



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose hope is in the Lord.
He is like a tree planted beside the waters
that stretches out its roots to the stream.*

Jeremiah 17:7-8

*Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

February 17, 2019

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The Search for True Happiness

Who wouldn't want to take the direct path to happiness? Well, today's Gospel reading gives us a roadmap to follow if we want to be happy, not just in the future, but today as well.

What is the wonderful guide, you may be asking? It's the Beatitudes.

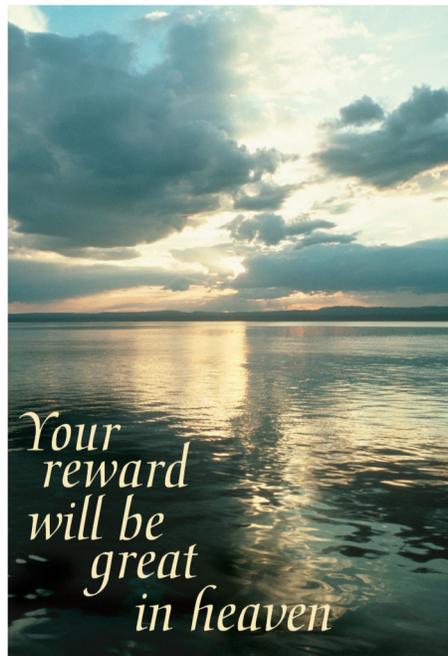
What makes the Beatitudes so different is that their message runs contrary to what the world teaches about happiness. The world tells us that we can find true happiness in having successful careers, in being esteemed by our peers, by having a lot of money, getting the latest fashion, or having a lot of fun. The Beatitudes tell us that true happiness comes from self-sacrifice, from following the way of the Lord even when it is difficult, and from putting others first.

This message wasn't any easier to accept in Jesus' time than it is today. However, we must all come to the point where we acknowledge our spiritual poverty and our complete dependence on God if we want to be truly happy. Then we can begin to understand why Jesus would say, "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."

Unpack the First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-8

Some may think that the word "curse" should never be associated with the person of the Lord, yet that's what Jeremiah says. Why would the God of love curse anybody? Yet God's love de-

mands a curse upon those who are indifferent to him. Indifference, not hate, is the opposite of love. Hate at least cares enough about someone to dislike them, indifference doesn't care at all. Love is complete concern for the concerns of another, and so God is infinitely concerned with each one of us.



A curse is actually what happens when human indifference comes face to face with God's love. Indifference to God's blessing is itself the curse. God's unwavering plan is to bless us. However, those who reject God's blessing, out of hate or indifference, are cursed for the very lack of his blessing. It's just like a light switch. Either it's on and there's light, or it's off and you're in the dark. God's blessing is light itself and, if we reject that light, we're condemning ourselves to curse the darkness.

Unpack the Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Some members of the Church at Corinth didn't believe that people would actually be resurrected, and Paul handles this question by immediately referring to what he considers the central element of the Christian faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Paul's eyes, the opinion that no one is actually resurrected from the dead empties the faith of its substance. The Christian faith without the historical event of the Resurrection is like a body drained of blood; that is, it's dead.

The bottom line is that it's absurd for a Christian not to believe in the Resurrection. A Christian who doesn't believe in the Resurrection is like a fisherman who doesn't believe in fish; the goal of fishing is to catch fish, and the goal of Christians is to be resurrected with Christ. St. Paul's argument is simply this: If you don't believe in the Resurrection, Christ's and ours, you really aren't a Christian at all.

Unpack the Gospel Luke 6:17, 20-26

This passage from Luke is sometimes called the "Sermon on the Plain" to distinguish it from Matthew's "Sermon on the Mount." Luke suggests that Jesus is a new Moses coming down from a new Mount Sinai to give a New Law for the New Covenant People of God. The New Law was that God's blessing would explode in the world to such an extent

through his offering of self that even the greatest evils of human history (poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution) would be seen as channels of immense blessing.

The blessings of God, unlocked by Christ's cross, would be so vast under the new regime that no amount of earthly comfort could compare. In fact, those who pursue riches, feasts, entertainment, and honor for their own sake will find them empty in comparison and perhaps even the cause of their own perdition.

Watch the Video

This week's video presenter, Jules Miles, has much to say about poverty, happiness, and the hope of everlasting life. Watch this 6-minute *Opening the Word* reflection on FORMED.org. Then ponder the following questions in your journal, with your family or within your small group.

Discussion Questions

In this week's Gospel, Jesus presents us with a roadmap for blessedness. In the Beatitudes, Christ tells his followers that true happiness and fulfillment come from humility and service that reflect his own life.

According to the video presenter, how does Christ's view of happiness differ with the cultural perceptions of his time?

How does the Christian way differ with our own world's understanding of happiness?

Our world can often present a very different understanding of what makes us truly happy or fulfilled. Unfortunately, we too often fall into these misperceptions of happiness.

Take a look at the list of things we created at the beginning of this session that people today think will make them happy. If Jesus

were looking at our list, what do you think he would say about these ideals?

Which ones do you think he would say are truly top priorities for living a happy and fulfilling life?

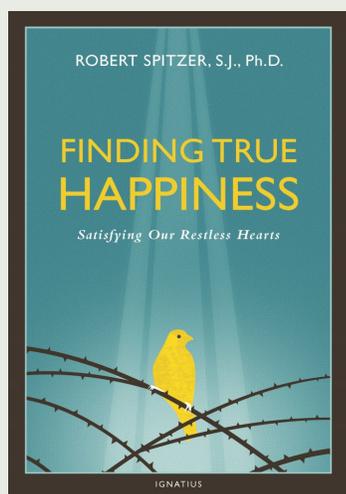
Which ideals on our list (if any) might he say are not as urgent? What might Jesus add to our list?

Digging Deeper: The Desire for Happiness

"The Beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness. This desire is of divine origin: God has placed it in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fulfill it."

—Catechism of the Catholic Church 1723

Reflections reprinted here with permission from Augustine Institute.



Finding True Happiness: Satisfying Our Restless Hearts

Free eBook by Fr Robert Spitzer, available on FORMED.org

Despite the fact that we have tremendous access to every imaginable form of entertainment, we experience a pervading sense of insecurity, emptiness, and malaise amid sporadic peak experiences. *Finding True Happiness* attempts to provide a way out of this personal and cultural vacuum by helping people to identify and then reach for happiness. Fr Robert Spitzer's book is both a philosophical itinerary and a practical guidebook for life's most important journey—from the mundane and the meaningless to transcendent fulfillment.

The Parish has already paid for your FORMED account! Register at StMichael.FORMED.org.

Prayers for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 2/16

8:30am Melissa & Allison Trinidad
5:00pm James Kane †
7:00pm Ramona Fierro †
Luis Carreon †

Sunday 2/17

6:45am Mass for Our Parish
8:00am Harriet Dixon †
9:30am Marjorie Melendez
11:00am John Sarboraria †
12:30pm Juan Manuel Molina
Graciela Plascencia
6:00pm Anna Marie Peralo

Monday 2/18

8:30am The Moriarty Family

Tuesday 2/19

8:30am Nick & Alice Sanchez †

Wednesday 2/20

8:30am Dionisia & Maximo Alarcon †
7:00pm Christo Alvarez Garcia †

Thursday 2/21

8:30am Laurie Vavuris †

Friday 2/22

8:30am Jess Garner †

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.

Every first Sunday of the month, the 11:00 am Mass is a "Communal Mass" with several intentions.



We've been challenged by this weekend's Scripture readings to reexamine our current understanding of poverty, happiness, and fulfillment. We've discovered that those who remain faithful and fruitful in their journey of faith on earth will be rewarded with everlasting life. But those who are too focused on achieving security, fame, and wealth on this earth will not enjoy the eternal rewards offered in the kingdom of God and will find emptiness and frustration in this life. Let's now take time to pray to God about how we can give ourselves more fully to Christ and his kingdom.

Prayer

Imagine yourself sitting at the feet of Jesus when he gave the Beatitudes. Hear him say that the rich and satisfied will be unhappy. Hear him offer a path of true happiness through humble obedience and faith. Do you accept this humble path? Do you choose his roadmap of happiness over the need for wealth, worldly success, and human praise and acceptance? Now if Jesus were to approach you and ask you where you are putting your emphasis, what do you say to him?

Resolution

Now in prayer, ask Jesus to show you an area of your life where you are too focused on or too attached to the fortunes, pleasures, and comforts offered by this world. Also ask him to show you ways you can change the desires of your heart to bring them more in line with the Beatitudes. Think of one small change you can make to your life this week that will help you place more of your heart's focus on the kingdom of God.

Need Prayers?

Send requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

You are also invited to write your prayer requests in the Book of Intentions in the Adoration Chapel, just to the right as you enter.

Stewardship & Our Parish Facilities



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Pt 4:10).

Dear St Michael Family,

Stewardship means safeguarding our material and human resources, respecting and using them responsibly. It means generously giving of our time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more, because as intentional disciples of Jesus, we make a conscious decision to follow Him, no matter what the cost. We experience conversion—life-shaping changes of mind and heart—and we commit our whole lives to the Lord. Putting it plainly, we fall in love! And what love does best is giving. When we are in a relationship with Jesus, we recognize all the gifts that He gives us. We are grateful, and the natural response is to give back. Hence, stewardship is the way that we respond to Jesus in our loving relationship with Him.

Maintaining our parish facilities is a healthy sign that we are intentional disciples and good stewards of God's gifts. Where would we be without our physical spaces, our buildings and grounds? Our facilities are what make our mission of celebrating the Sacraments, growing disciples and bringing Christ to people possible.

In honor of the Dominican Sisters who played an important role in the faith formation of the parishioners of Livermore, ***I am excited to report that we have finally finished the repairs, clean-up and restoration of our Convent!***

Through your generosity, over \$50K in improvements included:

- Exterior and interior painting
- Roof repairs
- New hardwood laminate flooring throughout upstairs and downstairs common areas
- New carpet in bedrooms and meeting rooms
- Expanded meeting room space and refreshed guest room suites for visiting clergy and religious
- Repairs to heating system
- Added windows to all offices, chapel and meeting rooms

Next weekend from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, I would like to invite you to walk across the street to take a tour and see for yourself what our generous donors to the Diocesan Capital Campaign have made possible.

Our next project focus will be the parking lots at the church and school. I'm sure you have noticed the pot holes and the disintegrating asphalt and gravel, especially when it's raining. Repairing and repaving our neglected parking lots will be a large expense, but one that is necessary for the long-term health of our parish grounds.

To everyone who has contributed – and everyone who will continue to contribute – to the 1st Sunday Maintenance and Improvement

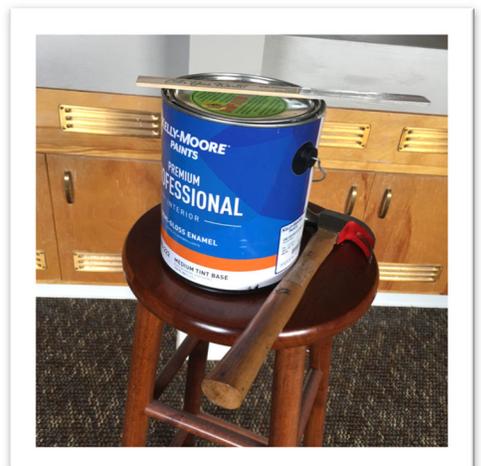
collection and to the Diocesan Capital Campaign, THANK YOU! Your generous donations are being put to good use.

Thank you also to those who have contributed to our 2018 Bishop's Appeal. I join with you and humbly ask as we start this month the 2019 Bishop Appeal Campaign. I pray that we may all be generous to the special projects and ministries of our Bishop. These efforts include the care for our retired priests, education of catechists and seminarians, help for financially struggling schools and support for charitable programs led by our Catholic Charities of the East Bay.

I am so grateful and proud of the generosity displayed at St Michael Parish! I pray that as we continue to grow as disciples, we grow also in giving of ourselves, supporting our parish programs, our school and ministry efforts. Let us not waver in our love of Christ in responding to the needs of others!

May God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl, Pastor



MONDAY, FEB 18

Readings: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-26; Mk 8:11-13

Parish offices closed in observance of President's Day

TUESDAY, FEB 19

Readings: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY, FEB 20

Readings: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26

THURSDAY, FEB 21

St. Peter Damian

Readings: Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mk 8:27-33

Do you have a Lent plan? Take time this week to look at your calendar and set aside time for prayer this Lent.

FRIDAY, FEB 22

Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Readings: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Golden Friends Mass & Lunch at 10:30 am in the Large Hall. Please call Mary at 925-784-1812 by 12 pm, Feb 19 to see if space is available.

SATURDAY, FEB 23

St. Polycarp

Readings: Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13

Polenta & Chicken Cacciatore Dinner, sponsored by Italian Catholic Federation, at 6 pm at St Augustine. For tickets, call Christine at 925-462-3704.

SUNDAY, FEB 24

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

Little Black Books for Lent will be available after Masses.

Collection Report

Thank you for your offerings! Because of your support, we are able to celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples and bring Christ to people.

2/10/19 Collection	\$21,964.18
Month-to-Date	\$49,651.82
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
Percentage Reached	57%
Faith Direct	\$6,937.00
Maintenance (for February)	\$8,272.79

EVERY WEEK

Daily Mass
Mon-Sat at 8:30 am

Rosary & Chaplet
Mon-Fri at 7:00 am
and Mon-Sat 9:15 am

Confession
Mon and Fri at 7:30 am
Saturdays at 9:15 am, 3:45 pm, 6:15 pm

Upcoming Events

Music Ministry Concert

**Fri, March 1 at 7 pm
Church**

St Michael's Music Ministry invites you to a concert: "With a Voice of Singing". This evening of music will feature the Chamber, Spanish, Lifeteen, Children's and Filipino choirs. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be graciously accepted to benefit the Music Ministry. Contact: JaNet Hancock 925-292-5071.

Family Movie Night: "Sing!"

**Sat, March 2 at 6:30 pm
Large Hall**

Our Knights of Columbus invite your family to a free screening of "Sing" - an animated musical comedy featuring familiar '80s music and the original song "Faith" by Stevie Wonder and Ariana Grande. Popcorn and lemonade provided.

Ash Wednesday Wed, March 6

Fast and abstain from meat
Rosary & Chaplet: 6:15am

Mass: 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:30am (School), 12:15pm, 6:00pm and 7:30pm (Spanish)

Service with Ashes: 2:00pm and 3:30pm (Spanish)

St Patrick's Corned Beef & Cabbage

**Sun, March 17 at 6:00 pm
St Charles**

The Grief Support Ministry invites you for fun and fellowship as we toast Ireland's favorite saint! Dinner costs \$12.00 per person and includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and all the fixings. Tickets sold by mail only. Pick up an order form after Mass.

Knights Crab Feed and Charity Auction

**Sat, March 16 at 4:30 pm
Robert Livermore Center**

Enjoy a great night celebrating our successes, having fun, eating well and hearing inspiring stories about how our Livermore Knights are making our community a better place to live.

For tickets, call Dennis Lundbom 775-772-6369 or Mark & Claire Duguid 925-443-5873.

More to Come... (details coming soon)

April 18: Holy Thursday

April 19: Good Friday

April 20: Easter Vigil

April 21: Easter Sunday

April 28: Divine Mercy Sunday

May 11: Ribs, Chili, Cars, Blues & Brews

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S Priest, Prophet, King PARISH WIDE LENT STUDY



The better we understand Jesus, the better we understand ourselves. But who was Jesus, this itinerant preacher whom many called the Messiah? In Bishop Robert Barron's video series *Priest, Prophet, King*, you'll discover Jesus as the Anointed One—the ultimate priest, prophet, and king foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. Using biblical insights and engaging stories, Bishop Barron affirms that we see Jesus most clearly through the lens of the Old Testament.

Videos in English or Spanish will be delivered free via email or text each week in Lent.

See the registration link in the Friday Flocknote or email Lent@StMichaelLivermore.com

Our Vibrant Ministries!



Thirteen Livermore men attained the fourth and highest degree of the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, February 2, in Rohnert Park. The Livermore contingent comprised an impressive 13 out of the 70 total aspirants for the Exemplification Ceremony from Northern California.

The Livermore group included three seminarians (Juan Carlos Ponce, Paul Park and Ron Pangan), a 21-year old (Luke Gregory), a father-son pair who advanced together (Jeffrey and Christopher Choate) and the Livermore council's 2018 Knight of the Year (Irving Garcia). In addition, Edwin Henriquez, Richard Howes, Alberto Loza, Walter MacInnes, Renato Maranon and Michael Valent advanced to Sir Knight status.

For information about joining our Livermore Knights of Columbus, please visit LivermoreKnights.org



Congratulations to our newly confirmed adults!

Augie Perez, Alween Lim, Alex Blue, Denisse Corral, Andrew Blue, Diego Rodriguez, Mónica Avena, Jonathan Andrade and Cutberto Beltranzizeth Nuñez were sealed with the Holy Spirit this weekend by Bishop Michael Barber Diocese of Oakland.

If you are an adult who is missing the Sacraments of Baptism or First Holy Communion or Confirmation, please contact Marjorie RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com (English group) or Ana at ricast.michaelliv@gmail.com (Spanish group).



We celebrated Scout Sunday with our Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts on February 2. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith. For information about joining Scouting units at St

Michael's, please contact Andre Miron at andremiron@att.net or Vivian Hackett at 716-573-3907.

Administración y nuestras instalaciones parroquiales

"Como cada uno ha recibido un regalo, utilícelo para servir a los demás como buenos administradores de la variada gracia de Dios". (1 Pt 4:10).

Querida familia de San Miguel,

La administración implica salvaguardar nuestros recursos materiales y humanos, respetándolos y usándolos de manera responsable. Significa dar generosamente nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro. Pero ser un mayordomo cristiano significa más, porque como discípulos intencionales de Jesús, tomamos una decisión consciente de seguirlo, sin importar el costo. Experimentamos la conversión (cambios de la mente y el corazón que configuran la vida) y comprometemos toda nuestra vida al Señor. En pocas palabras, nos enamoramos! Y lo que el amor hace mejor es dar. Cuando estamos en una relación con Jesús, reconocemos todos los dones que Él nos da. Estamos agradecidos, y la respuesta natural es retribuir. Por lo tanto, la mayoría es la forma en que respondemos a Jesús en nuestra relación amorosa con él.

Mantener las instalaciones de nuestra parroquia es una señal saludable de que somos discípulos intencionales y buenos administradores de los dones de Dios. ¿Dónde estaríamos sin nuestros espacios físicos, nuestros edificios y terrenos? Nuestras instalaciones son lo que hace que nuestra misión de celebrar los Sacramentos, hacer crecer discípulos y traer a Cristo a las personas sea posible.

En honor a las Hermanas Dominicas que jugaron un papel importante en la formación de fe de los feligreses de Livermore, me complace informar que finalmente hemos terminado las reparaciones, la limpieza y la restauración de nuestro Convento.

A través de su generosidad, más de \$ 50K en mejoras incluyen:

- Pintura exterior e interior.
- Reparaciones del techo
- Nuevos pisos laminados de madera dura en las áreas comunes de arriba y abajo
- Alfombra nueva en dormitorios y salas de reuniones.
- Amplio espacio para salas de reuniones y suites renovadas para invitados del clero y religiosos.
- Reparaciones al sistema de calefacción.
- Ventanas agregadas a todas las oficinas, capilla y salas de reuniones.

El próximo fin de semana, de 8:00 am a 2:00 pm, me gustaría invitarlo a cruzar la calle para hacer un recorrido y ver por sí mismo lo que nuestros generosos donantes a la Campaña de la Capital Diocesana han hecho posible.

Nuestro próximo enfoque en el proyecto serán los estacionamientos en la iglesia y la escuela. Estoy seguro de que has notado los pozos y el asfalto que se está desintegrando, especialmente cuando llueve. Reparar y renovar nuestros estacionamientos descuidados será un gran gasto, pero es necesario para la salud a largo plazo de los terrenos de nuestra parroquia.

A todos los que han contribuido, y a todos los que continuarán con-

tribuyendo, a la colecta del 1er domingo de mantenimiento y mejora y para la Campaña de la Capital Diocesana, GRACIAS! Sus generosas donaciones están siendo aprovechadas.

Gracias también a quienes han contribuido a nuestra Campaña del Obispo del 2018. Me uno a ustedes y les pido humildemente al comenzar este mes para la Campaña de Apelación del Obispo del 2019. Oro para que todos seamos generosos con los proyectos especiales y los ministerios de nuestro Obispo. Estos esfuerzos incluyen el cuidado de nuestros sacerdotes jubilados, la educación de catequistas y seminaristas, la ayuda para escuelas con dificultades financieras y el apoyo para programas de caridad dirigidos por nuestras Caridades Católicas del Este de la Bahía

¡Estoy muy agradecido y orgulloso de la generosidad mostrada en St Michael Parish! Ruego que a medida que continuamos creciendo como discípulos, también crezcamos al darnos a nosotros mismos, apoyando nuestros programas parroquiales, nuestra escuela y los esfuerzos del ministerio. ¡No vacilemos en nuestro amor a Cristo al responder a las necesidades de los demás!

Que Dios le bendiga a usted y a sus familias.

Padre Carl,
Pastor



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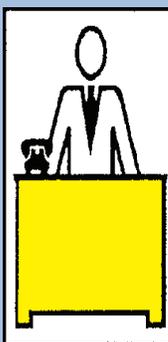
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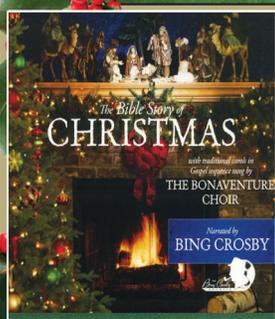
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Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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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

Pastoral Council |

Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair:

Mike Pereira

michaelpereira@comcast.net

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Fidelis

Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist,

Frank Draschner, Jeff Andersen,

Cynthia Garay, Alison Wilke and

Glenda Dubsy.

Finance Council |

Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair:

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Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Edna

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Vanessa Suarez and Erleene

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925-344-7150 Adultos



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Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen Parochial Vicar Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4053
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