



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA
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St Michael School
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Second Rite of Scrutiny



MARCH
11 2018

"He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."

John 9: 15

When there are Elect in the parish participating in the Scrutiny Rites during the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the whole community journeys with them, hearing from Cycle A readings at all Masses. We hear the gospel stories of The Woman at the Well, The Man Born Blind and Lazarus, reflecting on our own conversion and praying for the Elect.

The Man Born Blind

On the surface, today's Gospel would appear to be about the physical healing of a blind man, but underneath lies a play on the word "sight." In this event, Jesus is challenging those around him, including his own disciples, to "see" the world in a new way. He points out to them...and to us...that it is entirely too easy to operate with a set of false assumptions; to be "blind" to the things of God in our lives.

Like those in this account, we can think we are seeing clearly, but in fact we are blinded by our own assumptions, prejudices, and egos. Of all the characters in the story of the blind man, the only one who has the gift of true sight is the blind man himself who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah.

In this reading, we are called to ask ourselves if we see things the way God sees them or if we are looking through the eyes of the world; to examine where we might be blind spiritually; where we are looking at appearances, not reality. As God says to the prophet Samuel in the first reading: "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."

This Gospel reminds us that the way

we see best is through the eyes of faith, for then we see the world the way God sees it. But first we have to recognize that without Jesus, we are truly blind.

First Reading Reflection

Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In this passage, God directs Samuel to take up his horn of oil and go to Bethlehem where he will point out the future King of Israel. The horn was in itself loaded with significance. The ram's horn was blown as a signal in

war and to announce religious events. Jewish lore suggests that its use in signaling the morning and evening sacrifices stems from Genesis 22 where Abraham finds a ram caught in a thicket, which God has provided as a substitute sacrifice for his son, Isaac. The horn is also a symbol of authority for the prophets Zedekiah and Zechariah. David was anointed from the horn of Samuel and then received the authority of kingship.

In the Gospel of Luke, Zechariah is struck dumb for doubting the prophecy of the Messiah and doesn't speak again until the birth of John.

At this time, he says, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he...has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David" (Luke 1:68-69). The anointing from the horn of the prophet Samuel of the first king of the house of David is loaded with significance for those of us who profess Jesus as the horn of our salvation and the anointed one of God.

Second Reading Reflection

Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul explains in this passage not simply a Christian perspective toward immorality but a universal psychological principle. St. Ignatius makes a similar point in his *Spiritual Exercises* in saying that the devil will always tempt us to keep our sins secret. Sins that go unconfessed tend to grow in us.

What remains in the dark cannot be seen for what it is. Of course, neither Paul nor Ignatius would say that our sins should be made public. No Christian is required to make a public confession of sins. Some choose to do so as part of a healing process or to make restitution with a public witness of their repentance because they've been public in their sin.

Confessing sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is good for the soul because it dissipates our exaggerated illusions as to either the insignificance or the gravity of our sins. When confessed, all sins appear for what they are, too miserable to



weigh us down. Some sins are slight, some are grave; but when we hide them we lose the capacity to judge which is which. The very light that we shine on our sins in confessing them purifies us and turns us away from sin. As St. Paul says, "All that then appears is light."

Gospel Reflection

John 9:1-41

This section of John's Gospel focuses on the division that Jesus has engendered among those who follow him and those who don't. The argument between the factions runs like this: Because Jesus had supposedly violated the Sabbath by making clay, which he used to smear the man's eyes, the Pharisees claim that Jesus couldn't be from God. That is, if Jesus is a sinner, he shouldn't be able to work miracles. They question the man born blind and his parents and find that he was indeed born blind. So they must call into question that it was Jesus who gave him sight. Failing in that, they can only throw the formerly blind man out of the synagogue since they can't deny that Jesus must have healed him and therefore must be God.

Some say this story would've spoken directly to the position of the Jewish Christians who'd been put out of the synagogues themselves at the time that John's Gospel was written. This story would've given them hope that their separation from the synagogue wasn't a sign of their having been cut off from God, but the necessary result of Jesus' mission "to make the sightless see and the seeing blind."

The Scrutiny Rites

"The scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by an exorcism, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect [those preparing for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist]; to bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the

conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all" (RCIA No. 141).

Essentially these rites are composed of prayers of intercession and the laying on of hands so that the Holy Spirit may be invoked and the spirit of evil cast out. They are celebrated purposefully at Mass, so that the whole congregation is given the opportunity to pray for and support those preparing for the Easter sacraments and to make the point that conversion is not only a personal matter but a communal commitment.

Please particularly pray for the members of the Elect at St Michael's:

Heather Caley
Francisco Rodriguez
Ema Padilla
Konia Nava
Evelin Ramirez
Magali Manjarrez

And all the Elect in parishes worldwide.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

The Trials of Saint Patrick

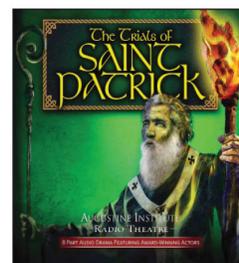
Augustine Institute Radio Theatre

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Mass Intentions

Saturday 3/10

8:30am Fernando Castro †
5:00pm Gino DiFazio †
7:00pm Darryl Johnson †

Sunday 3/11

6:45am Jim & Neva d'Antonio †
8:00am Fernando Castro †
9:30am Pat Mueller †
The Mueller & Piazza Family
11:00am Pastar & Lydia Tugade
12:30pm Ruby Soto
6:00pm Napoleon Esperanza †

Monday 3/12

8:30am Mathilde & Antone Gapp †

Tuesday 3/13

8:30am Jacob Dayton
Mary Zaczek †

Wednesday 3/14

8:30am Jose Saul Ramirez Montoya †

Thursday 3/15

8:30am Teresa Santin
Aileen Bacigalupi †

Friday 3/16

8:30am Frank Megue †

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



Today's Gospel contains the beautiful story of Jesus healing the man who was born blind and his subsequent profession of faith. Let us now approach Jesus in prayer.

PRAYER:

Imagine that you are with the blind man who was cured when Jesus comes to find him. You hear Jesus ask, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" and you hear the man respond, "I do believe, Lord." Now see Jesus turn toward you and ask you the same question. Do you believe that Jesus is truly the Son of Man? How do you respond to Jesus? What do you think he might say to you in return?

RESOLUTION:

We all need to ask ourselves the hard questions about our beliefs so that we can grow and mature in our faith. This week, consider Jesus' question, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" and ask that he help you come to a greater understanding of who he really is and that you live your life more in union with him.

Parish Prayer Requests

For the members of the Elect in our community: Heather Caley, Francisco Rodriguez, Ema Padilla, Konina Nava, Evelin Ramirez, Magali Manjarrez.

For candidates who are preparing to complete their initiation sacraments at Easter.

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





Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Be a Catechist!

- 10. The best way to learn is to teach.** If your own faith education ended years ago, the resources and materials you are exposed to as a catechist will surely refresh and expand your own knowledge.
- 9. Catechists tell the truth.** The world needs the message of the Gospel and the way to true happiness; as a catechist, you offer a hungry world that sustenance.
- 8. Sharing the faith is an honor.** It's estimated that fewer than 1 percent of Catholics are catechists.
- 7. Your own faith will come alive.** As a catechist, you will discover that prayer, liturgy and your own relationship with God will become more vibrant and meaningful.

- 6. You become an active part of the most active part of your parish.** When you join the catechists in your parish, you enter into a community that will support you on your faith journey, pray for and with you and encourage you in your Catholic way of life.
- 5. A catechist is a role model.** As a catechist, you get to model behaviors young people might not learn anywhere else.
- 4. You will be practicing stewardship.** Being a catechist is a way of being a good steward by giving a bit of your most precious resource -- your time.
- 3. You show your own family that you value religious education.** Taking time out of your life to teach the faith shows your own children, grandchildren, siblings and family members

that you put a high priority on religious education.

2. It's fun. Kids remind adults to live and laugh in the moment and get enthused about things like holy days and stories of saints.

1. It's what we are called to do. At the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus said: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations."

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Is God Calling YOU?

Become a Catechist for the St Michael's Faith Formation 2018-2019 year! Please contact Lourdes in the Faith Formation Office at 925-667-4096 or email at Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com

Collection Report

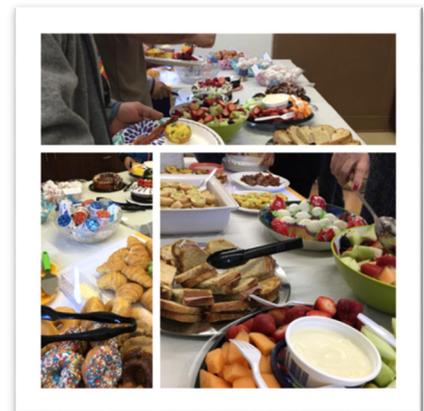
Thank you for your continued support!

If St Michael's is your home parish, and you have not yet set up regular offerings, please call the Church Office 925-447-1585.

3/4/18 Collection	\$19,325.31
Month-to-Date	\$19,325.31
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
Percentage Reached	22%
Faith Direct	
Maintenance for March	\$6,345.28

We Welcomed Nine New Families!

...who have joined our community at February's Welcome Brunch. If you are new to St. Michael's or just want to get connected, join us on Sunday, March 25th in the hall after the 9:30 am Mass.



This Week

MONDAY, MAR 12

Readings: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Suggestion:

Stop by the Adoration Chapel this week. Just sit quietly and bask in Jesus' presence!

THURSDAY, MAR 15

Readings: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Event:

Catholic Charities of the East Bay Transforming Lives Tour at 10:15 am Large Hall. Hear what CCEB does for legal immigration and refugee re-settlement services, homelessness prevention, Claire's House for trafficked minors, behavioral health services for youth and grief counseling for victims of crime.

SUNDAY, MAR 18

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings (YEAR A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Events:

Third (and final) Scrutiny at the 9:30 am Mass. Please continue to particularly pray for our Elect as they enter the final days of preparation for Baptism at the Easter Vigil:

Heather Caley
Francisco Rodriguez
Ema Padilla
Konia Nava
Evelin Ramirez
Magali Manjarrez

TUESDAY, MAR 13

Readings: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Suggestion:

Go back to the Friday Flocknote and watch Bishop Robert Barron's video *What Can We Know about Angels*. Leave a comment with your thoughts.

FRIDAY, MAR 16

Abstain from Meat

Readings: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Event:

Knights of Columbus Fish Taco Friday from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm at St Michael's.

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm in the Church.

WEDNESDAY, MAR 14

Readings: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Events:

St Michael School Welcome Wednesday Tour at 8:30 am. Come see what a difference a Catholic education makes!

SATURDAY, MAR 17

Saint Patrick

Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Events:

Confession after the 8:30 am Mass and at 3:45 pm in English, 6:15 pm in Spanish.

St Patrick's Day Dinner at 6 pm in the Large Hall, sponsored by Grief Support and Knights of Columbus.

Golden Friends Prayer Luncheon

Pray, have fun, enjoy great food and the community of friends!



Join us on Friday March 23 at 10 am in the Hall

Fr. Alfred celebrated our Mass at our last luncheon. A particularly meaningful part of his homily was his advice: "don't dwell on the past, leave the past behind." Thank you, Fr. Alfred!

Feel "too young" to join Golden Friends? Why not bring your mom or dad to lunch, and you can join us too! RSVP by Wednesday, March 21st to Mary Pineda 925-784-1812

Palm Sunday



Saturday, March 24

We commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His Passion.

Vigil Mass
5:00 pm English.
7:00 pm Spanish.

Mass begins outside in the courtyard with the Proclamation of the Gospel, blessing of palms and procession.

Sunday, March 25

6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am and 6:00 pm in English.
12:30 pm in Spanish.
4:00 pm in Vietnamese.



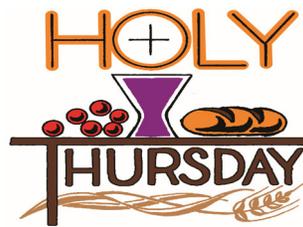
Holy Saturday

Saturday, March 31

We solemnly wait for the Lord. If able, we continue the Good Friday fast and abstain from meat until the Easter Vigil.

8:30 am: Morning Prayer in the Church.

10:00 am: Blessing of Easter Food in Conference Room.



Thursday, March 28

We celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and the institution of the priesthood.

8:30 am: Morning Prayer in the Church.

5:30 pm: The Adoration Chapel closes, and will re-open Mon, April 2.

6:00 pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper in English.

8:00 pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper in Spanish.

Eucharistic Adoration in the Parish Hall after Mass.



Saturday, March 31

He is Risen! This is the first celebration of the Resurrection.

6:00 pm: Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter in English.

10:00 pm: Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter in Spanish.

Both Easter Vigil Masses will begin in the courtyard. Mass will last approximately 3 hours, as adults are Baptized, Confirmed and receive First Communion.



Friday, March 30

We walk with Jesus through His passion. We fast and abstain from meat. Mass is not celebrated anywhere in the world.

8:30 am
Morning Prayer in the Church.

4:00 pm
Stations of the Cross Passion Play.

5:30 pm
Good Friday Service in English.

6:00 pm
Bilingual Living Stations of the Cross in the School Courtyard.

8:00 pm
Good Friday Service in Spanish.



Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 1

He is Risen! Celebrate the morning of the Resurrection.

In the Church:

5:30 am: Mass at Sunrise
6:45 am: Mass without Music
8:00 am: Mass with Cantor
9:30 am: Mass with Children's Choir
11:00 am: Mass with Chamber Choir
12:30 pm: Mass in Spanish

In the Parish Hall:

8:15 am, 9:45 am and 11:15 am.

More Upcoming Events

Living the Faith Easter Mission Workshop

6:30 pm in the Hall

Knowing the Catholic Faith is one thing, but what about living it? For our Easter Mission Workshop, Symbolon: Living the Faith will answer that question by exploring how Jesus gave us the Sacraments, the Mass, and the rich treasures of Church teaching to enliven our faith and bring vibrancy to our Catholic lives. With experienced and insightful teaching from top presenters, complemented by beautiful cinematography from around the world, Symbolon: Living the Faith touches on all aspects of our lives for authentic spiritual growth and development.



Thursday, April 12—Session 1: Baptism and Confirmation

Most of us are familiar with the word "sacrament." We participate in sacramental rites often as Catholics. But do we understand what a sacrament is—and what it means for us and our everyday lives?

Thursday, April 19—Session 2: The Eucharist

It looks like bread and wine, yet it is called the Real Presence of Jesus. It is also called the Eucharist, but many Catholics would struggle to explain what that word means.

Thursday, April 26—Session 3: Walk Through the Mass

Every Sunday, Catholics gather together to celebrate the Mass. But do we understand the deeper meaning of what happens there? Now we can.

(Spanish version will be held on Fridays on April 6, 13, 20 at 7:00 pm in the Hall)

A Biblical Walk through the Mass

Tuesdays, May 1-29 at 7:00 pm in English

Thursdays, May 3-31 at 7:00 pm in Spanish

In the Ed Center Conference Room (upstairs at St Michael School)

This 5-week study explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience in the liturgy and explains their profound significance. This intriguing look at the Mass is sure to renew your faith and deepen your devotion to the Eucharist.

Register at Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com

Bishop Robert Barron's Study on the Eucharist

Apr 28-May 26 ONLINE

Bishop Barron offers inspiring insights into the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives and the centrality of the Eucharist as an important part of that presence. This fresh look at the Eucharist brings to light its reality as sacred meal, the sacrifice necessary for communion with God, and the Real Presence of Christ.

THIS IS AN ONLINE COURSE

When you subscribe, you will receive a Flocknote email once per week with a video from Bishop Robert Barron, along with reflection questions. Watch the video at a time convenient for you. Post comments and questions on each note.

April 28: Introduction

May 5: Sacred Meal

May 12: Sacrifice

May 19: Real Presence Part 1

May 26: Real Presence Part 2

To subscribe, email

Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com

Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism

April 30—June 11

7:00 pm in the Ed Center Conf Room

Using the Old Testament Tabernacle as a blueprint for God's plan, gain an understanding of some of the most questioned Catholic teachings and reignite your love of Scripture.

Register with Ron Hauck at: rphauck@aol.com

Español

Servicio de Reconciliación de Cuaresma

Martes, 6 de marzo a las 7 p. M. en la iglesia.

Venga y reciba el Sacramento de la Reconciliación (Confesión, Penitencia), para poder celebrar el misterio pascual en el Triduo Pascual con corazones renovados. Este servicio será bilingüe (español / inglés)

Varios sacerdotes de nuestra parroquia y parroquias vecinas estarán presentes para escuchar su Confesión.

Vivir la fé con los talleres de Misión

6, 13 y 20 de abril en el gran salón

Descubrir, o redescubrir, la belleza de los sacramentos del bautismo y la confirmación, la Eucaristía y entender la Misa.

Conocer la fe Católica es una cosa, pero ¿qué tal vivirla? Symbolon: Viviendo la Fe responde a esta pregunta explorando cómo Jesús nos dio los sacramentos, la Misa y los ricos tesoros de la enseñanza de la Iglesia para acelerar nuestra fe y traer vitalidad a nuestras vidas católicas. Con una enseñanza vivida y perspicaz, transmitida por presentadores calificados, complementada con una bella cinematografía filmada en diferentes partes del mundo, Symbolon: Viviendo la Fe abarca todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas para un auténtico crecimiento y desarrollo espiritual.

Día de información de Caballeros de Colón para la comunidad hispana

Nuestros Caballeros de Colón organizarán un Día de Información para la Comunidad Hispana el 18 de marzo de 2:00 a 5:30 PM en el salón grande de St. Michael. Las familias son bienvenidas. Se servirá una comida. Habrá una película para los niños. Los caballeros hispanos explicarán lo que Caballeros de Colón puede ofrecerle a la comunidad hispana, responderán preguntas y recibirán sugerencias de los participantes.

Al concluir el Día de la Información, formaremos una Mesa Redonda de Caballeros Hispanos Livermore. Esta será la primera mesa redonda hispana de la región, un verdadero honor para nuestra comunidad.

Sesión 1: Bautismo y Confirmación
6 de abril a las 7:00 pm en el gran salón

La mayoría de nosotros estamos familiarizados con la palabra "sacramento". Participamos en ritos sacramentales constantemente como Católicos, pero, ¿entendemos lo que es un sacramento?; y, ¿qué sentido tiene para nosotros y para nuestras vidas diarias?

Sesión 2: La Eucaristía
13 de abril a las 7:00 pm en el gran salón

Se ve como pan y vino, pero se le llama la Presencia Real de Jesús. También se le llama la Eucaristía, pero



Domingo de Ramos

Domingo, 25 de marzo

11 AM Nos reuniremos en el patio de la Escuela Parroquial, para salir en procesion hacia el templo. En el recorrido haremos varias representaciones de pasajes biblicos de la vida de Jesus.

A las 12:30 PM iniciaremos la Santa Misa de Domingo de Ramos en el templo.

Viernes Santo

Viernes, 30 de marzo

6 PM Representacion del Via Crucis viviente saliendo de la Escuela Parroquial, hacienda recorrido hacia el templo.

muchos Católicos batallarían para explicar lo que la palabra significa. ¿Qué es lo que los Católicos realmente creen sobre el Cuerpo y la Sangre?; y, ¿por qué se ha convertido en el punto central de la Misa Católica y de la experiencia como Católicos?

Sesión 3: La Explicación de la Misa
20 de abril a las 7:00 pm en el gran salón

Cada domingo, los Católicos se reúnen para celebrar la Misa, pero, ¿entendemos el significado profundo de lo que está sucediendo ahí? Ahora ya podemos.

(La versión en inglés de este mismo taller se realizará los días 12, 19 y 26 de abril a las 6:30 p. M. En el salón)

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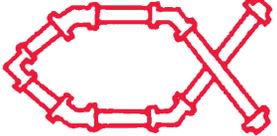
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Information | Información

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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

Sat Vigil | Vigilia del Sábado

5:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm (español)

Sunday | Domingo

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

Sign Language | Lenguaje por Señas

1st Sun, 11:00 am

Primer domingo a las 11:00 am

Vietnamese | Vietnamita

4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

Confession | Confesión

Saturday, in the church |

Sábado en la iglesia

9:00 am & 3:45 pm in English

6:15 pm en español

1st & 3rd Wed in the Convent Chapel,
at 2:30 pm in English

Anointing of the Sick |

Unción de los Enfermos

1st Saturday after 8:30 am Mass or by
appointment: 925-447-1585 |

1er sábado después de las 8:30 am Misa
o con cita previa: 925-447-1585

Eucharistic Adoration |

Adoración Eucarística

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours access
code, call 925-980-4826 |

24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de acceso
después de las horas, llame al 925-980-4826

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 8:30 am—5:00 pm (closed during lunch)

Sun 8:30 am—12:30 pm

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Van Dinh, Pastor

Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar

Rev. David Staal, Associate

Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence

Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Rev. Deacon Bob Vince

Pastoral Council | Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair: Mike Pereira
michaelpereira@comcast.net

Eric Hom, Ricardo Echon, Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Dave Parks, Frank Draschner, Ken Varallo, Irving Garcia, Cynthia Garay and Glenda Dubsy.

Finance Council | Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair: Dave Ruth
daveruth@alrinc.com

Fr. Van Dinh, Eric Hom, Cynthia Garay, Edna McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa Suarez

St. Michael School | Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smliv.org

Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-453-6494 Niños



Deacon Dave Rezendes, 925-447-1585
Temporary Administrator

Fr Van Dinh, Pastor
(on administrative leave)

Fr Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar 925-667-4053

Eric Hom, Business 925-667-4052

Deacon Bill Archer 925-667-4056

Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper 925-667-4058

Church Front Office 925-447-1585

School Front Office 925-447-1888

Lourdes Kay, Faith Formation 925-667-4096

Priscilla Stutzman, DRE 925-667-4097

Joseph Garcia, Youth Minister 925-667-4093

Tina Gregory, Communication/Adult Enrichment 925-667-4051

JaNet Hancock, Music 925-292-5071

Debbie Pizzato, Liturgy 925-667-4095

Marjorie Melendez, RCIA 925-447-2925

Ana Fregoso, RICA 925-344-7150