie para intercambiar el signo de la paz, si se hace la invitación. (El signo de la paz puede ser un apretón de manos o una inclinación de cabeza hacia las personas más cercanas a usted, acompañado de las palabras "la paz sea con usted").

Permanecer de pie al final del Agnus Dei "Cordero de Dios ..." (Ver GIRM # 43. Nuestro Obispo de la Diócesis de Oakland ha decidido que la posición es habitual).

Preguntas:

¿Cuál es la forma correcta de recibir el precioso cuerpo y la sangre de Jesús?

Arrodillarse en el reclinatorio de la comunión para recibir la Sagrada Comunión es una opción y una práctica habitual solo en la Misa diaria de lunes a sábado en San Miguel y en la Misa en latín tradicional el segundo domingo a las 8:00 a.m. En la Misa de la vigilia del sábado y los domingos, aquellos que reciben la Sagrada Comunión van en procesión al Ministro de la Comunión para recibir el Cuerpo de Cristo con reverencia, ya sea en la lengua o en la mano. El comulgante debe responder audiblemente "AMEN" antes de recibir la Sagrada Comunión. Si un comulgante desea recibir mientras está arrodillado, no se le debe negar a la persona recibir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo.

La próxima semana, discutiremos el Rito de la Comunión con más detalle.

San Miguel nos defiende!

P. Carl

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"Yet I am always with you; you hold me
by my right hand." Psalm 73:23

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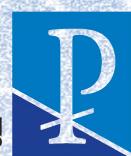
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Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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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)

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Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor
Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Deacon Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer, Retired

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Pastoral Council Chair:

Mike Pereira
PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Fidelis
Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Frank
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925-344-7150 Adultos

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Hispano1@StMichaelLivermore.com
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