



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY

OF
Advent

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me
according to your word.

Luke 1:38



Childlike Faith

When we are asked to entrust our lives to someone, we should consider whom we are entrusting them to very carefully. Many of us entrust our lives to our spouses, but not before careful discernment, time, and prayer. Have you ever considered entrusting your life to God? Have you gotten to know him through Scripture, the Church, and prayer in a way that allows you to surrender your life to him? Today we will read about two people who entrusted their lives to God in radical ways—David and Mary. Will we also accept the Lord's invitation to surrender to him this Christmas season?

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

In the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Church focuses on the fulfillment in Christ of the Davidic covenant. In this reading from 2 Samuel, we see David ascend as king in the holy city of Jerusalem after the fall of Saul and the defeat of the Jebusites who had controlled the city. The peoples who had stubbornly held onto portions of the land promised to the Twelve Tribes had finally been vanquished.

Once David had conquered the city hallowed by the offerings of Melchizedek and Abraham, his thoughts turned naturally to the fulfillment of the rest of the prophecy of Deuteronomy 12—a permanent place of sacrifice requires a permanent house of sacrifice, i.e., a Temple.

But God will not be outdone in generosity. In effect he says to David: “You needn’t build me a house (meaning a temple), I will instead build you a house (meaning a royal

dynasty), and it shall remain forever.” David, taken by God from tending sheep, will become the progenitor of the enduring royal Davidic line. David assents to the plan of God, which is as big as the whole of human history and as broad as the

prophetic writings.” Indeed, the prophets and the covenantal promises of God made ages ago are fully revealed only through the Gospel of Jesus.

As Catholics, we see the two Testaments as really one story that has Jesus as its subject: in symbol and prophecy in the Old and in person in the New. On this topic, the Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes Hugh of St. Victor: “All Sacred Scripture is but one book, and this one book is Christ, ‘because all divine Scripture speaks of Christ, and all divine Scripture is fulfilled in Christ’” (CCC 134).

Gospel

Luke 1:26–28



whole human race. The Lord intends not simply to give a name, a blessing, a land, and rest to one man or even one nation. We find in Christ that he intends to dwell with the whole of the human race in his Church. Jesus is the perfect completion of God’s covenant faithfulness; he is Emmanuel. As “God with us,” he remains with us in his Church until the end of time.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25–27

In these closing verses from St. Paul’s letter to the Romans, the Lectionary supplies a perfect bridge between the First Reading and the Gospel: he preaches Jesus Christ, “according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the

Luke carefully recorded the Annunciation scene in his Gospel to illustrate the ultimate fulfillment of the greatest promises of the Old Testament. In saying that Gabriel goes to “a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph of the house of David,” Luke is alluding to the unforgettable prophecy that Isaiah gave to the house of David: “A young virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). Immanuel means “God with us,” and thus this child of Mary is nothing less than the presence of God himself as foretold by Isaiah.

Gabriel also tells Mary that her child will inherit “the throne of David his father . . . and of his kingdom there will be no end.” The angel’s declaration is an ex-

plicit claim that the great promise made in God's covenant with David has now been fulfilled. In the First Reading, the Lord promised David: "I will raise up your heir after you. . . . Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever." This is the promise of promises for the Jews. It meant that they would one day have a king whose kingdom would last forever. After promising David that one of his descendants would rule over an everlasting kingdom, God tells David, "I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me." In the fulfillment of that promise, the angel tells Mary that her son will be called the "Son of the Most High."

Discussion Questions

We are often uncomfortable with the idea of submission. It requires a death to self and entrusting someone else with our happiness and well-being. We tend to guard these things and seek to control anything involving our happiness.

However, Mary is the ultimate example of submitting one's life to the Lord. As she goes about her daily life, the Lord proposes a radically different path for her. Rather than trying to control the situation, she bows her head and accepts the Lord's will wholly and trustingly. Can we too submit to God's plan? Can we submit our lives to a plan that may involve sacrifice and suffering as we journey toward Heaven?

Watch the short *Opening the Word* video on FORMED.org. Lucas Pollice highlights for us the radical event that took place at the Annunciation.

As we enter into the last moments of the Advent season, are joy and hope reigning in your heart? Have you lost track of the joyful anticipation for Christ's coming during this "busy" season?

Today, we read about Mary being surprised by God and submitting to his plan for her life. How has

God surprised you? Have you welcomed this surprise with faith in his plan or clung to your own way?

DIGGING DEEPER: Obedience

"By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God...To obey (from the Latin *obaudire*, to 'hear or listen to') in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself. Abraham is the model of such obedience offered us by Sacred Scriptures. The Virgin Mary is its most perfect embodiment."

—CCC 143–144

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

The Mystery of Christmas

By Fr. Larry Richards

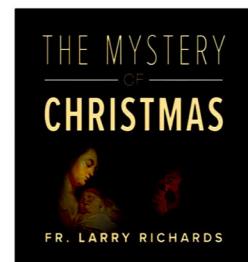
[Unwrap the Greatest Gift Ever Given with Fr. Larry Richards](#)

With humor, compassion, and clarity, Fr. Larry illuminates the true joy of Christmas and inspires us to better recognize, receive and respond to God's immense love for us.

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—Maureen, Spencer, NY

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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 12/23

- 8:30am Erik & the Forstreuter Family
Joseph & Josephine Goralka †
5:00pm Anthony Carrano †
Gregory Ure
7:00pm Rosa Suarez

Sunday 12/24

- 6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am Melanie Maher †
9:30am Leona Perez †
11:00am Delfin Gatchalian Sr & Jr †
12:30pm People of St Michael Parish
3:00pm Susan & Dan Collins †
5:00pm Marilyn Rita Estill †
Fr Van Dinh
7:00pm Patricia Werner †
9:00pm The Robles Verato Family
12:00am The Ezekwem Family

Monday 12/25

- 6:45am Christopher Headly †
8:00am Lt. Edward Fleming †
9:30am Clement C. Ezekwem †
11:00am Carl, Rosemary & Patricia Lundbom †
12:30pm Nick & Alice Sanchez †

Tuesday 12/26

- 8:30am Sofe Ore
Helen & Mike †
Steven Harry

Wednesday 12/27

- 8:30am Felicity Oxendine †
Linda Wyeta †
Telesfora B. Gorospe †
7:00pm Gregory Ure

Thursday 12/28

- 8:30am Fr Rafael, on his birthday
Frank Fallon †

Friday 12/29

- 8:30am Billy & Lilas Liskey
Raquel C. Rodriguez †

To arrange a Mass intention, please

The child to be born will be holy, the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35



As we delve into today's Gospel, let us remember these words from Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

PRAYER

Mary's acceptance and trust in God are remarkable. When the angel announces that she will be the Mother of God, she is rightly confused. She may have wondered what it meant that the Holy Spirit would come upon her. At that time, a woman caught in adultery was stoned to death. She must have been afraid of the possible consequences. Mary could have responded any number of ways. However, she chose to respond with grace and acceptance, completely dependent on God, as she surrenders her body and life to him. Take some time to place yourself in Mary's shoes today. Imagine what you are doing when the angel appears. What goes through your mind and heart as he speaks the words to you? What are your responses?

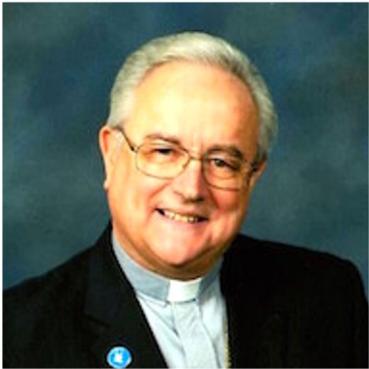
Resolution

We are all called to answer God with a resounding "yes" as he reveals his plan for our lives. What do you need to surrender to him? What is holding you back? How will you offer the baby Jesus the gift of your "yes" this Christmas?

Parish Prayer Requests

For Fr Van, our parish and our diocese, and all of our clergy.
For those visiting us this Christmas, that they may find joy, rest and safe travels.
For the intentions of all of our parishioners.
For the repose of the soul of Virginia Vasquez de Morales

*Please send your prayer requests to
Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com*



The Holy Season of Christmas is upon us. All hearts come home for Christmas. St. Michael Catholic Church welcomes home those who are returning for the Christmas Season Masses. Yes, Christmas is in the air. The Church is decorated to celebrate the birth of Christ. Christmas music, Mom or Grandma baking those holiday treats at home. Gifts under the tree, special dinners and parties. Traveling home for the Christmas holidays, or traveling to visit family in other parts of the country. For us older folks, Christmas memories are recalled with fondness and warms our heart as we rekindle the memories of Christmas past. All is bundled together to celebrate the great feast of Christmas here and now.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, as we enter 2018 we cannot help to reflect on the past year and the difficulties and challenges in our life. However, in reflection, we have to admit that God has given us the blessings of strength to cope with these challenges. Almighty God has also bestowed on us many blessings. In gratitude,

we need to thank and praise God in thanksgiving for those blessings. We must continue to pray for those in need of our prayers and as Catholic Christians focus on the message of the Magi. As they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, we too are called to bear gifts to those whose hearts we can touch with the love of Christ, the hope and joy of the message of Christmas.

We are so blessed with you who form the Body of Christ. We thank you for supporting your parish by your financial support, with your answering the call to lay ministry where and when you can and for supporting your priests and deacons with your prayers. Sisters and brothers in Christ, you are the Church and together we can make a difference in our community.

As we enter 2018, the 100th anniversary of our house of God, the St Michael church building, we will be celebrating the legacy left to us by the forerunners who poured the foundation and built this wonderful church for the glory of God. May we continue to build upon that legacy for the future generations who will call St. Michael Church their home.

May God bless you in the coming New Year.

Deacon Dave Rezendes
Pastoral Administrator

Year-End Giving: Make an Impact!

Prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible offering to St Michael's to close out 2017. Generous offerings of all sizes are the only financial means that St Michael's has to keep in operation. Visit FaithDirect.net and enter church code CA602 to make an online donation. 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 ErichHom@StMichaelLivermore.com

Livermore Knights: Bringing Christ to People

The Livermore Knights of Columbus donated \$1,000 to the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. This contribution was earmarked for the Sister's Infirmary to purchase a High / Low lift bed for mobility challenged patients. The funds were presented at a Knights of Columbus council meeting on Thursday, December 7.

The Livermore Knights of Columbus also donated \$2,426 to the Livermore Joint Valley Unified School District for special education programs in support of students with intellectual disabilities. The funds were presented at a School Board Meeting on December 12.

For additional information about Livermore Knights of Columbus giving programs, or how to join the Knights, please contact Tom McCaffrey captaintmcc@gmail.com or 925-321-4604

Collection Report

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.

12/17/17	\$17,356.91
December to Date	\$71,066.81
Month Goal	\$107,843.14
Percentage Reached	66%
Faith Direct for Dec	\$8,791.50
Maintenance for Dec	\$8,684.11

This Week

MONDAY, DEC 25

Christmas Readings:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

THURSDAY, DEC 28

The Holy Innocents

Readings: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Events:

Parish Offices Closed

TUESDAY, DEC 26

St. Stephen

Readings: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Events:

Parish Offices Closed

Adoration Chapel re-opens after the 8:30 am Mass.

WEDNESDAY, DEC 27

St. John

Readings: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Events:

Parish Offices Closed

SUNDAY, DEC 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Readings: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Events:

Parish Offices Closed

"5th Sunday" Collection for St Vincent de Paul.

Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Mon, Jan 1

The Consecration (or renewal) will take place after the 8:30 am Mass. Brown Scapular Investiture will also be available.

A 33-day preparation is not mandatory to make your Consecration. Invite family and friends to Consecrate to Jesus through Mary. St Louis de Montfort said, "...she is the safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus." Contact Jon/Pam Hamilton at IHNmotors@gmail.com or Ana Fre-goso at RICAst.michaelliv@gmail.com.

WINGS: Women in God's Spirit

Thurs, Jan 4

Award winning Christian historical fiction writer, Sarah Sundin, will speak on "Lessons from the 1940's Woman: What Women of Today Can Learn from Rosie the Riveter and Her Friends." Women of all ages are invited to join us at St Charles at 9:30 am.

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

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Sat, Jan 6

This year's event will be held at Livermore High School (main gym) 11:00am – 2:00pm for youth ages 9-14. Sign up and practice will begin at 10:30 am.

Please bring a copy of your birth certificate.

Please contact John Christman
jrxman@comcast.net

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.

Life Transitions for Aging Adults Community

Tues, Jan 9

Come hear an overview of Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley at St Charles from 1:00 to 2:30 in the Hall. SSPTV is a wonderful non-profit program serving Seniors in the Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin. Several people from the program will be talking about their program in general as well as specific programs and services that they provide. Amy Jensen will give us an overview of the Finding Wellness program that we have asked them to provide for us here in the Hall.

Who in Your Life is Far From God?

Invite them 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

Even if we are already Catholic, we can always learn more about our faith and grow in our relationship with Christ. Come to the first dinner. Bring a friend. If you like it, come back for more 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



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.

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 at:

StMichaelLivermore.com/Latin

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

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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.

LA PROMESA DE DIOS

El largo pasaje de Samuel expone de manera maravillosa la promesa de Dios a la dinastía de David: que su trono siempre estaría ocupado gloriosamente por sus descendientes. Oculta en el misterio de la profecía está la promesa del Salvador, el Mesías, Hijo de Dios e Hijo de David. El profeta Natán, quien habla en nombre de Dios, desbarata poéticamente el plan de David de construir una casa para Dios y anuncia que el plan de Dios es construir una "casa", una dinastía, para David. De esta dinastía de David provendrá el Mesías, el Cristo, quien no llegará con el esplendor majestuoso con el que reinó David, sino que vendrá como un hombre humilde, que gobernará por los siglos de los siglos. Cuando Dios hace un regalo; lo que recibimos es asombroso: es muy distinto a lo que podríamos haber imaginado.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura -- El Señor promete a David que su casa permanecerá para siempre (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Salmo -- Cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor (Salmo 89 [88]).

Segunda lectura -- Pablo ora para que Dios sea glorificado mediante Jesucristo (Romanos 16:25-27).

Evangelio -- El ángel Gabriel anuncia a María que ella concebirá al hijo de Dios (Lucas 1:26-38).



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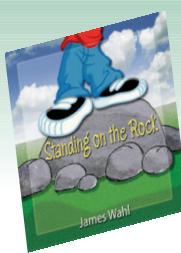


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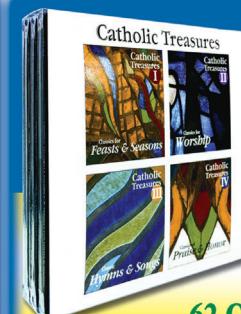


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Mass | Misa

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

Traditional Latin Mass

2nd Sun, 8:00 am, January—June 2018

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 Rezentes
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 Dubsky.

Finance Council | Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair: Dave Ruth
daveruth@alrinc.com

Fr. Van Dinh, Eric Hom, Cynthia
Garay, Edna McCombe, Analy Palo-
mino, Vanessa Suarez

St. Michael School | Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-453-6494 Niños



Deacon Dave Rezentes, 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, 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