



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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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Rite of Scrutiny



MARCH
4
2018

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst..."

John 4: 13-14

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 Woman at the Well

In ancient times, access to a reliable well was essential. Without a steady supply of clean water, life would be difficult, if not impossible. In this week's Gospel, we see Jesus sitting by a well in the country of Samaria. It's noon, and we can assume that he is hot and tired. We know he is thirsty, because he asks a woman who is there drawing water to give him a drink.

This woman, known to us as the Samaritan Woman at the Well, has a checkered past. The upstanding women of the community drew their water early in the day; she doesn't want to be seen so she comes at an off-hour. When Jesus, who is a Jew, speaks to her, she is taken aback. Jews didn't usually speak with Samaritans. In fact, a little later when his disciples join him, they aren't too keen on the fact Jesus was chatting with a Samaritan woman either.

In this week's study, we will see that this Gospel scene has a kind of nuptial quality about it because a well is where a groom would come to meet his bride. Like a bridegroom lovingly seeking his bride, Jesus ardently desires this Samaritan woman (and her people whom she represents) to be reunited with God. The Samaritan woman has been a bride five times, and Jesus points this out. But then he goes beyond reminding her of her failure by reaching into the recesses of her deepest wounds of rejection and lack of love to tell her that he is, indeed, the long-awaited one, the Messiah—the one who will fulfill her deepest thirsts and longings.

Through her, Jesus invites the Sa-

maritan people, who were separated from the people of Israel, to return to their true bridegroom. By extension, he also invites all of us who come to him with open, thirsting hearts to join him at every Mass—at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb—



so that we might say with the Samaritans: "This is truly the savior of the world!"

First Reading Reflection

Exodus 17:3–7

Better the slavery you know than the freedom you don't—that could be the theme for this reading. Though the Israelites have just left a life in Egypt that has been described as "the whole cruel lot of slaves," they seem to have forgotten this when saying to Moses, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?" We'd think the answer would be obvious. But human nature is such that our memories are short, and our threshold for discomfort is low.

This reading presents us with a won-

derful metaphor for the spiritual life—that of thirst. In the desert, the Israelites long for the more easily accessible waters of Egypt. Yet God shows them that if they trust him, they can be sure of water anywhere. With God, one isn't forced to fearfully hug the banks of the Nile like slaves to stay alive; one may chart a course straight out of the desert with faith confidently knowing that he will provide. In this desert of modern life, we may likewise be certain that God will give us the living water we need to survive. Certainly he's the source of living water that we can count on—even in the desert places.

Second Reading Reflection

Romans 5:1–2, 5–8

St. Paul expresses the fulfillment of the promise given by Christ in our Gospel reading of streams of living water that will become a "fountain within...leaping up to provide eternal life." St. Paul writes to the church at Rome that "the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

It was from the pierced side of Christ, which flowed blood and water, that the saving tide began to flow. St. Paul identifies that saving death as the source of the gifts of faith, hope, and charity, which transform godless, powerless, sinners into children of the Father. He implicitly reminds us that if any boasting is to be done, it's in "the grace in which

we now stand." Grace, of course, means "gift." So if any glory is to be given, it should redound to God who gives—not to the undeserving who receive it, among whom St. Paul includes himself.

Gospel Reflection

John 4:5–42

At the time of the Messiah's coming, Rome held Israel in its imperial grip. Yet despite its many struggles, Israel knew that "salvation is from the Jews," as Jesus says to the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel. That phrase suggests that salvation is intended to be passed "from" Israel to all nations. This scene points to the future extension to all nations of the salvation won by Christ. Samaria represents the first step in spreading the Gospel to the whole world.

Jesus points ahead to "an hour" when worship "in Spirit and truth" will be offered to God not merely "on this mountain nor in Jerusalem," but everywhere in the world. Although the Jews are God's firstborn, we see in this passage that in Jesus, God's plan is for the whole world, for every soul.

Jesus encourages his disciples to look at the world anew and to see beyond the borders of Israel and beyond the national and racial limits of Jacob (Israel). "Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest!" he exclaims. The universal purpose of God's saving work in Christ is given its last word in the last line of this reading, appropriately spoken by the Samaritans: "This is truly the savior of the world!"

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

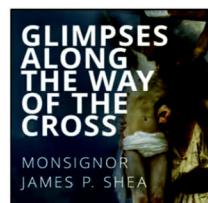
Glimpses Along the Way of the Cross

By Msgr. Shea

Enter More Deeply into the Mystery of Christ's Cross

In these three beautiful talks, Monsignor James Shea guides us along the Stations of the Cross. These powerful meditations take us into the depths of Christ's agony, and back out again into the relief and joy of what His sacrifice means for us.

[Listen on formed.org](#)



"Fr. Shea knows how to relate to someone in the pew who has felt pain and needs the healing only Christ can give. These talks helped me to meet Jesus again!"

—David, Chicago, IL

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Mass Intentions

Saturday 3/3

- 8:30am Georgia Megue †
5:00pm Abelardo & Olivia Gorospe †
Rose Pauley †
7:00pm Darryl Johnson †

Sunday 3/4

- 6:45am Robert J. Cortez †
8:00am Felisa Yambao †
9:30am Rose Pauley †
The Rocker Family
11:00am Louis Alvarez †
12:30pm Gerald Dixon †
6:00pm Angel Garcia †

Monday 3/5

- 8:30am Pat Mueller †

Tuesday 3/6

- 8:30am Rose Mary Silva †

Wednesday 3/7

- 8:30am Marilyn Rita Estill
Emma Sailer †
Alberto Rojas †

Thursday 3/8

- 8:30am Maria Vinh Thi Dinh †

Friday 3/9

- 8:30am Thomas Heise †

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



The story of the woman at the well is one of the most evocative and moving stories in the Gospels. By placing ourselves in the scene, we, too, can experience Jesus' invitation to partake of "living water."

PRAYER:

Prayerfully consider what you thirst for in life—what you spend your time and energy pursuing most. Perhaps it is success at work, the success of your kids, your favorite sport, entertainment, being liked, financial security. Now imagine Jesus saying specifically to you: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." How do these words apply to you? Reflect in prayer on your own experience of how your pursuits for the things of this world leave you "thirsty again" and on how only Jesus can fulfill your deepest thirsts.

RESOLUTION:

Ask Jesus how you can turn to him more this week to find your deepest thirsts quenched in him instead of turning to the things of this world.

Parish Prayer Requests

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

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

For the repose of the souls of Howard Bettencourt, Tom Dayton, John Sawyer and James Happe.

Please send your prayer requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

How to Confess

Examine your conscience, that is, reflect on what sins you have committed. To guide you, just Google “examination of conscience” and you’ll find many resources to help you. It’s even alright to make a list to bring with you to confession if that helps.

Introduction. When you come before the priest, begin by making the Sign of the Cross (praying the words out loud), and continue by saying, “Bless me, Father, I have sinned. It has been (how long) since my last confession. These are my sins...”

Confession. List the sins you have committed that came to mind when doing your examination of conscience. Don’t be too general (like, “I haven’t been a good person”), but a lot of detail is not necessary either (you don’t need to tell the whole story of how a sin came about). If you’re not sure if something is a sin is, just ask the priest. This isn’t counseling, so unless you ask, the priest likely won’t give you advice. He’ll just move on to...

Penance. The priest will suggest something for you to do or pray as a re-

sponse to God’s mercy. You’ll have to remember what this is and do it after the confession is over, so pay attention.

Contribution. The priest will then ask you to pray your “Act of Contrition,” demonstrating your sorrow for your sins. This needs to be prayed out loud for the priest to hear, but need not adhere exactly to one formula. One traditional example is this one listed to the right.

Absolution. Don’t get up to leave after that prayer, because the best part is yet to come: the priest will extend his hands in your direction and he will pray the Prayer of Absolution: “God, the Father of Mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church, may God grant you pardon and peace. And I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” You respond: Amen.

Conclusion. The priest will then likely

say something like, “God has freed you from your sin. Go in Peace.” To which you can respond: “Thanks be to God.”

After You Leave...

Don’t forget to do your penance. If it is saying certain prayers, it’s best to do it right away in the church before you forget.

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Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Amen

Collection Report

Thank you!

2/18/18 Collection	\$15,654.90
2/25/18 Collection	\$17,786.32
Month-to-Date	\$87,747.17
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
Percentage Reached	101%
Faith Direct for Feb	\$11,724.00
Maintenance for Feb	\$11,408.14
St Michael School	\$3,370.91



Great Time at the Mardi Gras Ministry Appreciation Party

A wonderful time was had by all.

Thanks to all who give so much of their time, talent and treasure to making St Michael Parish a truly amazing parish. By popular opinion, we will do it again next year!



This Week

MONDAY, MAR 5

Readings: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3, 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Suggestion:

Listen to Love, Sacrifice, Trust by Fr. Mike Schmitz on FORMED.org

THURSDAY, MAR 8

St. John of God

Readings: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

Suggestion:

Sign Up for Adoration in the Chapel
Sunday: 4am-5am
Tuesday: 12am-1am
Tuesday: 6am-7am
Tuesday: 12pm-1pm
Tuesday: 8pm-9pm
Thursday: 1am-2am
Thursday: 12pm-1pm
Saturday: 2am-3am
Saturday: 8pm-9pm

SUNDAY, MAR 11

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Readings: YEAR A: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Events:

*Second Scrutiny at the 9:30 am Mass
Backpack Weekend*

St Michael's community has again pledged to provide approximately 175 school backpacks, filled with all the necessary school supplies and a Payless Shoes certificate too, for children from low-income families in Livermore. The total cost per backpack is approximately \$40. All donations of any size are welcome.

TUESDAY, MAR 6

Readings: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Event:

Lent Reconciliation Service at 7 pm in the church (bilingual). Several priests from neighboring parishes will be present to hear Confessions.

FRIDAY, MAR 9

St. Frances of Rome
Abstain from Meat

Readings: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

Event:

Knights of Columbus Fish Taco Friday, 5:00—7:30 pm at St Michael's

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

WEDNESDAY, MAR 7

Readings: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Events:

St Michael School students and faculty will be attending Mass in the morning. Expect this Mass to be a little longer than the usual weekday morning Mass.

SATURDAY, MAR 10

Readings: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Events:

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

Listen to Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori on FORMED.org



Download the "How to Confess" guide at
StMichaelLivermore.com/Confession

Transforming Lives Tour

Thurs, March 15 at 10:15 am

Large Hall

This one hour mission-based tour is your opportunity to learn about the programs of Catholic Charities of the East Bay. You will hear about:

- Legal immigration and refugee resettlement services.
- Homelessness prevention
- Claire's House for trafficked minors
- Behavioral health services for youth
- Grief counseling for victims of crime
- Meet CEO Chuck Fernandez

For more info call Sween Gardner at 510-768-8161.



Fish Taco Fridays

March 9, 16, 23 at St Michael's Hall
from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Come and enjoy delicious fish tacos, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Bring the whole family!

Tickets are \$8 per adult, \$4 per child, free for kids 4 and under. Proceeds will benefit our parish and local charities.

St Patrick's Day Dinner

Sat, Mar 17 at 6 pm

Large Hall

Grief Support Ministry and Knights of Columbus invite you to the annual corned beef and cabbage dinner.

Dinner includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, salad, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, soft drinks, wine and Irish coffee.

Tickets are \$12.00 per person and will be sold by mail only. See the church office for an order form. Please act quickly, only 100 seats available.

Meatless Recipes

Fasting from meat on Fridays during Lent helps us "acquire a mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart." (CCC 2043). Find recipes at www.crsricebowl.org/recipe



Welcome Brunch

Sun, Mar 25 in the Hall after the 9:30 am Mass

Whether you are new to our parish, returning after a season away or just ready to become more involved in the parish, we want to welcome you and your family. Let us help you get connected in our community! Come enjoy a nice meal, meet some new friends, find out what our community has to offer and where you can serve. We want St Michael's to be like your second home.

We host a "Welcome Brunch" every last Sunday of the month, after the 9:30 am Mass. We are looking forward to meeting your family!

Kindly RSVP to our Church Office at 925-447-1585 and let us know how many adults and children will be joining you.

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.

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.



Domingo de Ramos

Domingo, 25 de marzo

11 AM Nos reuniremos en el patio de la Escuela Parroquial, para salir en procession hacia el templo. En el recorrido haremos varias representaciones de pasajes bíblicos 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.

Vivir la fe 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.

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

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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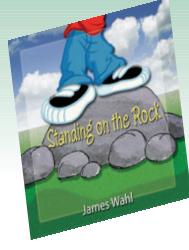
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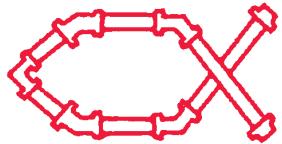
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Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

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

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1er sábado después de las 8:30 am Misa
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M-F 8:30 am—5:00 pm (closed dur-
ing lunch)

Sun 8:30 am—12:30 pm

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Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence
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