



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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Second Sunday of

Advent

December 9, 2018

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights;
look to the east and see your children gathered
from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Baruch 5:5

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A New Beginning

Have you ever driven on a zigzag road? If you have, then you know how long it takes to get somewhere. It would be so much faster if you could just take a straight path to your destination. In today's reading, we are told, "The winding roads shall be made straight." But the real question is why roads, especially the road to God, get crooked in the first place.

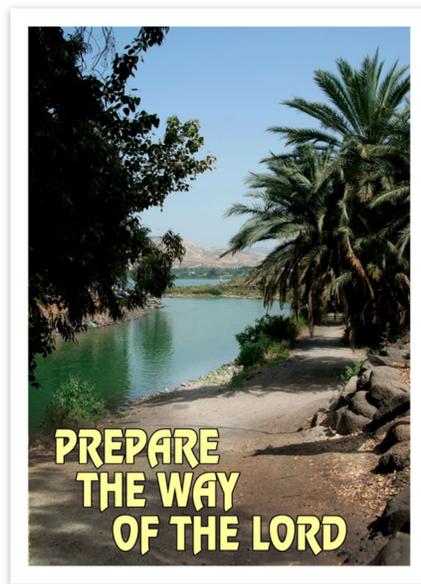
The answer is simple: First, we follow our will, and then we veer back to God. But that doesn't last and we go our own selfish way again. Then we decide to do it God's way, but before long, we are wandering off down our own road of bad intentions again. We do this over and over, and pretty soon we have created a very zigzag path indeed.

How do we make our path straight? By following God's will wholeheartedly. Our Father gently calls us to repent from our crooked paths and return home to him. He reaches out and offers to help us find our way directly back to him. But it's up to us if we are going to accept his offer to return from our self-imposed exile and "come back rejoicing, carrying [our] sheaves."

First Reading Reflection Baruch 5:1-9

Baruch was the name of the secretary of Jeremiah, the prophet who prophesied before and during the Babylonian exile of Israel. The exile in Babylon was a tremendously troublesome time for Israel. It was also a time of ex-

traordinary religious significance because in the depths of their oppression, Israel was richly blessed by the reform and renewal of covenant life. The Babylonian exile was important to Israel as a symbol of God's justice and love. The Church—the new Israel—also looks to this Old Testament period of covenant



renewal to help us prepare for celebration of the New Covenant in Christ which occurs at Christmas. Since the Church proposes the Babylonian exile of Israel to us as a model for our Advent preparation, we ought to read Baruch as though he were speaking directly to us in our exile in "Babylon."

Second Reading Reflection Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

In this reading, Paul tells the Philippians his prayers for them are filled with joy and thanksgiving. What is the source of his joy and thankfulness? It's that the Philippians are partners with Paul in working for the Gospel. The Gos-

pel is a source of unity between them. In fact, whenever people share the work of the Gospel it becomes a great source of unity that, in turn, brings joy.

There are three things Paul requests in his prayer for the Philippians: an abundance of love, greater knowledge, and discernment. Paul often has his eyes turned toward the "Day of the Lord," the day when Christ will judge all at the end of time. Paul wants the Philippians to be found worthy of the Kingdom of Christ on that day. Paul, like a good runner, has his eyes fixed on the finish line and encourages his fellow athletes in Christ to do the same.

Gospel Reading Reflection Luke 3:1-6

Luke shows a remarkable interest in tying together the Old Covenant and the New Covenant in Christ. Luke is believed to have been a Gentile, and it's likely that the time he spent sharing the missionary travels of St. Paul gave him profound insight into the intimate connection between Judaism and its fulfillment in Christ.

In this week's reading, John the Baptist's ministry is introduced; he's the last prophet of the Old Covenant and the first of the New Covenant. John is the great precursor of the Messiah that the prophet Isaiah had foretold. He is, in fact, the precursor of Christ in our souls this Advent season. In a homily on Luke, the early Church theologian, Origen says of the Baptist, "I think that the mys-

tery of John is still being carried on in the world. If a man is to believe in Jesus Christ, the spirit and power of John must first come into his soul and prepare for the Lord a perfect people, make the rough ways of the heart plain, make the crooked straight. Even now the spirit and power of John precede the coming of our Lord and Savior.”

Discussion

Underlying the Readings today is a heartfelt longing to go home, to find a straight path back to God from the exile that results from our taking a zigzag path. The feeling of exile and the desire to return home are ones we all experience at times. What are some different types of exile that we can experience? Which type of exile is the most difficult for you?

On this Second Sunday of Advent, let us consider how the message of John the Baptist calling for a “new exodus” is a timeless mes-

sage that has great relevance for us today as we wait and watch for the coming of the Lord, both during this Advent season and at the end of time. As you watch the short ***Opening the Word*** video on FORMED.org, consider where in your own life you might be “in exile.”

In an Advent message in 2011, Pope Benedict said that John the Baptist’s mission “was an extraordinary appeal to conversion,” “a fiery invitation to a new way of thinking and acting,” and, above all, “the announcement of God’s justice.” He added, “Therefore, John’s appeal goes far beyond and deeper than a call to a sober lifestyle: it is a call for inner change, starting with the recognition and confession of our sins.”

How does recognition and confession of our sins begin to straighten the paths of our lives?

What are some ways in which you’ve experienced God’s grace

keeping you on a straight path in your life?

Confession Times

Saturdays in the Church at 9:15 am and 3:45 pm, 6:15 pm (Spanish).

Mondays & Fridays in the Church 7:30 am in English & Spanish.

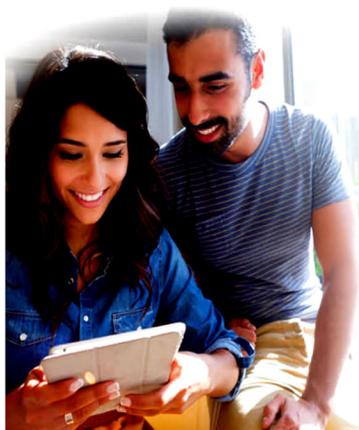
1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel at 2:30 pm.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven, and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Reflections reprinted here with permission from Augustine Institute.

FORMED PICK



1531: A Story That Is Not Finished Yet

Our Lady of Guadalupe Came to Change the World

1531 shares the history of why millions of Aztecs converted to the Catholic Faith and the little known truth that this incredible story is not finished yet.

Watch on formed.org



“This is a powerful story. Amazing.”

—Constance A., Euclid, OH

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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 12/8

- 8:30am Vincenzo & Dahlia Rivera
G.N. Ezekwem Family †
- 11:00am Rigoberto Mora †
- 5:00pm Clifford Bates †
- 7:00pm Blandon, Castillo &
Mendoza Familes

Sunday 12/9

- 6:45am Mass for Our Parish
- 8:00am John J. Carnick, Sr †
- 9:30am Soledad Voss †
- 11:00am Jesus Munoz, Jr
- 12:30pm Anthony James Garcia †
Eloa Clark †
- 6:00pm Neely & Serafino Alba †
Tiodora Nepomuceno †

Monday 12/10

- 8:30am Maureen Yost

Tuesday 12/11

- 8:30am Ralph Melendez †

Wednesday 12/12

- 8:30am Rosemary Castro
- 7:00pm Soto Velencia Family &
Souls in Purgatory

Thursday 12/13

- 8:30am Octavius Leal

Friday 12/14

- 8:30am Mike & Marissa Kalchik

To arrange a Mass intention, please visit the Church Office. The suggested donation of \$10 per intention goes to the priest who celebrates the Mass.

Effective October 3, each month, from October through December, parishioners can request up to two Mass intentions only.



Prayer

Let us reflect on these words from the Gospel reading about how the Lord is coming to make the winding roads straight. Ask Jesus what they mean in your own life.

What roads in your life are winding—are not the right path? What rough areas need to be made smooth? Take the word from the Gospel that comes to mind and reflect for a moment on what it means to you personally. For example, you might have been attracted to the words “winding road.” Ask yourself what they mean in your own life. What roads are winding? How can you make them straight?

Resolution

St. Augustine said, “God created us without us, but he did not will to save us without us.” Ask God today what he wants you to do to prepare the way of the Lord in your heart. What practical thing can you do this week to straighten the paths of your life?

Where to Ask for Prayers

Email prayer requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com and they will be sent to the 72 members of the St Michael “Parish Prayer Team”.

Write your prayer request in the book of intentions in the Adoration Chapel.

Drive Through Prayer is open Monday—Friday, from 5:30 –6:30 pm through December 20 in the church courtyard. Just drive up and a prayer team will meet you at your car window!



The Holy Mass: Part 2

Dear St Michael Family,

Let us continue with our catechesis on the Mass, as a means of restoring proper reverence to the Liturgy. We now move on to the Liturgy of the Word:

By hearing the Word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter the unending dialogue between God and the covenant people. The proclamation of the Word is thus integral to the Mass. Below are the postures and gestures for the assembly:

SIT for the Sacred Scripture readings.

STAND for the Holy Gospel at the verse before the Holy Gospel.

TRACE a cross with the thumb on the forehead, lips and heart when the priest or deacon announces the Holy Gospel as a form of asking for the presence of the Word of God in one's mind, upon one's lips, and in one's heart.

SIT for the homily.

Creed: STAND and BOW during the Incarnatus ("by the power of the Holy Spirit ... and was made man"); on the solemnities of Christmas and the Annunciation all

genuflect at this moment.

STAND for Prayer of the Faithful and join in the response.

Is lifting my hands up when I say "and with your Spirit" or when I say "We lift them up to the Lord" an appropriate gesture of the Mass?

Many Catholics might not know that the use of the Orans position – elevating one's hands during prayer – at Mass is solely to be used by the celebrating priest. The General Instructions of the Roman Missal only give the priest this posture of authority of praying with elevated hands during the liturgy. Neither the deacon nor the Catholic laity are given this liturgical role. The faithful are welcome to elevate hands in private prayer, outside of Mass.

Is holding hands during the "Our Father" and raising them up at the end of the prayer an appropriate gesture?

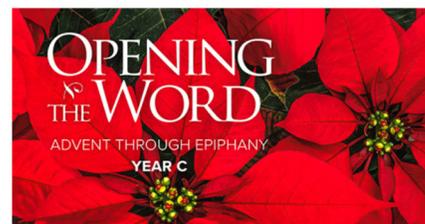
The second type of hand gesture in which many laity engage is holding hands during the Our Father. The Orans position certainly has historical use by Catholics in the Early Church and throughout the history of the Church, making it an acceptable form of prayer by the laity outside of Mass (private prayer). The same however cannot be said about the act of holding hands for prayer; specifically, during the Mass. Hand-holding came from both the New Age Movement, and Protestantism (particularly Pentecostalism) where the horizontal dimension of community is em-

phasized over the vertical sacrificial element of Mass. The lifting up of hands is a posture reserved only for the celebrating priest at Mass. The members of the assembly should not lift up their hands at the end of the Our Father, when we say, "for the kingdom and the power...".

It is our goal as a parish to continually understand the Liturgy better, so as to put Christ at the center of our lives and to grow together and worship together.

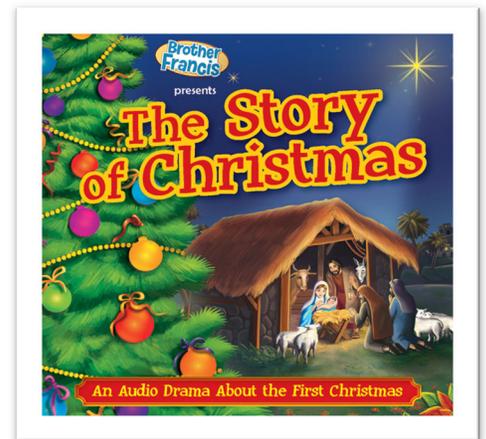
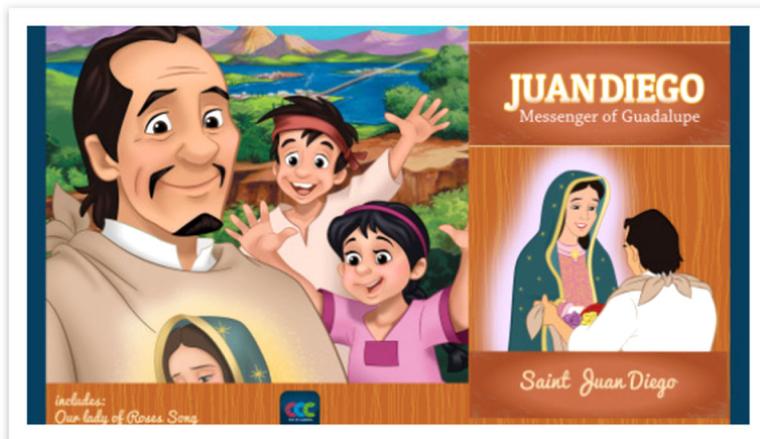
St Michael the Archangel, defend us!

Fr Carl
Pastor



Opening the Word is a program offering prayer and insights for the Sunday Readings. Featuring a variety of experienced presenters including Dr. Tim Gray, Jules Miles, Dr. Scott and Annie Powell, Dr. Edward Sri, and Dr. Ben Akers, the fifty-two videos are designed to facilitate thought and discussion for personal faith formation or in the context of a group meeting. Personal Prayer Journals and a group Leader's Guides are also available to make the most of these Sunday Readings. Find **Opening the Word** at FORMED.org, under "Study" then "Faith Formation".

FORMED for the FAMILY!



In 1531 Juan Diego found himself between two worlds, that of the Spanish conquerors and that of his own Aztec heritage. Because of his love for his people and his strong faith, Juan Diego turned to Jesus and His Mother, Mary for help in uniting his people. The answer to Juan Diego's prayers has become one of the greatest events in the history of the Americas.

Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe is the true story of how the Blessed Mother chose a hero for a key role in a beautiful miracle that would unite diverse peoples and change the course of history. In the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, the miracle of the tilma of Juan Diego may still be seen, just as it was seen by the bishop in 1531. **Watch FREE on FORMED.org**

Children will enjoy this heart-warming dramatization that recounts the story of the very first Christmas, as told by Brother Francis.

With music, songs, and engaging storytelling, you will experience the wonderful events that led up to the birth of God's Son and the story of redemption. **Listen FREE on FORMED.org**



Simbang Gabi

Filipino Novena Masses
December 16-24
Mass at 5:30 am each day

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

December 9-11
Triduum (Spanish) at 7 pm in the Church

December 12
4:00 am Mananita
5:00 am Mass (Spanish)
8:30 am Mass (English)
7:00 pm Mass (Spanish)

Posadas

December 16 - Courtyard at 7 pm
December 16-22 in homes
December 17--Hall at 6:30 pm
December 23 - Courtyard at 7 pm

Christmas Masses

Monday, December 24
3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm (Spanish)

Tuesday, December 25
12:00 midnight, 6:45 am, 8:00 am,
9:30 am, 11:00 am, and
12:30 pm (Spanish)

Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Vigil Mass on Monday, Dec 31 at 6:00 pm in English and 7:30 pm in Spanish

Mass on Tuesday, January 1
8:30 am in English and
11:00 am in Spanish



Parish Offices Closed Dec 24th - Jan 1st

MONDAY, DEC 10

Readings: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

Young Ladies' Institute meets at 12:30 pm in the Convent

Drive Thru Prayer, 5:30-6:30 pm in the Courtyard

Our Lady of Guadalupe Triduum at 7:00 pm in the Church

TUESDAY, DEC 11

St. Damasus I

Readings: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Drive Thru Prayer, 5:30-6:30 pm in the Courtyard

Our Lady of Guadalupe Triduum at 7:00 pm in the Church

WEDNESDAY, DEC 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Readings: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration:

4 am Mananita, 5 am Mass (Spanish), 8:30 am Mass (English), 7 pm Mass (Spanish)

Drive Thru Prayer, 5:30-6:30 pm in the Courtyard

THURSDAY, DEC 13

St. Lucy

Readings: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Have you visited Deacon Dave's Casa del Pombo 36th Annual Light Display? Open Sunday – Thursday 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm and Friday and Saturday 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm. CasaDelPombo.com

FRIDAY, DEC 14

St. John of the Cross

Readings: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Confession at 7:30 am in English and Spanish in the Church.

Include a visit to the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel in your holiday season's busy schedule

SATURDAY, DEC 15

Readings: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

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

Christmas Caroling Downtown at 11:00 am at Lizzy Fountain Park (the corner of First Street and Livermore Avenue)

SUNDAY, DEC 16

**Third Sunday in Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)**

Light the PINK candle in your Advent wreaths!

Simbang Gabi Mass at 5:30 am in the Church

Second Collection: Msgr. Correa's appeal at all Masses.

Las Posadas at 7 pm in the Courtyard

Christmas Caroling Downtown

Saturday, December 15 at 11:00 am
Lizzy Fountain Park on First and Livermore



Do not be distressed.
Am I not here who
am your mother?

Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Juan Diego received visions of her in Mexico in 1531.
Her image miraculously appeared on his tilma.

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Collection Report

Thank you for your support of St Michael Parish! Your sacrifices and gifts make it possible to celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples and bring Christ to people!

12/2/18 Collection	\$19,742.96
Month-to-Date	\$19,742.96
Month Goal	\$108,823.53
Percentage Reached	18%
Faith Direct	
Maintenance (for Dec)	\$6,454.69

Training for New Readers

Starting January 7, 2019

Do you hear the call to proclaim Sacred Scripture at Mass? Come attend 5 training and practice sessions to be held on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm starting on January 7. These sessions will be held in the Sacristy and altar area of the church.

Please register in advance at 925-667-4095 or email Liturgy @StMichaelLivermore.com.

Thank You for Helping 140 Families!

Thank you for your generous donations of turkey and groceries to St Vincent de Paul! Together, we helped 140 Livermore families with food for a lovely Thanksgiving.

Special thanks to Girl Scout Troops 31177, 32876 and 33478, other Scouts and families who assisted last Monday, despite the awful smoky air quality. They guided guests down the food line to load up with a turkey and a bag of canned goods, bags of apples, oranges, potatoes, onions, plus bread and a dessert.

For more information about St Vincent de Paul, contact Janet Graham at 925-292-8001.

Community Posada

Cultura y Bienestar in collaboration with St. Michael's Parish cordially invites you to the Community Posada "All Are Welcomed!" on Monday, December 17th, 2018 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at St. Michael's Hall (corner of Maple Street and 4th Avenue in Livermore, CA) for more information please contact: Lupita Barattino at (925) 273-4220. **Please bring your Jingle Bells and flashlights!** Children are encouraged to dress as angels, shepherds or in ethnic clothing.

La Posada Comunitaria

Cultura y Bienestar en colaboración con la parroquia de San Miguel le invita cordialmente a la Posada comunitaria "Todos Son Bienvenidos!" el lunes, 17 de diciembre, 2018 de 6:30 PM a 8:30 PM en el salón de San Miguel (esquina de Maple Street y 4th Avenue en Livermore, CA) para más información póngase en contacto con: Lupita Barattino al (925) 273-4220. **¡Por favor traiga sus cascabeles y linternas!** Se les invita a los niños a vestirse como ángeles, pastores o en ropa étnica.



La Santa Misa: Parte 2

za durante el Incarnatus ("por el poder del Espíritu Santo ... y fue hecho hombre"); En las solemnidades de la Navidad y la Anunciación, todo se refleja en este momento.

PARARSE para la oración de los fieles y unirse a la respuesta.

¿Levantar mis manos cuando digo "y con tu Espíritu" o cuando digo "Los levantamos al Señor" es un gesto apropiado de la misa?

Es posible que muchos católicos no sepan que el uso de la posición de Orans (elevar las manos durante la oración) en la misa es solo para ser utilizado por el sacerdote que celebra. Las Instrucciones Generales del Misal Romano solo le dan al sacerdote esta postura de autoridad para orar con las manos en alto durante la liturgia. Ni el diácono ni los laicos católicos tienen este papel litúrgico. Los fieles son bienvenidos a elevar las manos en oración privada, fuera de la misa.

¿Es un gesto apropiado tomar las manos durante el "Padre Nuestro" y elevarlas al final de la oración?

El segundo tipo de gesto con la mano en el que participan muchos laicos es tomarse de las manos durante el Padre Nuestro. La posición de Orans ciertamente tiene un uso histórico por parte de los católicos en la Iglesia primitiva y en toda la historia de la Iglesia, por lo que es una forma aceptable de oración por los laicos fuera de la Misa (oración privada). Sin embargo, no se puede decir lo mismo sobre el hecho de tomar las manos

para la oración; específicamente, durante la Misa. El agarre de la mano provino tanto del Movimiento de la Nueva Era como del Protestantismo (particularmente el Pentecostalismo) donde se enfatiza la dimensión horizontal de la comunidad sobre el elemento sacrificial vertical de la Misa. El levantamiento de manos es una postura reservada solo para el sacerdote que celebra en la misa. Los miembros de la asamblea no deben levantar sus manos al final del Padre Nuestro, cuando decimos "por el reino y el poder ...".

Nuestro objetivo como parroquia es comprender mejor la liturgia, a fin de poner a Cristo en el centro de nuestras vidas y crecer juntos y adorar juntos.

San Miguel Arcángel, defiéndenos!

Padre Carl, Pastor



Logos Palabras de Vida

Jesucristo, es parte de la historia de la humanidad, pero por sobre todo quiere ser parte de tu historia. Sembremos la semilla de su palabra en nuestra familia, en nuestros hijos, recordemos que nuestro Señor Jesucristo nunca se olvida de los suyos y hará crecer y germinar la semilla de su palabra en nuestras vidas.

Ver *Logos Palabras de Vida* serie: **FORMED.org** —> "Community"

Querida familia de San Miguel,

Continuamos con nuestra catequesis sobre la misa, como un medio para restaurar la reverencia apropiada a la liturgia. Ahora pasamos a la Liturgia de la Palabra:

Al escuchar la Palabra proclamada en la adoración, los fieles nuevamente entran en el interminable diálogo entre Dios y el pueblo del pacto. La proclamación de la Palabra es, por lo tanto, parte integral de la Misa. A continuación se muestran las posturas y los gestos para la asamblea:

SENTARSE para las lecturas de la Sagrada Escritura.

PARARSE para el Santo Evangelio en el verso anterior al Santo Evangelio.

TRAZAR una cruz con el pulgar en la frente, los labios y el corazón cuando el sacerdote o diácono anuncia el Santo Evangelio como una forma de pedir la presencia de la Palabra de Dios en la mente de uno, en los labios de uno y en el corazón de uno.

SENTARSE para la homilía.

Credo: PARARSE e inclinar la cabe-

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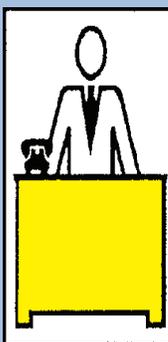
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Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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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 in the chapel
en la capilla

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

**Monday & Friday in the church |
Lunes y viernes en la iglesia**

7:30 am in English & español

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays in the
Convent Chapel**

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 775-772-6369 |

24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de

acceso después de las horas, llame al

775-772-6369

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 9:00 am—5:00 pm

(Closed 12:00 pm—2:00 pm)

Clergy | Clero

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

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michaelpereira@comcast.net

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Anne Lindquist, Frank
Draschner, Jeff Andersen,
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Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

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925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos



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