



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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MARCH 3, 2019

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JESUS SAID:

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit,
nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.
For every tree is known by its own fruit.”

~ Luke 6:43 - 44

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Unpack the Mass Readings—pages 2-3
- Fr Carl on Preparing for Lent—page 5
- Ash Wednesday Mass Times—page 6
- Upcoming Events—page 7
- St Michael Rainbow—page 8

Bear Fruit

This week's Gospel reading is all about examining what kind of fruit we are bearing in our lives right now. Consider your marriage, your family, your friendships. Think also of your workplace, your parish, your community. Most of all, ponder your moral and spiritual life—your relationship with God. What good fruit are you bearing in these areas of your life? Is there any bad fruit that needs to be removed?

Jesus tells us that the true test of a disciple is fruit bearing. Just as every tree is known by its fruit, so every disciple is known by the fruit he or she produces. And that fruit begins to grow in our hearts.

As we invite the Lord into our hearts, he begins the work of transformation within us. He tills the soil, and plants good seeds of faith. Those seeds grow in us as we deepen our relationship with him and grow to bear great fruit in us. And as we will see in today's reflection, the "fertilizer" for that fruit is all the day-to-day circumstances of our lives: our trials, our difficulties, our opportunities to practice patience, generosity, humility, and forgiveness. These seemingly small, insignificant circumstances we encounter every day are what God wants to use to help us grow and bear good fruit.

Unpack the First Reading Sirach 27:4-7

This brief reading from Sirach illustrates with three images how

a man's heart is known by his speech: The sieve catches useless husks of grain, so does a man's speech catch his faults. A furnace refines or tests the quality of a potter's clay, as does conversation test a man. And as the quality of the fruit from a tree shows the care the tree received, so do the words of a man show the care he has given his heart.



If one's heart is full of love, peace, and joy, the words spoken by that person will communicate those "fruits of the Spirit." But, if a heart contains anger, bitterness, or hatred, the words of that person will express these negative qualities. The content of our conversation is the judge of our hearts.

Unpack the Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

In this passage, St. Paul says that God has brought the greatest good out of the worst effects of original sin. That is, bodily death is the seed of immortality for those who have allied themselves

with God's saving plan. So we shouldn't be surprised St. Paul appeals to Old Testament passages that remind Israel of the destruction that sin deserves. In Christ, the destruction that justice demanded for sin has become the very instrument of mercy and life eternal.

Unpack the Gospel Luke 6:39-45

There's an old Latin dictum, *operatio sequitur esse*, which means that things act according to their nature. Jesus explains just that in this Gospel passage. The blind are those who need to be guided, a student is one who needs a teacher, and good trees bear good fruit. A disciple of Christ has a definite nature too, and our actions are the test of that discipleship.

The nature of discipleship is something that we can come to ignore by familiarity. As disciples, we can become so accustomed to the Gospel message that we forget that the defining trait of the Christian is the willingness to be taught and led by Christ. When we refuse to be taught, we're blinding ourselves to the very nature of our calling as disciples. That's what Jesus means by "hypocrite"; he applies it to those who are blind to their own faults and need to be guided. A disciple is one who follows and is taught by Christ, one who will bear good fruit and be fit to teach others.

Discuss with Family & Friends

How is God calling you to be his disciple and to bear fruit for the kingdom? Please take a few minutes to watch the 6-minute Opening the Word video reflection on the readings from today, found on FORMED.org.

In this week's session, the presenter, Jim Beckman, mentions that fruit often comes through the hardships and struggles we encounter in our lives. As we begin our reflection today, think about times in your life when you were facing great difficulties, trials, or hardships.

When you look back now, do you see ways in which you've grown through difficult times?

What positive "fruit" came out of those challenging moments in your life?

Look at the verse from the second reading that Jim mentioned in the video, "Be firm, steadfast, always

fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain."

What is the "work" you think the Lord desires to do in your heart? As we reflect on the readings today, what might be one particular "fruit" that the Lord desires to grow in your own life today?

Remember how the video ended by saying that it is only when we embrace our struggles that God can begin to grow fruit in our lives. With that in mind, what are some circumstances going on in your life right now that God might be using?

If you have been through a similar struggle in the past, can you share with the group how you grew through the trial?

Digging Deeper: Bearing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit

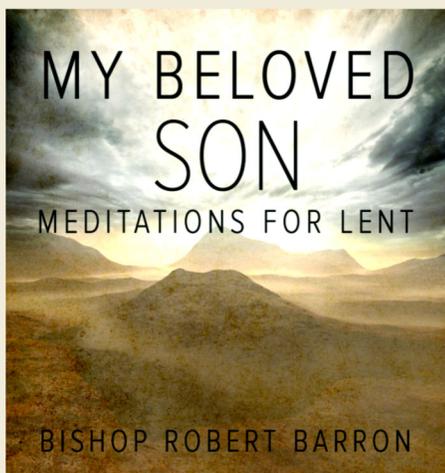
"Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery,



hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ (Jesus) have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit."

—Galatians 5:19-25

Reflections reprinted here with permission from Augustine Institute.



My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent

Bishop Robert Barron

Lent begins this week. Prepare to enter this season with the right disposition by listening to this week's FORMED Pick of the Week. In his audio talk, *My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent*, Bishop Robert Barron reflects on the spiritual discipline needed for Lent and provides practical tips for growing in your spiritual life throughout these 40 days.

This week, go to FORMED.org and listen to *My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent*.

Suggested FORMED content of the week for St Michael's parishioners can always be found on the Community tab. For technical questions, call Tina Gregory at 925-667-4051.

St Michael's has already paid for your FORMED account!
Register: StMichael.FORMED.org

Prayers for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 3/2

8:30am Michelle & Tyler Clark
5:00pm Melvin Kachel †
7:00pm Marisela Martinez †
Teresa Martinez †

Sunday 3/3

6:45am Frs Tom & Lex Byrne †
8:00am Georgia Megue †
9:30am Leslie Shaughnessy
*11:00am Robert Murrieta †
Tammy & Hong Nguyen
John J Vericella †
John Saboraria †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Anne Liner

Monday 3/4

8:30am Adelina Santos Toste †

Tuesday 3/5

8:30am James Kane †

Ash Wednesday 3/6

All Masses Mass for Our Parish

Thursday 3/7

7:00am John J. Vericella
8:30am Lina Llacer †

Friday 3/8

7:00am Jose Luis Magaña †
8:30am Craig Pettibone †

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



We've seen today that God is inviting us to be fruitful disciples: disciples who bear good fruit and lead others to encounter him through our lives. Let's take some time right now to respond to that invitation in prayer.

Prayer

Imagine that you and Jesus are standing in today's Gospel reading under a fruit tree, loaded with ripening fruit. Jesus points to the fruit and says, "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit . . . every tree is known by its fruit." In prayer, ask Jesus to show you areas where you are not bearing good fruit—perhaps in your friendships or family life or in your moral life. If it's helpful, you could say the following prayer: "Lord, reveal to me the areas in my life where I am not bearing good fruit, where I am growing thorn bushes, or brambles, or even rotten fruit instead. I want to be the kind of person who sees my weaknesses, so that I can begin to seek your help to improve. Lord, help me see."

Resolution

In prayer, discuss with Jesus one practical thing you can do this week to reduce the "bad fruit" in your life and increase the "good fruit."

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.



Dear St Michael Family,

Lent begins this Wednesday, March 6 – Ash Wednesday. For 40 days, we will be reminded that God delights in the conversion of a sinner, and that His mercy is ready for anyone who repents. This season reminds us also of the Holy Words of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke 5:32: "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." Lent officially ends at sundown on Holy Thursday, April 18, with the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

What is Lent?

You may hear some say "The word 'Lent' isn't in the Bible!" Well, the word "Bible" isn't in the Bible, either! So what we're really asking is what is the origin of the name. Originally, "Lent" was nothing more than the English name of the season between winter and summer, the season when the snow melts and the flowers bloom. In German, "Lenz" is the poetic word for "spring." In Dutch, the word "lente" is still the name of the season between winter and summer, and it is still used with that meaning in everyday life.

The church observance took place during the season of lent. In England, "Lent" came to mean the observance rather than the season, leaving the season without a name. Instead of saying redundant things like "Lent happens during lent," English-speaking people invented the word "spring." Today, instead of calling the seasons winter, lent, and summer, we call them winter, spring, and summer. We use "Lent" instead of "spring" when we refer to the church season.

Purpose of Lent

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for Baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

Where Did the Ashes Come From?

If you read the Old Testament attentively, you'll find that people commonly put on sackcloth and ashes when they heard very bad news, and they continued to wear them while they were in distress (see Esther 4:1). The ashes on Ash Wednesday continue this ancient custom.

Fasting and Abstaining from Meat

Every person 14 years or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent.

Every person between the age of 18 and 59 (beginning of 60th year) must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Parish Lent Study

If you have not yet registered for Priest, Prophet, King, our parish lent study that will deliver weekly videos to you via email or text, please do so. The first video will deliver Friday, March 8. Registration is free!

In English text keyword **FrCarl** to 84576.

In Spanish text keyword **PadreCarl** to 202-765-3441

Daily Reflections

Get daily videos during Lent from esteemed Scripture expert Dr. Tim Gray, delivered right to your email inbox. Register free at bit.ly/LentDaily

May you grow closer to Christ this season.

Fr Carl
Pastor



Reminders for This Week

Priest, Prophet, King

By signing up for our Parish Lent Study, you will receive weekly videos via email or text. The first video will deliver Friday, March 8. Registration is free!

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Lent Recipes

Catholic Relief Services has meatless meal recipes from around the world. Download free recipe cards at their website: crsricebowl.org/recipe

Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday

(see times below)
Day of fasting and abstaining from meat. Please pick up a Lent & Easter brochure at church.

Friday, March 8

6:15 am Rosary & Chaplet in English (church)
7:00 am Mass
7:30 am Confession
8:30 am Mass
9:15 am Stations of the Cross (English)
9:15 am Rosary & Chaplet (chapel)
5:00 pm Diocesan 24 Hours for the Lord Adoration (chapel)
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (English)

Saturday, March 9

7:15 am Rosary & Chaplet in English (church)
8:30 am Mass
9:15 am Confession
3:45 pm Confession
6:15 pm Confession
6:30 pm Rosary & Chaplet in Spanish (church)

Spring Forward! Set clocks forward one hour before going to bed tonight.

Sunday, March 10

Backpack Project collection at all Masses

Collection Report

Thank you for your generous offerings. Because of your support, we are able to continue with Christ's mission for our community.

2/24/19 Collection	\$15,136.25
Month-to-Date	\$86,815.02
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
Percentage Reached	100%
Faith Direct	\$11,606.00
Maintenance (for Feb)	\$9,300.79
Hospitality Collection	\$4,519.39



ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 6

MASS WITH ASHES

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

ASH SERVICE

2:00 pm (English), 3:30 pm (Spanish)

Knights Crab Feed and Charity Auction

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

Enjoy a great night celebrating with our Livermore Knights and supporting their charitable efforts! For tickets, call Dennis Lundbom 775-772-6369 or Mark & Claire Duguid 925-443-5873.

Steak Dinner & Dance

Sat, March 23
Large Hall

The Portuguese community of Livermore and Pleasanton is happy to invite everyone to our Steak Dinner Dance, featuring music by Gilberto Amaral! Proceeds benefit the scholarship fund. Dinner is 6:00-7:00 pm, with dancing from 7:00-11:00 pm. For tickets, call or text Maria 925-216-3953.

Rite of Election

Sun, March 17 at 4:00 pm
Cathedral of Christ the Light

The Rite of Election is a significant step for those who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at Easter Vigil. Having completed their formation in the Catholic faith, the Bishop will formally choose them and elect them in the name of the Lord and of the local Church to which they belong.

The following will then be called members of the "Elect":

Holly Wilkins
Dane Pappas
Mali Muniz
Anthony Pinzon
Orlando Alvarez
Jules Rosa
Edwin Gomez Aguilar
Carolyn Tran
Anna Tran

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 13 Vigil at 5:00 pm English and 7:00 pm Spanish start in the Courtyard.

April 14 regular Mass schedule

Holy Thursday

April 18

8:30 am Morning Prayer

5:00 pm Adoration chapel closes

6:00 pm Mass in English

8:00 pm Mass in Spanish

Good Friday

April 19

8:30 am Morning Prayer

2:00 pm Service in English

4:00 pm Passion Play in English

5:00 pm Service in English

6:30 pm Passion Play in Spanish

8:00 pm Service in Spanish

Holy Saturday

April 20

8:30 am Morning Prayer

10:30 am Blessing of Easter Food

8:00 pm Easter Vigil, multilingual

StMichaelLivermore.com/MassTimes

LENT DEVOTIONS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (Spanish)

Fridays at 9:15 am and 7:00 pm (English)

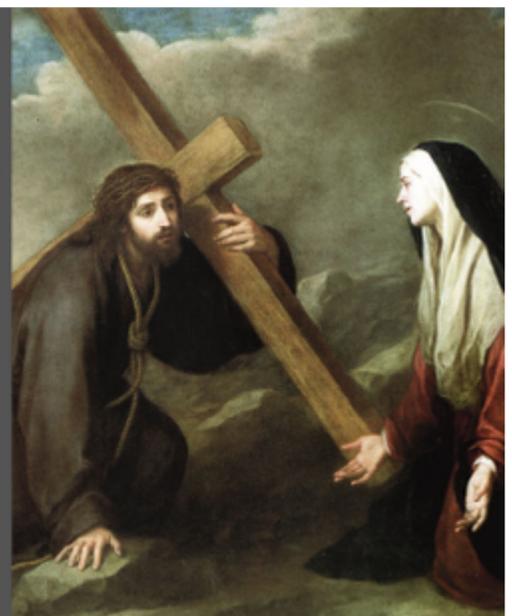
RECONCILIATION

March 11, 18 and 25 at 7:00 pm

Mondays and Fridays at 7:30 am

Wednesdays at 2:30 pm in the Convent

Saturdays 9:15 am, 3:45 pm, 6:15 pm



Our Vibrant Ministries!



St Michael's Rainbow Reached over 20,000!

Thanks to Frank Draschner, who captured this gorgeous image of our church during a rain storm. It was posted on the parish Facebook and has reached over 20,000 people! As a result 23 new people starting following us. A woman from the Mediterranean island of Malta messaged to say she was moved by the image and that she is praying for our community.

Please continue to ask members of your ministry to take photos of events and gatherings. Interesting, eye-catching pictures reach people!



Students Help Livermore Homeless Refuge

Look at our 5th grade displaying the blankets they made! 7th grade was a huge help sorting all of the Livermore Homeless Refuge items and packing up all of the blankets.

1st, 6th, and 7th grades also generously donated toiletries.

Way to go St Michael School Eagles for living out the faith by helping those in need! Special thanks to Mr. Vincent Halter for coordinating this particular service project throughout the school year.

For information about our school, please visit SMSLiv.org



SCAM WARNING!

There is a nation-wide scam running where criminals impersonating a priest or pastor are asking for a donation of gift cards via email or text. Google "priest gift card scam" and you'll see how widespread it is. It appears that email addresses and phone numbers are being pulled from websites, even PDF fliers or bulletins that are on websites. If your name, email or phone has ever been on our website or in our bulletin, you're likely to be targeted. Best course of action is to just ignore the fraudulent messages.

Fr Carl - or any other clergy member of staff member—will **never** solicit for gift cards from you via text or email. Help spread the word, especially to the vulnerable.



Querida familia de San Miguel,

La Cuaresma comienza este miércoles 6 de marzo - Miércoles de Ceniza. Durante 40 días, se nos recordará que Dios se deleita en la conversión de un pecador y que Su misericordia está lista para cualquiera que se arrepienta. Esta temporada nos recuerda también las Santas Palabras de Jesús en el Evangelio de Lucas 5:32: "No he venido a llamar a los justos sino a los pecadores al arrepentimiento". La Cuaresma termina oficialmente al anochecer del Jueves Santo, 18 de abril, con la misa de la Cena del Señor.

¿Qué es la Cuaresma?

¡Es posible que escuche a algunos decir: "La palabra" Cuaresma "no está en la Biblia!" ¡Bueno, la palabra "Biblia" tampoco está en la Biblia! Entonces, lo que realmente estamos preguntando es cuál es el origen del nombre. Originalmente, "Cuaresma" no era más que el nombre inglés de la temporada entre el invierno y el verano, la temporada en que la nieve se derrite y las flores florecen. En alemán, "Lenz" es la palabra poética para "primavera". En holandés, la palabra "lente" sigue siendo el nombre de la temporada entre el invierno y el verano, y todavía se usa con ese significado en la vida cotidiana.

La observancia de la iglesia tuvo lugar durante la temporada de Cuaresma. En Inglaterra, "Cuaresma" llegó a significar la observancia en lugar de la temporada, dejando a la temporada sin nombre. En lugar de decir cosas redundantes como "La Cuaresma sucede durante la Cuaresma", los angloparlantes inventaron la palabra "primavera". Hoy, en lugar de llamar a las estaciones invierno, cuaresma y verano, las llamamos invierno, primavera y verano. Usamos "Cuaresma" en lugar de "primavera" cuando nos referimos a la temporada de la iglesia.

Propósito de la Cuaresma

La Cuaresma es una temporada de búsqueda de almas y arrepentimiento. Es una temporada de reflexión y balance. La Cuaresma se originó en los primeros días de la Iglesia como tiempo de preparación para la Pascua, cuando los fieles se dedicaron nuevamente y cuando los conversos fueron instruidos en la fe y preparados para el Bautismo. Al observar los cuarenta días de Cuaresma, el cristiano imita la retirada de Jesús en el desierto durante cuarenta días.

¿De dónde vienen las cenizas?

Si lee atentamente el Antiguo Testamento, verá que las personas se ponen comúnmente la tela de saco y las cenizas cuando escuchan muy malas noticias y continúan usándolas mientras están en apuros (ver Ester 4: 1). Las cenizas del Miércoles de Ceniza continúan esta antigua costumbre.

Ayuno y Abstención de carne

Todas las personas de 14 años o más deben abstenerse de comer

carne (y artículos hechos con carne) el Miércoles de Ceniza, el Viernes Santo y todos los viernes de Cuaresma.

Cada persona entre los 18 y los 59 años (a partir del año 60) debe ayunar el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo.

Estudio Parroquial de Cuaresma

Si aún no se ha registrado en Priest, Prophet, King, nuestro estudio parroquial, hágalo y se le enviarán videos semanales por correo electrónico o mensaje de texto. El primer video será enviado el viernes 8 de marzo. ¡La inscripción es gratuita!

En el texto en inglés, palabra clave **FrCarl** al 84576

En el texto en español, palabra clave **PadreCarl** al 202-765-3441

Reflexiones diarias

Obtenga videos diarios en español durante la Cuaresma del experto en Escrituras, el Dr. Tim Gray, enviado directamente a su correo electrónico. Regístrese gratis en bit.ly/cuaresma2019

Que se acerque más a Cristo esta temporada.

Padre Carl
Pastor



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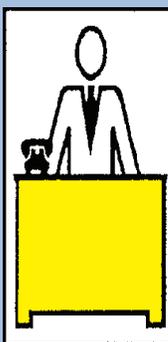
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Information | Información

St. Michael Parish | La Parroquia de San Miguel

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA 94550 925-447-1585 StMichaelLivermore.com

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

PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

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:

Edna McComb

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Edna

McCombe, Analy Palomino,

Vanessa Suarez and Erleene

Echon

St. Michael School |

Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

Faith Formation in

English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos



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Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen Parochial Vicar Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4053
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer	925-667-4056
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes DeaconD@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-1585
Eric Hom Business Manager Business@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4052
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