



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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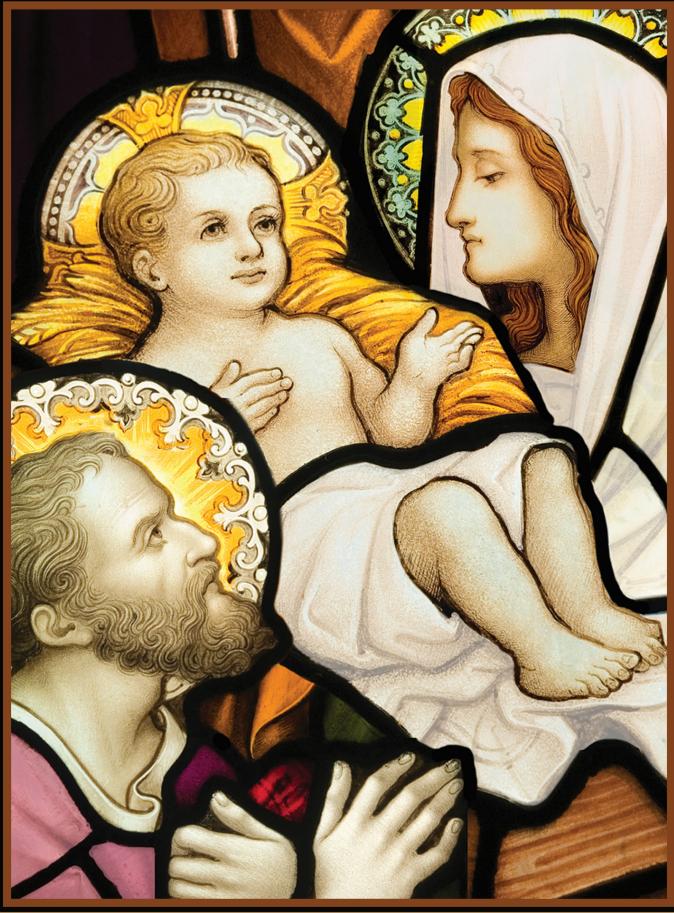
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December 31, 2017



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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

The child grew and became strong,
filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40

The Promised Messiah

The first two readings today focus on the relationships with our family. We are told that honoring and respecting our father is of the highest importance and, if we are faithful to this call, we will be blessed by God. When we read the Gospel, the theme changes from focusing on our earthly family to being faithful to God, our Heavenly Father. If we ought to respect our earthly father and spend so much time and energy making our earthly home virtuous and holy, how much more ought we work to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father? How often do we take the time to talk with God, or honor him by serving him or making sacrifices for him? Let us remember the words of Sirach and St. Paul this week, not just in relation to how we treat our earthly fathers, but, most importantly, in how we relate to God the Father.

First Reading

Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14

In the third chapter of Sirach, the author discusses the importance of honoring one's parents, as required by the Fourth Commandment. For the Jews, the bond between parents and children was not merely one of mutual obligation or even affection. Rather, their connection to their parents established their claims to the covenant promises of God. Genealogies, such as the ones we see for Jesus in Matthew's and Luke's Gospels, were maintained to

demonstrate these covenant claims. In the Jewish mind, the genealogy guaranteed that they could be identified with the corporate personality of Israel. This became a particularly prominent practice after the Babylonian Ex-



ile. We see John the Baptist responding to this by declaring in no uncertain terms in Matthew 3:9 that lineage is not as important as grace: "God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones."

In this context we can better understand Sirach's claims that honoring one's father and mother brings with it a whole host of spiritual and material benefits. All of these were believed to come through the covenant, and one's parents represented the source of that covenant relationship with God. Thus, honoring one's parents was a matter not only of jus-

tice, but also hope in maintaining the covenant.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12–21

The primary key to Christian living is, as St. Paul points out, love. Later in this passage, St. Paul will tell husbands specifically to love their wives, but it is clear that everyone is called to love. The realization that love is a universal injunction clarifies another injunction that St. Paul mentions: "Wives, be subordinate to your husbands." Though this may sound chauvinistic, what is St. Paul really saying?

The first thing to note is that just as loving others is universal, so is submission. In Ephesians 5:21, St. Paul says, "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ," and then goes on to repeat the same injunctions to husbands and wives that we find here in Colossians. Pope St. John Paul II makes the point that it is only in this context of mutual submission that St. Paul's instructions for husbands and wives make sense. It may well be that St. Paul is expressing a keen insight in regard to marital psychology, and reminding both husbands and wives of the areas where they struggle most in their responsibilities to love each other.

One thing has to be kept in mind when considering this passage: the model in all our actions is

Christ who, in conformity with the whole witness of the New Testament, St. Paul likens to the husband of the Church. If his modeling of the role of the husband is normative, then we must recall that he made himself subject to us in loving us to the end. Likewise, the Bride of Christ must be subject to Christ, to be true to her love for him.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22–40

St. Joseph is a fascinating and enigmatic figure in the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. Like an earlier biblical figure by the same name, he is the recipient of divine direction through dreams. In a set of three dreams he is told, first, to take Mary as his wife, secondly, to take Mary and the Christ Child to Egypt, and, lastly, to return to Palestine with his family. Matthew connects each of these events with a fulfillment formula. The Scripture scholar, Fr. Ray-

mond Brown, calls this a “nota bene technique” by which the evangelist highlights the event by connecting it with a prophetic utterance from the Old Testament.

The first two connections are fairly clear, the cross references in most Bibles connect the first dream of Joseph with Isaiah 7:14 and the second dream with a fulfillment of Hosea 11:1. The last nota bene event is a little less clear, however. In regard to Joseph’s decision to go to live in Nazareth, we read in the last line of our Gospel passage, “In this way, what was said through the prophets was fulfilled: ‘He shall be called a Nazorean.’” In this case, the cross reference in the Catholic RSV cites Isaiah 11:1, which reads, “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Many commentators flatly confess ignorance in regard to the reference meant in Matthew 2:23, since neither the citation in Isaiah

nor anything else in the Old Testament seem to have much to do with it.

The citation in the RSV to Isaiah 11:1, however, does seem to preserve an obscure connection. The word for “branch” in Isaiah 11:1 is a rarely used Hebrew word netser. It does mean a green shoot or branch but also has the connotation, because of its linguistic root, of hiddenness or even the guarding of something hidden. It is suggested that this rare Hebrew word may be the root for the name Nazareth (which would mean “branch- town”). It is interesting to note that Nazareth is an out of the way place where Joseph feels he can guard the hidden branch of the root of Jesse.

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 True Meaning of Christmas

by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

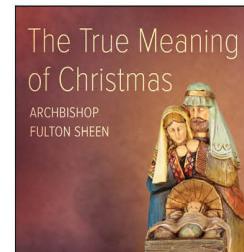
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For decades, Archbishop Fulton Sheen has captivated Americans with his wit, insight, and deep faith. Beautifully remastered and mixed with beautiful seasonal music, reflect in this talk with Archbishop Sheen on the true meaning of the Incarnation of Jesus.

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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 12/30

- 8:30am Sofia Oré †
Helen & Mike †
5:00pm Andrea Quinones †
Emiliano & Emiliano Palada †
7:00pm Mass for Our Parish

Sunday 12/31

- 6:45am Melanie Maher
8:00am Jack Wilson
9:30am William R. Warnock
11:00am Candido Echon
Siegfried Forspreveer
12:30pm For all government leaders
6:00pm Sylvia Griggs †

Monday 1/1

- 8:30am Elizabeth Ezekwem & family
Lillian Hart †
Pat Werner †

Tuesday 1/2

- 8:30am For all clergy
Legion of Mary

Wednesday 1/3

- 8:30am Louise Gannon †
Nena Valles & family
7:00pm Roman Belasco †

Thursday 1/4

- 8:30am Bersha and group
Mary Vinh Thi Dinh †

Friday 1/5

- 8:30am Armando & Diana Zamora
Mary Vinh Thi Dinh †

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



Prayer

In today's Gospel, we see the faithfulness of both prophets, Simeon and Anna, lived out. They have awaited the coming of the Messiah with great hope and expectation their whole lives. Can you imagine waiting for something your whole life? What would it be like when you finally encountered the person or thing you had hoped and prayed for?

These two prophets model heroic patience for us as they wait and welcome Christ when he comes into their lives. How do you need to grow in patience in your life? Who in your family do you need to be more patient with?

Take some time to pray with the words of the Gospel. If a word or phrase stands out to you, stop and reflect on it. For example, maybe the words "righteous and devout" stand out to you. Consider how you devote your life to God and the ways in which you need to work towards being more devoted to him.

Resolution

Simeon and Anna spent their whole lives waiting to meet Christ. They prepared their hearts for the moment they would finally encounter him and were ready when he appeared, as an unassuming infant with his family, in the ordinary circumstances of their day. Are you prepared to meet Christ amidst your daily routine?

Commit to finding Christ in your family this week. Prepare your heart to see him there by exercising the virtue of patience in your home. What way will you be patient with a family member this week?

Parish Prayer Requests

In thanksgiving for our many blessings received in 2017.

For our clergy, our parish and our diocese.

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 and Maria Olga Molina.

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



The Proclamation of the Date of Easter

Listen for it at Mass on January 6

On Epiphany, the church has an ancient tradition of ritually announcing the dates of Easter and the other important feasts of the coming year. Every year, the date of Easter depends on the solar and lunar calendars.

Easter Sunday is always the first Sunday after the first full moon that happens after the spring equinox. Because other feasts, like Ash Wednesday and Pentecost, depend on the date of Easter, those dates also change every year.

In an age of Google and iPhones, it seems strange to make a public announcement about the date of Easter and other important feasts in the church year. Couldn't we just look them up on the internet? Yet, the ritual proclamation of these dates on the solemnity of the Epiphany is another way of teaching us that the mystery of Christ is revealed to us gradually throughout the entire year within every gathering of the faithful. Christ's saving mission is manifested most clearly in the paschal feast of Easter, but the feasts and seasons and, indeed, each day of the year reveal yet another facet of this paschal mystery in our daily lives. Our call is to be open each day to seeing Christ revealed among us in new and unexpected ways.

Excerpt from Living Liturgy 2018



The Grinch Defeated!

The Knights of Columbus brought food and gifts to 125 Livermore families on Saturday, December 16. At one point, a thief stole the gifts for an entire family. A Knight and his children had just brought food and joy to a deserving family when they returned to their car and discovered the theft. Undeterred, and motivated by the spirit of Christmas giving, they immediately went shopping to replace all the stolen gifts. Thus, every family that requested help received packages tailored for their needs.

Gifts were contributed by St. Michael Parish, St. Michael School, the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Community of Pleasanton, St. Charles Borromeo Parish and Surtec. Over

\$40,000 of gifts were collected and distributed, including more than 40 bicycles and an upright piano.

Additionally, the Livermore Knights gave 100 brand new coats to Livermore kids on Saturday, December 16. Children from all over town came to St. Michael's Hall and left wearing perfectly fitted, warm, and stylish coats. Gloves and hats were also distributed. It was a joy to witness, especially in the week before Christmas.

All Catholic men are encouraged to join the Knights of Columbus! For information, please contact Thomas McCaffrey at captaintmcc@gmail.com

Tax-Deductible Year-End Giving

It's not too late to make a tax-deductible donation to St Michael's. Visit FaithDirect.net and enter church code CA602 to make an offering before the end of 2017.

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.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce; Then will your barns be filled with plenty, with new wine your vats will overflow."
Proverbs 3:9-10

This Week

MONDAY, JAN 1

Mary, the Holy Mother of God
(not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

Readings: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Events:

Consecration to Jesus Through Mary
after the 8:30 am Mass.

TUESDAY, JAN 2

Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Readings: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4;
Jn 1:19-28

Suggestion:

Make a New Year's Resolution to grow in faith! Subscribe to FORMED.org

WEDNESDAY, JAN 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Readings: 1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Events:

No afternoon Confession in the Convent. The regular 1st and 3rd schedule will resume on January 17.

THURSDAY, JAN 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Readings: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Events:

WINGS talk on "Lessons from the 1940's Woman: What Women of Today Can Learn from Rosie the Riveter and Her Friends." at St Charles at 9:30 am.

FRIDAY, JAN 5

St. John Neumann

Readings: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5;
Jn 1:43-51

Events:

Celebrating Mass on 9 consecutive first Fridays is a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus attributed to St. Margaret Mary Alcoque. These acts are offered as reparation for neglect of proper reverence owed to God.

SATURDAY, JAN 6

St. André Bessette

Readings: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]

Events:

KofC Free Throw Contest at Livermore High 11am – 2:00pm for youth ages 9-14. Sign up begins at 10:30 am. Contact John Christman jrxman@comcast.net

SUNDAY, JAN 7

The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Events:

These Three Kings

The magi in next Sunday's Gospel had the wisdom and openness to see the light of the star and follow it. They were on watch, just as we were during Advent, and had a heart willing to follow the light that they saw. They set aside the tasks of daily life in order to worship the Messiah. Are we willing to do the same in our own lives? Do we seek Christ, and when we find him, do we worship him and pay him homage?



Pancake Breakfast on January 14

Our Livermore Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast on January 14, 2018 after all Sunday morning masses.

All proceeds will go to St. Michael School sixth grade to help defray the cost of their Environmental Science camp in the spring.

Please come and enjoy a great breakfast while helping our students.

Training for New Readers

**Mon, Jan 8 at 7 pm
Church Sacristy**

Do you hear the call to proclaim Sacred Scripture at Mass? Come and attend 5 training and practice sessions. Please register in advance. Call 925-667-4095 or email: Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com.

Life Transitions for Aging Adults Community

**Tues, Jan 9 at 1 pm
St Charles**

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.

First Alpha Course Dinner

**Tues, Jan 9 at 6:30 pm
Small Hall**

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 online at StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha so that we know how much food to prepare!

CYO Track & Field Sign Ups

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

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. See www.smisctrack.org, or email mandy.costello@hotmail.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.

New Bible Study Class on the Mass

**Thurs, Jan 11 at 6:30 pm
Convent**

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 Jan 11-Feb 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

Latin Mass Returns

**Sun, Jan 14 at 8:00 am
Church**

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!

StMichaelLivermore.com/Latin

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, 4 pm—11 pm
Robert Livermore Community Center**

Join us for the best crab and pasta in town, live entertainment, dancing, raffles and auctions! All proceeds go to Knights of Columbus charities.

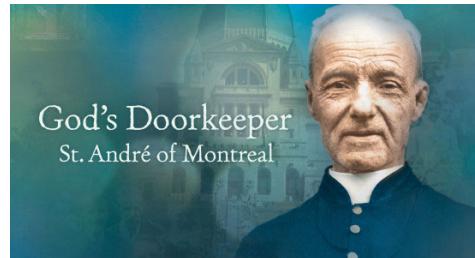


Tickets sold after Mass or by calling Mark & Claire at 925-443-5873
\$55 per person

Grow in Faith

DIGGING DEEPER: The Key to Meeting the Unexpected

Simeon and Anna had both been promised by God to see their Savior before they died. However, they had not been told what this would look like, when they would meet him, or how they would know. When we put ourselves in their shoes, it's amazing that they recognized their Savior as a fragile, dependent baby. Christ came in the most unexpected way, yet they were able to see him. The Gospel tells us they spent their whole lives fasting and praying as they awaited Christ's coming, and this must be the key to understanding how they were able to recognize Christ. They emptied themselves of worldly attachments through fasting and quieted their souls to hear God through prayer. Make a weekly long-term commitment to incorporate both prayer and fasting into your life so that you, too, may recognize Christ in unexpected moments and places.



God's Doorkeeper
St. André of Montreal

Watch God's Doorkeeper

For St André Bessette's Feastday
on FORMED.org

On January 6, 1937, the death of a humble doorkeeper for a boys' college drew over a million people to Montreal for his funeral. For forty years, Brother André Bessette of the Congregation of Holy Cross welcomed people at the door and became known as a miraculous healer. God's Doorkeeper looks at the heart and legacy of Brother André—as a man of prayer, of hospitality, and of compassion, a man who draws people in to experience a God who is love. Brother André also had a tremendous devotion to St. Joseph that he shared with all who came in contact with him. On October 17, 2010, Brother André became the first Canadian-born male saint and the first saint for the Congregation of Holy Cross. He is living proof that "it is with the smallest brushes that the divine artist paints the most beautiful pictures."

This Week's Discussion Questions

In the First Reading from Sirach, we are given a model of family life. He speaks of taking care of our parents, "even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten" (Sirach 3:13). How do you honor your parents? Do you show them respect, despite their imperfections?

In today's Second Reading, we hear the virtues that we need to live peacefully with others, particularly with our family. What virtues do you need to grow in?

Patience Defined

What is patience? It's a word that we often use, but it is much deeper than not losing your temper when there is a line in Walmart.

The word "patience" comes from the Latin root *pati*, which means "to suffer" or "to endure." Patience, then, means more than to simply wait, but to endure suffering without complaint. In order to be truly patient, to endure suffering, we must look to the example of Christ. He didn't half-heartedly accept that he had to be nailed to the Cross, but rather embraced his suffering and endured it with love. He kept us in mind. How can you rely on God's grace and Christ's example to be truly patient with the sufferings you bear right now?

The film features interviews from Montreal, Rome, and the United States—with people who knew him and others who continue Brother André's work today. It also includes footage of the beatification and canonization ceremonies in Rome and the celebrations in Canada, with footage of the unforgettable events of Brother André's road to sainthood.

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- La Biblia y la Virgen María: Siempre una Madre
- La Biblia y la Virgen María: La Madre Prometida

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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.

PORTADORES DE LA PALABRA

La Iglesia ha puesto unos cuantos días de fiesta notables enseguida después de la Navidad. Las fiestas de Esteban, Juan el Bautista y los Santos Inocentes forman un sumario de la vida vivida en Cristo, la Palabra hecha carne. ¿Qué relación tienen estas fiestas con la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia, que corona la Octava de la Navidad? Estas fiestas nos recuerdan que habrá sufrimiento al tratar de cumplir la misión de Cristo, y que estamos todos llamados a ser portadores de esta Palabra cuyo nacimiento celebramos.

También vemos la manifestación de esta verdad en las vidas de José y María, quienes se exponen a riesgos sociales y religiosos para obedecer la voluntad de Dios, y estaban abiertos a la Palabra que Dios les enviaba del cielo. Así ambos fueron prefiguras de Jesús.

Es muy probable que muy pocos de nosotros fuimos a la misa del jueves, el viernes o el sábado pasado, pero la esencia de estas fiestas y la esencia de la santidad de José, María y Jesús es central, santidad que celebramos hoy.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura -- Sirácide 3: 3-7, 14-17 o Génesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

Salmo -- Salmo 128 [127] o Salmo 105 (104).

Segunda lectura -- Colosenses 3:12-21 o Hebreos 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

Evangelio -- Lucas 2:22-40 [22, 39-40].

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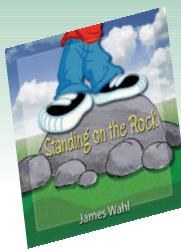
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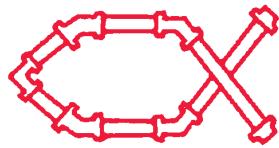
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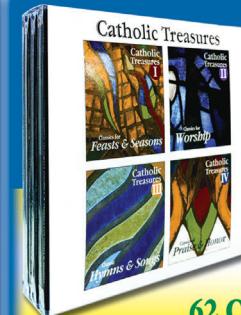


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Mass | Misa

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
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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 Rezendez
Rev. Deacon Bob Vince

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michaelpereira@comcast.net

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Irving Garcia, Cynthia Garay and
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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 Rezendez, 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

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