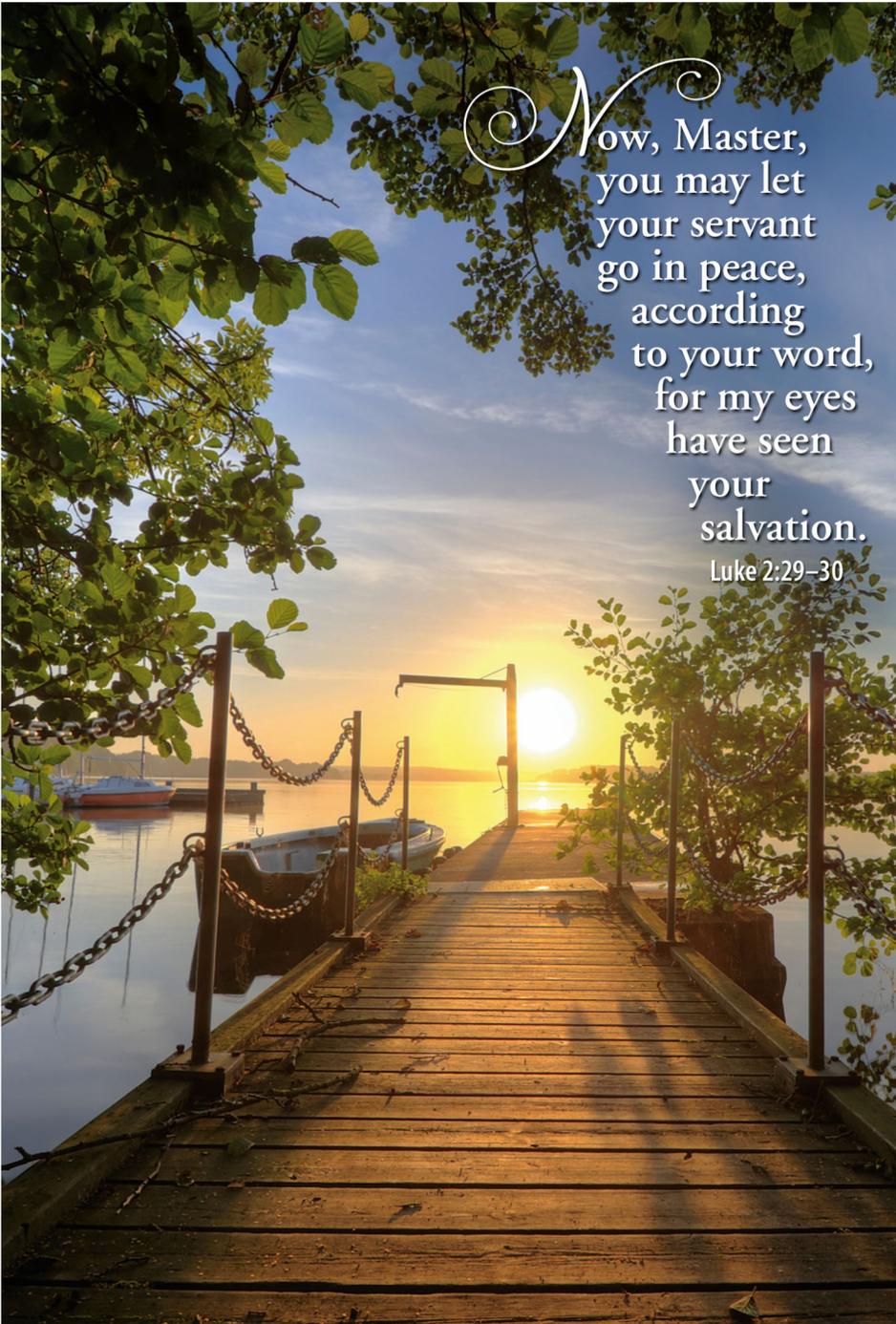




ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, February 2, 2020 | The Presentation of the Lord



Now, Master,
you may let
your servant
go in peace,
according
to your word,
for my eyes
have seen
your
salvation.
Luke 2:29-30

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

Summary

When Joseph and Mary came to the Temple forty days after Jesus was born in order to fulfill the ritual of the presentation of the firstborn, Mary was adjusting to life with a new baby and a husband. She probably wasn't thinking about all the struggles and hard times that would lie ahead for her baby boy.

At least not until Simeon comes up to her and tells her that her son is destined for the fall and rise of many and that a sword will pierce her own heart, causing profound suffering. At that moment Mary might have begun to wonder just what she had agreed to when she had said "yes" to the angel's request a little less than a year before. As Simeon, and later Anna, spoke to her, Mary must have begun to realize that, as Venerable Fulton Sheen put it, "from that moment on, every time she would lift infant hands, she would see fall across them the shadow of nails."

In her role as Jesus' first and most perfect disciple, Mary shows us that the suffering lies at the heart of being a Christian. Almost from the moment of his birth, she was aware of his ultimate destiny. She was willing to follow her son to the cross. Are we willing to follow him to our own Calvary?

First Reading Reflection Malachi 3:1-4

This passage from Malachi at

times in the liturgy is applied to John the Baptist: "Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me"; and at other times—as on this Feast of the Presentation—to our Lord himself: "Suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek." Both the one who goes before and the One who comes after are referred to as a "messenger." Of course, St. John the Baptist is the first mes-



senger of the "messenger of the covenant," which John foretells and which Jesus fulfills.

Interestingly, Malachi, the name of this prophet whose text we are reading, also means "my messenger." This reminds us that each of us is to serve in this same kind of prophetic role in the world in which we find ourselves. Each of us, as a part of the pleasing sacrifice to the Lord that our new covenant lives present, is to prepare for the Lord's coming in the lives of others by testifying to his coming into the temple of the Holy Spirit, which we are! Our experience of faith often includes refinement in the fires of temptation, and the moral purification from sin that is like the lye applied to cleanse and whiten wool. Once tried and tested and so refined, we can shine like silver or gold before those who need a testimony as

to the eternal value of life in Christ.

Second Reading Reflection Hebrews 2:14-18

In our second reading we find the same principle that we found in our first. Jesus himself was tested and suffered to win the possibility of our own purification. In so doing, he unites himself directly with each one of us. And that is, in a certain sense, the very substance of what we celebrate on this feast. God himself, the One entirely beyond time, enjoying the eternal peace of his immutable beatitude deigns to enter the realm of change. He comes down from the divine rest to enter into our human restlessness. Embedded, as we are, in the realm of matter and change, we are subject to constant change—the change of incline, of growth, as well as the change of decline, of death.

While we tend to see these as opposites (and they can be and often are), Jesus makes the ultimate decline, the decline into death, a ladder to life. That is what happens when divinity meets humanity. Humanity, even in its worse dimensions, is immeasurably altered by that which is unchanging. The mutable changes to immutability, the mortal rises to immortality, death is made the doorway to life unending. In the Presentation of this Child in the Temple, we are being presented with a gift that surpasses even the innocent beauty of a new human life being borne in the arms of its

mother and offered in thanks back to the God who gave it. We are presented with more than just the gift of a mother's love and gratitude to God for her son; we are presented with the Gift of God's own Son to that Mother and through her to all of her children. In fact, it is a mutual presentation in which she gives back to him, for us, what he has given to her, for us.

Gospel Reflection

Luke 2:22-40

Luke paints a remarkable scene for us. A soft footfall on the pavement of the Temple interrupts the cacophony of official and private prayers, said or sung in Hebrew, as a couple approaches the small altar where the offerings of the poor are made. Then the Passover of the firstborn of Israel during the tenth plague of Egypt is recalled by an offering of the first fruits of the womb. But unlike all the other ransomings of the firstborn of Israel in this Temple, which have been symbols or recollections of the older Passover or ransoming, this offering and ransom is the event of which all the others were merely prophecies. All the offerings made on sand-scoured desert altars or barren heights, all the offerings made in the echoing chambers

of this Temple—through thousands of years—point only to this offering, which passes through the hands of a poor provincial girl.

Perhaps she knows that her offering is really his offering and that its fulfillment is yet to come. In this first representation of the new and eternal sacrifice, which will be offered until the end of time in the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed by Anna, and by Simeon in his hymn of answered faith and hope fulfilled; and then a Jewish priest, whose name is entirely lost to us, but whose very anonymity is itself a type for all the Christian priests to come, becomes the first to hold the Christ aloft an altar before the faithful who await the redemption of Jerusalem, as we do today at our Mass. And in that moment we see that the One that Mary and Joseph ransom for a pair of birds, has, in fact, ransomed us all.

Reflect & Discuss

Watch the short Opening the Word video on FORMED.org for the Presentation of the Lord. Then reflect upon these questions and discuss them with friends:

Why does the presenter say Mary would initially have been comforted when she heard Simeon's first part of the prophecy? Why would her happiness have immediately been tinged with sorrow?

Why is the Presentation in the Temple sometimes called Mary's second Annunciation?

How does Mary show us the way to accept the inevitable crosses of our lives?

Digging Deeper: Anna and Simeon

When Jesus was presented in the Temple, he was recognized as the Messiah by both Simeon and Anna. Interestingly their reactions are quite different. Once he saw the Messiah, Simeon was ready to go in peace to God. Anna, on the other hand, began telling everyone who was looking for the redemption of Israel about the child (Luke 2:38). In this regard, she is one of the first to bear witness to Christ. She is called a "prophetess" in Luke 2:36, the only woman in the New Testament to be specifically called by that term.

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FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

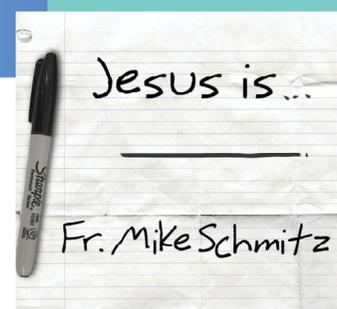
In this talk by Fr. Mike Schmitz, he reveals the incredible implications of the question that Christ asks all of us: "Who do YOU say that I Am?"

Jesus is...

By Father Mike Schmitz

LISTEN ON FORMED.ORG

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PRAY

Mass Intentions

Saturday 2/1

8:30am Elaine Howard †
5:00pm Mark Dierking †
7:00pm Domingo & Albertina
Madera †

Sunday 2/2

6:45am Russell Mueller †
8:00am Michael Marcotte
9:30am Rob Lindquist †
11:00am Virginia Bettencourt
William Milne †
Stella Jesudoss †
Frank Texiera †
Mr & Mrs Andrew Loyola †
12:30pm Elisa Gonzales †
Rosalinda Beltran †
6:00pm The Moriarty Family

Monday 2/3

8:30am Frank Bonde †

Tuesday 2/4

8:30am Robert Lindquist †

Wednesday 2/5

8:30am Leovigildo DelaRosa †
7:00pm Jovita Carino †

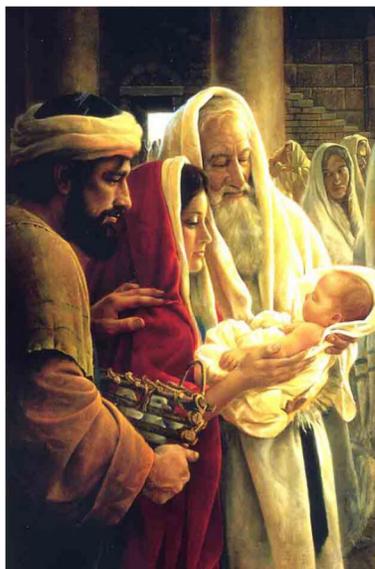
Thursday 2/6

8:30am Michael & Robert Fuchs †

Friday 2/7

8:30am Jesus Jr, Francisco and
Ely Llacer †

***The 11:00 am Mass on the first
Sunday of the month is a
communal Mass with several
intentions.***



The child's
father and
mother were
amazed at
what was said
about him.

Prayer

Imagine that you are in the Temple when Mary and Joseph arrive with Jesus. You see Simeon approach and allude to the prophecies from Isaiah about the coming of Israel's redeemer. You look at the baby in Mary's arms. What do you think? Do you believe that it is possible that this child could be the Messiah? Next, you hear Simeon's stark words about the opposition the child will face and the suffering Mary will endure as a result. What enters your mind when you realize that accepting Jesus as the Messiah also means accepting the sword and the cross?

Resolution

This week take some time to consider that accepting Jesus as the Messiah always means accepting the crosses that are to come. What cross are you carrying right now that you can offer to Jesus?

Special Intentions

For our guests at Alpha whom we will meet on February 10, that they experience a powerful encounter with Jesus, supported and loved by our entire parish.

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

Alpha isn't a program. It's a culture shift.

Matthew Kelly, motivational speaker, author and founder of the Dynamic Catholic Institute, is fond of saying, "Our Lives Change When Our Habits Change." Similarly, we can also say that "Our Parish Changes When Our Habits Change". And habits, repeated consistently by a significant number of people, change a culture.

What culture exists at St. Michael? As we can observe, we are strong in the culture of prayer, traditional devotions and the celebration of the sacraments. We are also improving in the culture of catechesis, as seen in our faith formation and enrichment opportunities for children, teens and adults.

However, there is one big challenge and opportunity for growth: Evangelization.

Every one of us at St Michael's can do better at inviting others into our community and into a relationship with Jesus. How often have we extended an invitation to loved ones, friends and acquaintances to be active in their Christian faith and greater involvement in the church? Tragically, there are countless number of people right here in Livermore who may be waiting for an invitation to explore the faith, and we haven't reached out to them. St Michael family, the mission of the Church is to form missionary disciples. It is our reason for existing as a parish community. This is where we need the most improvement.

Let me be clear that evangelization is not the same thing as catechesis. Catechetical programs explain and teach the details of our faith as seen in RCIA, Sacrament preparation classes, guest speakers and faith studies. Catechesis is obviously a very important ministry. However, one can only effectively catechize to people who have already heard the good news – the kerygma. Evangelization leads people toward the desire to know more. Therefore, catechesis comes AFTER evangelization.

Alpha meets people at the evangelization stage of their journey, often before they are ready to hear all the teaching of the faith. It is designed to embrace radical hospitality, a welcoming culture based upon the very deeds of Jesus who welcomed sinners, strangers, outcasts into His community. At Alpha, we invite guests to a no-pressure, informal dinner. Then we watch an engaging video on the basics of Christianity, followed by time to share thoughts with a small group. We treat all guests with respect, honoring wherever they are in the spiritual path, fiercely trusting that the Holy Spirit does the job of transforming hearts.

Some guests at Alpha are already Christian or are practicing Catholics. But often Christians and Catholics know "about" Jesus, but don't "know" Jesus. Also, there are many parishioners who just come to Mass on Sunday and do not have a smaller community of friends. Alpha is the perfect place



for people in these situations, to experience community and encounter Jesus in maybe a new way.

Hence, Alpha is not a program. It is a means to cultivating a parish-wide culture of hospitality, inviting people outside our community to the inside.

How can we become part of Alpha?

1. Invite friends and family members who don't know Jesus, have been away from the church or who are looking to feel better connected in a small group to come to Alpha.
2. Sign up to volunteer on a Monday to set up and greet, wash dishes or clean up.
3. Join me every Monday at 5 pm in the Chapel for a Holy Hour for our Alpha guests.
4. Make a financial contribution to help offset the cost of hosting eleven dinners.

Our goal is for St Michael's to be the place where anyone can feel at home, feel loved and have a chance to explore the faith. Thank you for joining the process of shifting our culture.

May God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

CONNECT



Welcome, Fr Ryan Dellota

We are excited to have Fr Ryan join our St Michael community. He will be in residence for the next several years. Fr Ryan graduated with a Bachelor of Sacred Theology at the University of Santo Tomas, España Manila, Philippines. He was ordained a priest on November 9, 2019, which was also his 26th birthday. He loves playing basketball and eating good food!

[Fr Ryan needs a car to fulfill his pastoral duties in our community.](mailto:RyanDellota@StMichaelLivermore.com) If you have a car that you are not using, please consider helping. Contact him at RyanDellota@StMichaelLivermore.com



Preparing for Sacraments

With prayers of joy and thanksgiving, we welcomed Sofia, Enrique, Maximo, Edwin, Deledt, Danielle, Giovanni and Jackie in the Rite of Acceptance. This Rite officially names them as “Catechumen”, the Church’s designation for those who have entered the formal process toward Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Please keep our catechumens in your daily prayers as they prepare to join the Body of Christ.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which adults prepare for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Those age 18 and over, contact RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com. Those age 7-18, contact Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com



Thank You, from Fr Carl

Thank you so much, dear friends and parishioners for your thoughtfulness! You showered me with beautiful Christmas cards, greetings, prayers and gifts. I also thank all those who celebrated Simbang Gabi, Our Lady of Guadalupe and our other Advent celebrations. May God bless and reward you with bountiful blessings.

Fr. Carl Arcosa

1/27/20	\$14,464.21
Month-to-Date	\$84,322.31
Month Goal	\$84,941.18
Percentage Reached	99%
Faith Direct	\$11,496.00
Maintenance (for January)	\$8,241.19
Seminary	\$3,748.04

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.

If St Michael’s is your home parish and you have not yet set up regular contributions, please visit the Church Office or call 925-447-1585. You can receive traditional offertory envelopes or you can give electronically safely at FaithDirect.net (church code CA602).

INVITE

WHO WILL YOU INVITE?

As Fr Carl mentioned in his letter on page 5, we are all called to share our faith with others. Alpha is an easy way. Just invite someone to dinner on February 10 at 6:30 pm in the Hall.

Together we will share a meal in a relaxed, informal environment. Then we will watch an engaging video talk about the basics of Christianity. The first topic is "Is there more to life than this?" Then there will be an opportunity for discussion with your tablemates, where no one will be judged, corrected, shamed or preached at. Seriously!

At Alpha we allow everyone to be heard. Alpha is about creating a safe place for guests to gently explore life's biggest questions. Catechesis—teaching and guiding and correcting—comes later in other ministries. We radically trust that the Holy Spirit will do miraculous work in the hearts of our guests.

Tips for inviting:

- Don't say "no" for them.
- Make it sound fun and exciting.
- Don't overcomplicate it.
- Just invite to the first night on February 10 (let them decide to continue or not).

ALPHA GUEST REGISTRATION

Alpha is free, but so that we can plan the meal, please register you and your guests at StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha or point your iPhone camera at this code and tap the pop up link:



BE A PART OF ALPHA

JOIN THE TEAM!



FR CARL WANTS EVERYONE TO BE INVOLVED SOMEHOW

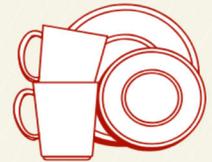
HOLY HOUR FOR ALPHA



Join Fr Carl in the Adoration Chapel on Mondays from 5:00 - 6:00 pm to pray for our Alpha guests by name. Can't make it on Mondays? Sign up to get an emailed list of prayer requests for your private prayer.

WASH DISHES

In an effort to be Earth friendly, we are avoiding disposable place settings. Sign up to wash dishes on as many Monday nights as you like. Arrive by 7:30 pm (done by 8:30 pm)



CLEAN UP CREW



Help reset the Hall for the next day by putting away tables and chairs, taking out the garbage and sweeping. Sign up for as many Monday nights as you like. Arrive by 8:30 pm (done by 9:30 pm)

SET UP AND GREET

Help set the tables with table cloths, then warmly greet guests. Sign up for as many Monday nights as you like. Arrive by 5:30 pm (done by 6:45 pm)



MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT



Your donation of any size will go toward offsetting the cost for supplies, for the guests' day retreat.

Sign up today with Tina or Jacqueline at Alpha@StMichaelLivermore.com or 925-667-4051

JOIN



Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Training

Attend either February 4 at 6:30 pm OR February 8 at 9:30 am in the Church. Volunteers are needed for every Mass. Please register at StMichaelLivermore.com/EM

Prison Ministry Open Enrollment

Join us on February 7 at 7:00 pm at St Elizabeth Seaton in Pleasanton for an introductory meeting to present this important ministry and to ask questions. Contact Rachael at 510-501-1411.

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest

Help us make simple dresses for girls in poverty-stricken countries. Meet us on Saturday, February 8 anytime from 9 am to 3 pm in the Hall. Contact Suzanne Beck at 925-352-8447.

Exodus 90 Info Meeting

Men, come find out more about Exodus 90 on Friday, February 9 at 7:00 pm OR Saturday, February 8 at 1:00 pm.

Exodus 90 is a ninety-day spiritual exercise for men based on three pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. All three of these pillars are essential aspects of the Christian life. It is for this reason that taking up this spiritual exercise requires taking up all three of these pillars both simultaneously and humbly. We plan to start on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Contact Carl Biscevic at cbiscevic@gmail.com

Mass in Tagalog

All are invited to celebrate Mass in Tagalog with our Filipino Community on Sunday, February 16 at 3:30 pm, followed by a reception in the Hall.

Music Ministry Benefit Concert

Mark your calendars for Friday, February 21 at 7:00 pm to be wowed by all of our St Michael choirs in concert in the Church. Your generous donations are graciously accepted. All proceeds to benefit purchase of digital equipment (iPads, digital music and software) for our music ministry to go "paperless". Thank you for supporting our efforts to become more efficient and ecologically responsible.

Faith Study: No Greater Love

Just in time for Lent, all are welcome to the faith study No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion. We will meet on Thursdays, February 20 - March 19 at 6:30 pm in the Convent. Please purchase your materials in advance here: <http://bit.ly/NoGreaterLoveStudy>

Ash Wednesday

February 26 is the first day of Lent. This year, there will be no "ash services". Only Masses.

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)



El matrimonio: hecho para el amor y la vida

Este programa puede ser utilizado con la guía de estudio para entender el significado único del matrimonio a través de la reflexión sobre cinco temas: la diferencia sexual y la complementariedad, los hijos, el bien común, la libertad religiosa y las personas que experimentan atracción por el mismo sexo.

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formed.org

Recomendaciones Adicionales

Audio: ¿Nos amamos o nos usamos?

Leer: Pureza y Sexualidad

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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. Ray Dellota, in residence
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

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