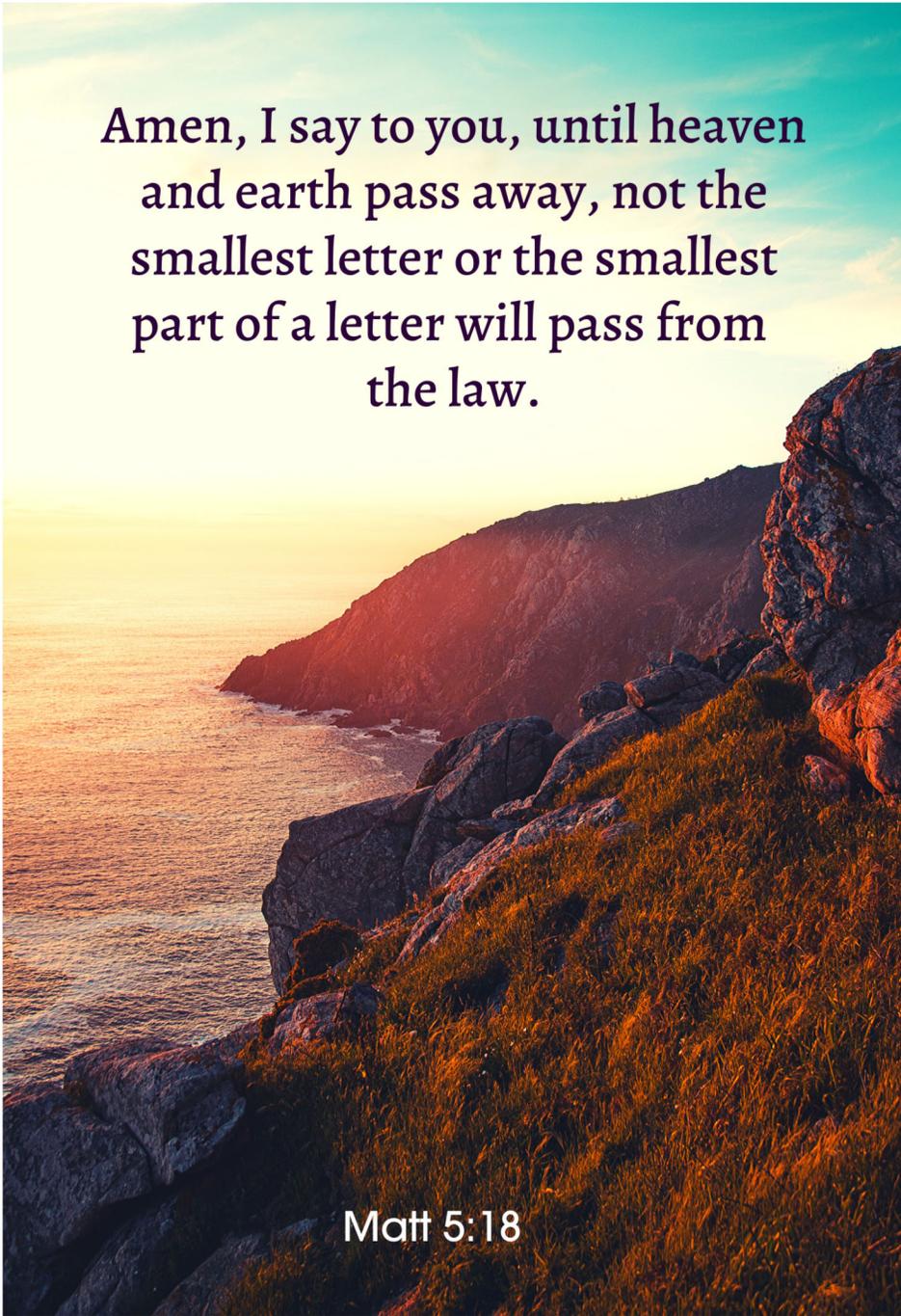




# ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, February 16, 2020 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Amen, I say to you, until heaven  
and earth pass away, not the  
smallest letter or the smallest  
part of a letter will pass from  
the law.

Matth 5:18

## CONTACT

458 Maple Street  
Livermore, CA 94550  
StMichaelLivermore.com  
**Parish:** 925-447-1585  
**School:** 925-447-1888  
**Emergencies:** 925-521-4117

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Daily

Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am  
Wednesday: 7:00 pm (español)  
First Friday: 12:00 pm

### Weekend

Sat Vigil: 5:00 pm (English),  
7:00 pm (español)

Sunday: 6:45 am, 8:00 am,  
9:30 am, 11:00 am,  
12:30 pm (español), 6:00 pm

### Sign Language

1st Sunday, 11:00 am

### Traditional Latin Mass

2nd Sunday, 8:00 am

### Mass in Tagalog

3rd Sunday, 3:30 pm

### Mass in Vietnamese

4th Sunday, 3:30 pm

Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples, Bring Christ to People

# STUDY

This week's Gospel is all about the Law. It starts with the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, which contains Jesus's teaching about loving your enemies, as well as the Beatitudes.

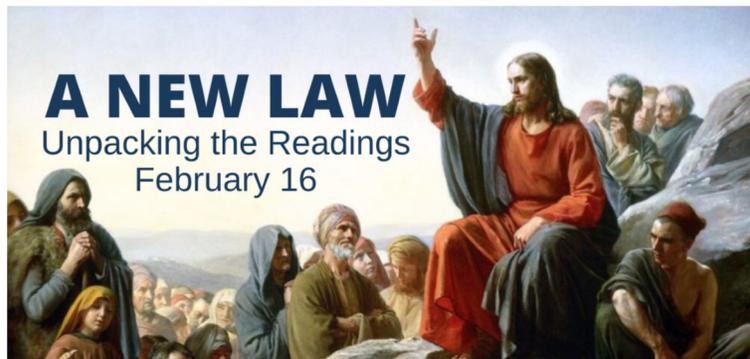
We may never have given any thought as to why Jesus gave these teachings on the side of a mountain, but the time and place matter if we are to truly understand how radical Jesus's message was in his time.

In first-century Israel, the hill country of Galilee was the hotbed of revolt. Revolutionaries and radicals sometimes went to this area to plot against Herod and the Romans, who were a hated occupying force. If you saw Jesus heading to the Mount, you might have assumed he was going to give a fiery speech against the Roman oppressors. If you had followed him, what you would have heard is a not a "Down with Rome!" speech, but a set of teachings about how he came not to abolish the Law of the Old Testament, but to fulfill it.

Jesus's message was radical and revisionary, but not in the way people expected. Jesus didn't come to say that he would free us from the moral standards of the Old Testament Law, but instead he "ups the ante." For instance, adultery is condemned under the Old Law; Jesus says that even thinking lustful thoughts is sinful under the New Law. He refocuses attention, not

on a series of commands written in stone, but rather on a law that is written in the hearts of humanity. His is a revolutionary teaching, not against an oppressive government but against our own hardness of heart.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus



calls us to give more than we can ever imagine, but he also promises to give us the grace and ability to fulfill that call.

## First Reading Reflection Sirach 15:15–20

The attainment of wisdom is Sirach's primary theme in this passage. The first step toward wisdom is to fear the Lord, that is, to reject sin. This passage addresses the freedom we have to adhere to that law of God which leads to true wisdom—or not. We're free to choose, but Sirach makes it clear that the choice isn't equally weighted on both sides. You might say that we're free to choose but not free to sin.

Our choice isn't an arbitrary one in which good or evil are merely neutral alternatives. Obedience to the law leads to life, and disobedience to death. Righteousness conforms to our nature,

made by the all-wise God, and lawlessness causes our very nature to decay. We may be free to choose to sin, but our freedom isn't a permission to sin, as is sometimes thought today. Sirach says that freedom is only ennobling when it's exercised in pursuit of wisdom

through adherence to the Law of the Covenant. The gift of freedom can't be understood apart from the Giver. Sin is exactly a violation of our freedom because it leads to the ultimate slavery—death. Our ability to choose to sin should never be misunderstood to be a

"freedom to sin."

## Second Reading Reflection

### 1 Corinthians 2:6–10

We can only imagine the flame that the realization of God's plan in Christ sparked in St. Paul. He entirely poured himself out in the service of the Gospel. We can see a glimpse of Paul's goal in the description of the Beatific Vision of Heaven he gives us: "Eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart what God has prepared for those who love him." It's somehow fitting that the mysterious plan of God should have a mysterious goal.

As we begin to draw back the curtain on the Christian mystery by our participation in the liturgy, the reading of Scripture, private prayer, and works of mercy, we find that as the mystery of

Christ's life begins to take shape in our souls, the mysterious life of Heaven begins to sprout there, too. It's out of this kind of experience that St. Paul speaks in this passage. Owing to his direct participation in the plan of God, the mystery of Christ wasn't merely a goal, but the wisdom that Paul carried around with him. He drew from this inner wellspring when he shared the revelation of the mysterious plan of God that we call the Gospel.

### **Gospel Reflection** **Matthew 5:17–37**

Matthew shows us that Jesus understood himself to be an important instrument in God's plan for the future of Israel and the Gentiles as well. In this passage, Jesus explains that his intention isn't to abolish all that has preceded him in God's revelation to the Jewish people, particularly the laws given through Moses. Rather, he has "come not to abolish, but to fulfill" Jesus's position on the Law is perfectly in concert with both his divine nature and his human nature. He will fulfill, not abolish, all that has gone before.

He shows us just what he means by giving a list of particular references to murder, adultery, divorce, and false witness. In each case, with one exception, he doesn't abolish what went before. On the contrary, he strengthens the requirement, placing a deeper obligation on the Christian disciple than the Mosaic Law had done on the Jew. We see Jesus not only acting as the new Moses, but correcting Moses and speaking on behalf of God's original design. In Matthew, Jesus isn't merely a new Moses but the God who spoke to Moses. It's in this capacity that he fulfills the Law by calling the disciple, not merely to obedience, but also to a deeper, more obedient love.

### **Reflect & Discuss**

Today we are going to look at the New Law of Jesus given in the Sermon on the Mount—a law that has a much higher aim than governmental laws. While laws of the government typically aim to maintain order and harmony in society, we will see that Jesus's law does so much more: It calls us to love, not merely avoid hurt-

ing each other. Please watch the short Opening the Word video on FORMED.org. Then reflect upon these questions and discuss them with a friend.

The presenter says that Jesus didn't abolish the Old Testament Law but actually "upped the ante." What are some examples of how Jesus did this?

The point of the Old Law was to get the Israelites to follow and obey God. What is the point of the New Law? (Hint: it has to do with our hearts.)

### **Digging Deeper:** **Contents of the Law**

The Old Testament Law is found in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. It includes the Ten Commandments, moral and social laws, food laws, purity laws, feasts, offerings, priestly instructions, and other ceremonial laws.

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

## **February 22 is the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle**

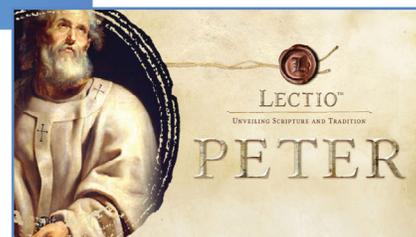
**FORMED**

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

Dr. Tim Gray takes us back to the Old Testament and the significance of the imagery the keys had in the kingdom of King David. From there we can see how Jesus was restoring and perfecting his Church in giving Peter the "keys of the kingdom."

## **Lectio: Peter**

Peter and the Keys -  
The Primacy of the Church



**WATCH ON FORMED.ORG**

POWERED BY THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

# PRAY

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 2/15

8:30am Daniel Figueiredo †  
5:00pm Susan Milne  
7:00pm Mary Volpe †

### Sunday 2/16

6:45am Rolando Custodio †  
8:00am George Baylis †  
9:30am Rosemarie Adams †  
11:00am Virginia Freie  
12:30pm Rolando Custodio †  
6:00pm Inocencio de Rivera

### Monday 2/17

8:30am Daniel Figueiredo †

### Tuesday 2/18

8:30am Violet Stratman †

### Wednesday 2/19

8:30am Nick Alice †  
Tomas Sanchez †  
7:00pm Ed Volpe †

### Thursday 2/20

8:30am Violet Stratman †

### Friday 2/21

8:30am Eileen Connell †

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.



## Prayer

You are seated comfortably on the grassy slope of the hill. The sun shines brightly on Jesus's white robes and you settle in to listen to him talk. Suddenly you hear him say, "Therefore, if you bring your gift to that altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." What goes through your mind when you hear these words? Is there someone with whom you need to reconcile? Is there something you need to do to make amends? Let Jesus bring to mind what it is he would have you do.

## Resolution

If a person or situation came to mind as you were praying, decide what you can do this week to be reconciled. List the steps you will need to take to accomplish this.

## Special Intentions

**For our SIXTY FIVE guests at Alpha**, that they may return for this week's session and continue the journey toward a relationship (or renewed relationship) with Jesus.

Our Parish Prayer Team has over 600 members! When you join the team, you will receive a weekly email with the prayer requests of the community. Send your prayers or join the team by emailing [Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com)

## FROM FR CARL



Dear parishioners, parents, school benefactors, school volunteers, teachers and staff,

Peace and Blessing! We celebrated Catholic School's Week two weeks ago, and I was asked, "What is your vision for St. Michael School?" I replied, that it is the same vision as the Catholic Church: to form and educate children to be good and holy Catholics and citizens of this world. The foundation of a Catholic school is a school with an academic curriculum influenced, guided and inspired by Catholic and Christian Values. They are as follows:

### 1. The Principle of the Primacy of God

At St Michael School, prayer is a central focus throughout the school day. Our students attend and participate in leading weekly Mass as well as a monthly family Mass. Students also learn about the devotion of the Rosary during the month of October.

### 2. The Principle of the Sanctity of Life

During October, our students focus on family life. The curriculum teaches a wholesome understanding of living a chaste life based upon Catholic Church's moral principles. They actively pray for the dignity of all life.

### 3. The Principle of Fidelity in Relationships

As a Catholic school, we provide a unique opportunity throughout the holy season of Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, our families participate in Faith and Family each Wednesday. No academic homework is assigned, so that they may have that time to focus on their relationship as a family.

### 4. The Principle of the Common Good

Our students and families keep the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and the Livermore Homeless Refuge well-stocked with weekly donations. In addition, our fami-

lies fill Thanksgiving food baskets for those in need in our Livermore community.

As pastor of St. Michael, it is my responsibility to guide and direct our parish and school to grow in our Catholic faith. These principles establish a harmonious connection and united effort to achieve the goal of nurturing disciples. Though we happily welcome families and children who are not Catholics, the purpose of our school is to share our Catholic values for the purpose of evangelization and the common good of society.

May God bless you and your families,

Fr Carl

## LENT & EASTER STUDY BEGINS

### Episode 1, Orientation to Consoling the Heart of Jesus

Sometime this week, please watch episode 1 of *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* free on FORMED.org. You will be introduced to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, along with the teachings of Sts. Thérèse of Lisieux, Faustina Kowalska, and Louis de Montfort as brought together by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. This journey will lead us to trust in Jesus, the Divine Mercy.

I encourage you to get together with a friend over coffee or by phone to talk about what you watched. If you are having technical difficulty, please contact Tina Gregory at 925-667-4051 or [TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com)

Fr Carl





*news & announcements*

## Sealed with the Holy Spirit!

Congratulations to our adults who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last weekend: Carl, Ed, Gabrielle, Rick, Heriberto, Maria Elena, Cesar, Jose, Milton, Sergio, Jesse, Maria, Miriam and Leidy. May the Lord richly bless you as you are sent on your mission of discipleship.

## Extra Daily Mass During Lent

Extra 6:45 am Masses, Monday—Friday to allow people to celebrate Mass before work or school. Mass will be a prompt 20 minutes.

Our regular 8:30 am daily Mass will continue as scheduled. At both Masses, there will be a collection box for offerings to support our parish ministries.

## Stations of the Cross During Lent

Fridays at 7:00 pm in English, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Spanish.

## Subscribe to Daily Lent Reflections

If you would like a daily devotional sent to your email inbox, there are several from which to choose:

- Bishop Robert Barron at [LentReflections.com](http://LentReflections.com)
- Living Lent Daily at [LoyolaPress.com](http://LoyolaPress.com)
- Best Lent Ever at [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com)

## Little Black Books

A limited amount of Little Black Books will be available in the Church office.

## Collection Report

Thank you, St Michael Parishioners, for your constant generosity. Your offerings to our community are the only funding we receive to achieve Christ's mission here in Livermore.

2/9/2020	\$19,117.88
Month-to-Date	\$46,560.23
Month Goal	\$84,941.18
% Reached	55%
Faith Direct	\$7,497.00
Maintenance (for Feb)	\$7,769.05

# INVITE



## **Invite Someone to Alpha**

The second session of Alpha is Monday, February 17. If you (or your friend) missed last week, it's not too late! We can get you caught up in no time. Dinner is free, but kindly let us know you're coming, so we can plan the meal accordingly.  
[Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com)

## **Invite Someone to the Music Ministry Concert**

Bring your music loving friends to our Music Ministry Concert "Let All that Has Breath Praise Our God" on Friday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the Church. It will be a wonderful night of praise and voices that will give your friends a little taste of our worship and a view inside our beautiful Church.

## **Invite Someone to Ash Wednesday**

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26 this year. It is the season when we all repent and turn our faces back to Jesus. It's the perfect time for someone who has been away from the Church to come back! Invite them to come to Mass. Let them know that no one will look at them funny for being away, because every single one of us will be in the season of repenting. Mass times are as follows:

6:45 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am (School), 12:15 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm (Spanish), 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm (Spanish).

## **Invite Someone to Drive Thru Prayer**

So many people are struggling. Depression, health issues, family troubles, financial difficulties seem to weigh us down. Invite your friend to drive up to our courtyard, Monday through Friday, March 2 through April 3, between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. A trained prayer team will meet them at their car window, listen and pray for them right there. We welcome everyone, especially if they are not "religious". Let us minister to them and ask the Holy Spirit to comfort them.

## **Invite Someone to Submit Prayer Requests**

If your friend is not comfortable with prayer in person yet, that's okay. Ask if you can submit their prayer request to our Parish Prayer team of over 600 members. Simply send an email message to [Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com) to be included on the weekly list.

**JOIN**

Ash  
Wednesday  
FEBRUARY 26



### **Mass Times**

6:45 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am (School), 12:15 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm (Spanish), 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm (Spanish).

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

### **Fasting Guidelines**

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting. Those ages 18 to 59 are obliged to abstain from meat and limit themselves to one full meal and, if needed, two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Those medically unable to fast are not obliged to do so, but should choose another form of fast.

All who are age 14 and older must abstain from meat. Those who do not normally eat meat should choose another form of abstinence.

### **Seafood is Permitted**

Traditionally, fish is not considered meat. While seafood is permitted during days of abstinence, Lent is a time of simplicity. Dining on lobster, crab and other rich delicacies from the sea misses the point and should be avoided.

### **Watch**

Karlo Broussard provides some tips on how to use that awkward moment of being seen in public with ashes on our foreheads as moment for evangelization. Watch *What's the Deal with Ashes on Ash Wednesday?* on FORMED.org

### **Pull Weeds, Plant Seeds Lent Retreat for Kids**

TK-6th grade students are invited to "Pull Weeds, Plant Seeds", Lenten day retreat on Sunday, February 23, from 10:45 am—12:00 pm in the Hall. We will discuss Lent, make a craft and eat pizza! This retreat is FREE, but so that we can prepare, please register at [VBC@StMichaelLivermore.com](mailto:VBC@StMichaelLivermore.com) or call the Faith Formation office at 925-667-4096

### **Golden Friends Mass & Luncheon**

Are you retired or are you free from work on Fridays or do you have friends and relatives who are? Bring them to our Golden Friends Luncheon to enjoy fellowship, entertainment and spiritual growth on Friday, February 28 in the Large Hall. Mass starts promptly at 10:30 am and lunch follows.

Call Mary at 925-784-1812 by noon Tuesday the 24th to see if space is available.

### **Vacation Bible Camp**

What? Talking about summer already? Start dreaming of sunny days and save the dates now while you're thinking of it: Vacation Bible Camp will be June 22-26 from 9:15 am -12:15 pm for kids in pre K-6th grade. Our theme this summer will be "Set Sail with the Holy Trinity".



## La Misa Explicada 8 Episodes

Los católicos participamos domingo a domingo en la celebración de la Misa; con ello queremos dar culto a Dios y elevar nuestro corazón a las cosas sagradas, pero ¿entendemos lo que hacemos, lo que decimos, todo lo que nos rodea? Descúbrelo en este curso y conoce a fondo la Misa para participar de una manera más plena, consciente y activa en cada Eucaristía.

FORMED.org “español”



## Reflexiones de Cuaresma 41 Episodes

Camínenos juntos este tiempo de Cuaresma de la mano de expertos y reconocidos teólogos con estas video reflexiones de corta duración que hemos preparado. Utilizando la serie de estudio en video Perdonado: El poder transformador de la confesión producida y dirigida por el galardonado Augustine Institute Studios. Estas video reflexiones te ayudarán a ver, como Dios con su infinita misericordia sale a nuestro encuentro y nos espera siempre con los brazos abiertos. FORMED.org “español”



## Misa del miércoles de ceniza

El Miércoles de Ceniza es el primer día de la Cuaresma.

Misa en español en San Miguel a las 3:30 pm y 7:30 pm



Esta producción cinematográfica de alta calidad, producida por Jean Delannoy (uno de los productores más destacados de Francia), narra la historia de Santa Bernadita y las apariciones de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes.

Ver gratis en FORMED.org

**AD PAGE**

**AD PAGE**



# SCHEDULES AND DIRECTORY

## Office Hours horas de oficina

### Mon-Fri / L-V:

9:00 am—5:00 pm  
(Closed / cerrado 12:00 pm—  
2:00 pm)

## Confession Confesión

### Saturday / Sábado:

9:00 am, 3:45 pm and  
6:15 pm

### Mon & Fri / L y V:

7:30 am

### Wed / X:

2:30 pm Convent Chapel /  
capilla del convento

## 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 the  
night access code, or to sign up  
for a regular Holy Hour, call  
775-772-6369

## Clergy / Clero

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

## Pastoral Council Consejo Pastoral

Mike Pereira (chair),  
Fidelis Atuegbu (vice chair), Fr  
Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Jo  
Anne Lindquist, Frank  
Draschner, Jeff Andersen,  
Cynthia Garay, Alison Wilke  
and Glenda Dubsy.

## Finance Council Consejo Financiero

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom,  
Kathy Hawkins, Travis Cox,  
Analy Palomino, Vanessa  
Suarez and Erleene Echon

## Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños  
925-344-7150 Adultos

## Ministerio Hispano

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Ricardo Garcia  
Hispano1@  
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925-667-4057

Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen  
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