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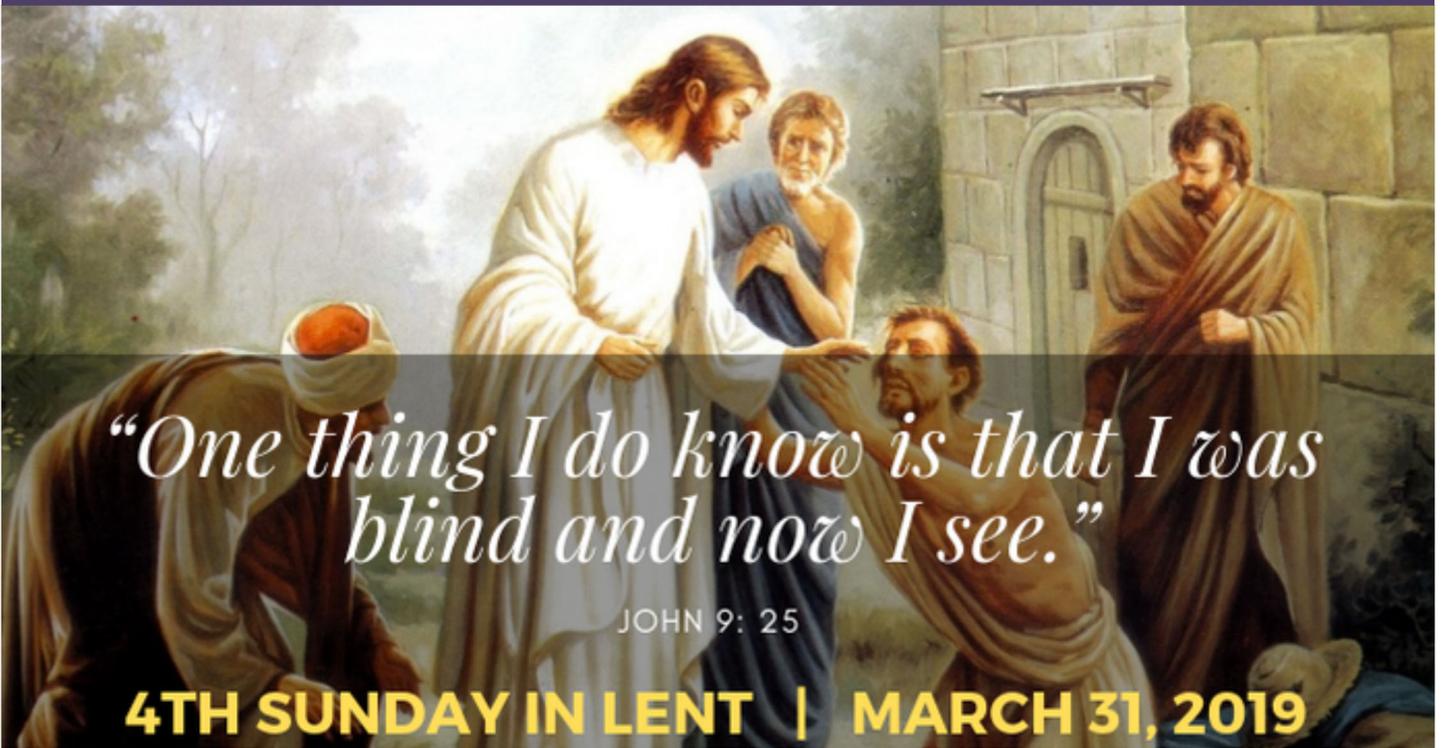
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*“One thing I do know is that I was
blind and now I see.”*

JOHN 9: 25

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT | MARCH 31, 2019

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Unpack Today's Mass Readings



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.

Unpack the First Reading 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.

Unpack the Second Reading 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.”

Unpack the Gospel 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.”

Video & Discussion

Please watch the short *Opening the Word* video for the 4th Sunday in Lent, Cycle A. Find this video at StMichael.FORMED.org on the “Community” tab. Then with friends or family, discuss the following questions:

What are some of the false perceptions the disciples had about the blind man?

What are some of the ways that the characters in this story were blind? The disciples? The Pharisees? The neighbors?

What are some of the ways that you might be blind? You don’t need to share these, but write down any insights you might have in your journal.

Digging Deeper: The Pool Siloam

The actual Pool of Siloam was discovered in 2004 when a utility crew digging a drainage pipe hit the stairs with a tractor. The pool is fed by a 1,780-foot conduit that starts at a spring, the only source of fresh water in that area of Jerusalem. The spring and the pool were heavily guarded since the time of King David so that the citizens would have water even if the city were under siege by enemies.

Reprinted from this week’s Opening the Word leader materials with permission from Augustine Institute.



The Blind Prayer

Set against the legendary surfing scene of southern California, this short 4-minute episode of the *City of Saints* tells the story of Matthew, a local surfer who lacerated his eye in a surfing accident on one fateful day. The ensuing story of physical and spiritual recovery that followed is full of miracles, healing, and hope for the future.

Watch free at
StMichael.FORMED.org

Pray Throughout the Week



Mass Intentions

Saturday 3/30

8:30am John Sarboraria †
5:00pm John Mitchell †
7:00pm Lopez & Castillo Families

Sunday 3/31

6:45am Angela Gosney & Family
8:00am Mass for Our Parish
9:30am Gerald Dixon
11:00am Joseph Fucito
12:30pm Gerardo Matamet Lira †
6:00pm Mary Ramos †

Monday 4/1

7:00am Cathy Struempf †
8:30am Benjamin Ramis †

Tuesday 4/2

7:00am Souls in Purgatory
8:30am Jovina Quinto

Wednesday 4/3

7:00am Richilda Sanchez †
8:30am Skip Vierrether †

Thursday 4/4

7:00am Todd Christopher Murry †
8:30am John Sarboraria †

Friday 4/5

7:00am Joel & Elizabeth Bautista
8:30am John Sarboraria
12:00pm The Piazza Family

To request a Mass Intention, please visit the church office. The customary donation of \$10 goes to the priest celebrating the Mass.

Lectio Divina Prayer & Resolution

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.

Special Intentions

For the members of our Elect, who are in the final preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion that they will receive at Easter Vigil:

Holly Wilkins
Mali Muniz
Anthony Pinzon
Orlando Alvarez

Jules Rosa
Edwin Gomez Aguilar
Carolyn Tran
Anna Tran

For all those who have come to Drive Through Prayer, especially those without faith, who are far from God, who are hurting and in despair.

For the repose of the souls of those who have died, and for the comfort of their friends and family. For funeral information, please see StMichaelLivermore.com/Funerals

Submit your prayer requests to our growing prayer team at Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

Father Carl's Message of the Week



Prayer: A Powerful Discipline

As Jesus prayed for 40 days in the desert, Lent calls us to imitate Him. Jesus teaches us during Lent to master the art of praying as a spiritual tool to fight against the temptations of the evil one and to build a loving relationship with our "ABBA" – our Heavenly Father.

What are types of prayer in the tradition of the Church?

Prayer, St. John Damascene wrote, "is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." At an even more basic level, a prayer is a form of communication, a way of talking to God or to the saints, just as we talk to family or friends.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, however, not all prayers are the same. In Paragraphs 2626-2643, the Catechism describes five basic types of prayer. Here are brief descriptions of each type of prayer, with examples of each.

1. Adoration and Worship

In prayers of adoration or worship, we exalt the greatness of God, and we acknowledge our dependence on Him in all things. The Mass and the other liturgies of the Church are full of prayers of adoration or worship, such as the Gloria (the Glory to God).

2. Petition

Outside of the Mass, prayers of petition are the type of prayer with which we are most familiar. In them, we ask God for things we need—primarily spiritual needs,

but physical ones as well. Our prayers of petition should always include a statement of our willingness to accept God's Will, whether He directly answers our prayer or not.

3. Intercession

Prayers of intercession – praying for others – is another form of petition, but they are important enough to be considered their own type of prayer. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes (# 2634), "Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did." In a prayer of intercession, we're not concerned with our needs but with the needs of others.

4. Thanksgiving

Perhaps the most neglected type of prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving. While praying "Grace" before meals is a good example of a prayer of thanksgiving, we should get into the habit of thanking God throughout the day for all the good things that happen to us and others. Consider including the Grace After Meals prayer as an excellent practice.

5. Praise

Prayers of praise acknowledge God for what He is. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (# 2639) notes, praise "lauds God for his own sake and gives him glory, quite beyond what he does, but simply because HE IS. It shares in the blessed happiness of the pure of heart who love God in faith before seeing him in glory." The Psalms are perhaps the best-

known example of prayers of praise.

Priest, Prophet King Lesson 4 - The Word Made Flesh

With the Incarnation, the actual Word of God became man and lived among us. Far exceeding the messages from the prophets, Jesus Christ is the Word or logos (mind) of God in the flesh. He is the full revelation of God and so his every word and action transmits the thoughts and desires of the one, true God. He orders all to himself and is the "way and the truth and the life" because of his divine nature.

If you registered for this Lent Study, please watch the Lesson four video that you received via email or text. With a friend or within a group, discuss these questions:

Why is Moses considered the greatest prophet of the Old Testament?

What are some examples from the Gospels of people proclaiming Jesus as a prophet?

How does the laity participate in the prophetic office of Christ?

I hope that you are enriched by this week's lesson. Next week, we will look at ordering the kingdom.

God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

Reminders & Announcements



Monday, April 1

Abuse Scandal Listening Session and Prayer Service is at 6:30 pm in the Convent Chapel. This is a time to express your concern, be heard, pray for the victims and for the purification of the Church.

Thursday, April 4

Family Adoration Hour is from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Chapel. Bring your little ones to worship Jesus with songs, to practice prayers and to explore the chapel. Contact: Families@StMichaelLivermore.com

Friday, April 5

First Friday Sacred Heart Devotion Mass in the Chapel at noon, followed by Adoration in the Church until 3:00 pm, ending with the Chapel.

Fish Taco Friday is at St Charles from 5:00-7:30 pm. Meatless Friday dinner is a snap for your whole family!

Saturday, April 6

First Saturday Fatima Devotion begins with Mass at 8:30 am, followed by hymns, Rosary, procession and Confession.

Anointing of the Sick takes place immediately after the 8:30 am Mass. Catholics who are seriously ill are invited to receive this healing Sacrament.

Sunday, April 7

Little White Books, the traditional daily devotional book for Easter, will be available after Mass for \$1.00 donation.

Are you getting the “Morning Ponder”?

Each morning, on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, St Michael’s posts a beautiful image with the Scripture quote of the day and a thought or question to ponder. It’s an easy way to offer your day to the Lord! Find us and follow.

3/24/19 Collection	\$18,457.14
Month-to-Date	\$88,715.91
Month Goal	\$108,823.53
Percentage Reached	82%
Faith Direct	\$12,674.75
Maintenance (for Month)	\$9,542.79

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LISTENING SESSIONS

CHURCH SEXUAL ABUSE SCANDAL

APRIL 1 & 8
6:30 - 7:30 PM

CONVENT CHAPEL



Holy Week & Easter



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Saturday Vigil Mass
April 13

Begins in the Courtyard
with the Gospel, Blessing
of Palms and procession
in to the Church.

5:00 pm English
7:00 pm Spanish

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 18

8:30 am Morning Prayer
(no morning Mass)

6:00 pm Mass of the
Lord's Supper (English)

8:00 pm Mass of the
Lord's Supper (Spanish)

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 19

8:30 am Morning Prayer
2:00 pm Good Friday
Service (English)

4:00 pm Passion Play
(English)

5:00 pm Good Friday
Service (English)

6:30 pm Passion Play
(Spanish)

8:00 pm Good Friday
Service (Spanish)

HOLY SATURDAY

Saturday, April 20

8:30 am Morning Prayer
(no morning Mass)

10:30 am Blessing of the
Easter Food in the Chapel

8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass
in the Holy Night of
Easter (multi-lingual)

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 21

MASS IN THE CHURCH

5:30 am, 6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am,
11:00 am and 6:00 pm in English.
12:30 pm in Spanish.

MASS IN THE HALL

8:15 am in Spanish
9:45 am in English
11:15 am in English

Save These Dates!



April 19—27: Divine Mercy Novena; Extraordinary Graces obtainable.

April 26, 29, 30: Divine Mercy Mission guest speakers, adoration, Confession.

April 28: Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour in the Church at 2:00 pm followed by Chaplet.

May 1- 31: *Rosary for Family, Peace and Life* nightly at 7 pm in the Courtyard.

May 1: *Feast of St. Joseph*, with a Rosary in 10 languages at 6:15 pm, followed by Mass and candle-light procession.

May 11: *Ribs, Chili, Cars, Brews & Blues* event sponsored by our Livermore Knights is newly expanded this year. Three live bands, tons of food and drink vendors and activities for kids.

May 16-July 18: *Wisdom—God's Vision for Life* Bible Study will

meet on Thursdays in the Convent at 6:30 pm. Learn how to gather, gain, and grow in wisdom!

June 2-22: *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist* at-home study with family or small group in preparation of Corpus Christi.

June 24-June 28: *Vacation Bible Camp* from 9:15 am - 12:45 pm for TK-6th grades at St Michael Church & School.

Around the Parish



Excellent Accreditation Visit at St Michael School!

We have concluded our 3-day visit for our WCEA accreditation process at St Michael School. We had 5 guests, 2 Catholic school principals and 3 Catholic school teachers. I am pleased to report that we had a lovely accreditation visit. The WCEA Committee was highly complimentary about our school community. Here are some of the Visiting Committee Summary Thoughts:

St Michael School underwent several turnovers in leadership. However, through the dedication of parents and staff members they were able to overcome this obstacle. Their belief that St. Michael School is bigger than one person; it's a community was evident throughout our visit. They now have a strong principal who will provide stability through her strong commitment to Catholic Education. The Accreditation Team spent time reviewing

all the documents needed for the Self-Study process. By visiting the classrooms and interviewing shareholders, we were in agreement that St. Michael School has a strong Catholic Identity with strong leadership, and dedicated parents and staff. There is a strong connection between the school and parish. We were overwhelmed by the strong enthusiasm and love for the school that was felt throughout our visit. St. Michael School is living out their mission of providing all students with an academically challenging education in a Christ-centered environment."

Please visit the St Michael School website at SMSLiv.org for more information

New Exterior Lighting!

Thank you to all of our parishioners who continue to support our monthly Maintenance & Improvement Collection. Through your generosity, we've been able to install all new LED exterior lighting across our buildings including, the Church, Convent, Hall, Education Center Building and all school buildings. Not only has this improved the visibility around our campus at night, but also in the long run we will save on energy costs by moving to LED lights. Our Facilities Committee is working on ways to refresh our Children's Chapel (Cry Room) for our families with young children as our next project for the community. If you have some suggestions, please email me!

God Bless.

Eric Hom, Business Manager
EricHom@stmichaellivermore.com



Parde Carl's Mensaje de la Semana



La oración: una disciplina poderosa

Mientras Jesús oró por 40 días en el desierto, la Cuaresma nos llama a imitarlo. Jesús nos enseña durante la Cuaresma a usar el arte de orar como una herramienta espiritual para luchar contra las tentaciones del maligno y para construir una relación amorosa con nuestro "ABBA", nuestro Padre Celestial.

¿Cuáles son los tipos de oración en la tradición de la Iglesia?

La oración, escribió San Juan Damasceno, "es elevar la mente y el corazón de uno a Dios o pedirle cosas buenas a Dios". En un nivel aún más básico, una oración es una forma de comunicación, una forma de hablar con Dios o con los santos, tal como hablamos con familiares o amigos.

Sin embargo, como señala el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, no todas las oraciones son iguales. En los párrafos 2626-2643, el Catecismo describe cinco tipos básicos de oración. Aquí hay breves descripciones de cada tipo de oración, con sus respectivos ejemplos:

1. Adoración

En las oraciones de adoración exaltamos la grandeza de Dios y reconocemos nuestra dependencia a Él en todas las cosas. La misa y las otras liturgias de la Iglesia están llenas de oraciones de adoración, como la Gloria (la Gloria a Dios).

2. Petición

Fuera de la misa, las oraciones de petición son el tipo de oración con la que estamos más familiarizados. En ellas, le pedimos a Dios las cosas que necesitamos, principalmente necesidades espirituales, pero también físicas. Nuestras oraciones de peti-

ción siempre deben incluir una declaración de nuestra disposición a aceptar la Voluntad de Dios, ya sea que Él conteste directamente nuestra oración o no.

3. Intercesión

Las oraciones de intercesión, orar por los demás, es otra forma de petición, pero son lo suficientemente importantes como para ser consideradas como otro tipo de oración. Como señala el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (# 2634), "la intercesión es una oración de petición que nos lleva a orar como lo hizo Jesús". En una oración de intercesión, no estamos preocupados por nuestras necesidades sino por las necesidades de los demás.

4. Acción de gracias

Quizás el tipo de oración más descuidado es una oración de acción de gracias. Mientras que orar "Gracias" antes de las comidas es un buen ejemplo de una oración de acción de gracias, debemos adquirir el hábito de agradecer a Dios a lo largo del día por todas las cosas buenas que nos suceden a nosotros y a los demás. Considere incluir la oración de Gracias después de las comidas como una excelente práctica.

5. Alabanza

Las oraciones de alabanza reconocen a Dios por lo que Él es. Como lo señala el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (n. ° 2639), alabar a Dios "alabado por su propio bien y le da gloria, bastante más allá de lo que hace, sino simplemente porque ÉL ES. Comparte la bendita felicidad de los puros de corazón que ama a Dios con fe antes de verlo en la gloria ". Los Salmos son quizás el ejemplo

más conocido de oraciones de alabanza.

Sacerdote, rey profeta, lección 4: La palabra hecha carne

Con la Encarnación, la verdadera Palabra de Dios se hizo hombre y vivió entre nosotros. Lejos de los mensajes de los profetas, Jesucristo es la palabra orlogos (mente) de Dios en la carne. Él es la revelación completa de Dios y, por lo tanto, cada una de sus palabras y acciones transmite los pensamientos y deseos del único y verdadero Dios. Él se lo ordena todo a sí mismo y es el "camino, la verdad y la vida" debido a su naturaleza divina.

Si se inscribió en este Estudio de Cuaresma, mire el video de la Lección cuatro que recibió por correo electrónico o texto. Con un amigo o dentro de un grupo, discuta estas preguntas:

¿Por qué se considera a Moisés el profeta más grande del Antiguo Testamento?

¿Cuáles son algunos ejemplos de los evangelios de personas que proclaman a Jesús como un profeta?

¿Cómo participan los laicos en el oficio profético de Cristo?

Espero que se hayan enriquecido con la lección de esta semana. La próxima semana, veremos ordenar el reino.

Dios lo bendiga a usted y a su familia.

Padre Carl

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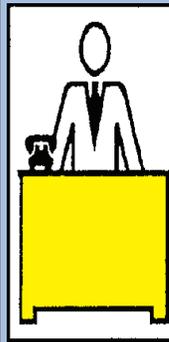
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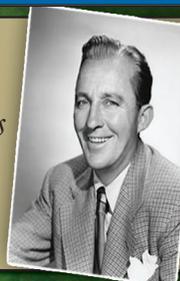
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Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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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. Bento Tamang, in residence

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 smliv.org

Faith Formation in

English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos



Rev. Father Carl Arcosa, Pastor Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4057
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
Jacqueline Garcia, Church Secretary Office@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-1585
School Front Office	925-447-1888
Alison Wilkie, School Principal awilkie@csdo.org	925-447-1888
Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper Books@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4058
Lourdes Kay, Faith Formation Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4096
Priscilla Stutzman, Religious Ed DRE@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4097
Joseph Garcia, Youth Ministry Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4093
Tina Gregory Communication/Adult Enrichment Contact@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4051
JaNet Hancock, Music Director Music@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-292-5071
Debbie Pizzato, Liturgy Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4095
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-2925
Ana Fregoso, RICA ricast.michaelliv@gmail.com	925-344-7150