



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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*"Lazarus,
come
out!"*

John 11:43



**5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
APRIL 7, 2019**

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Unpack Today's Mass Readings



The story of the raising of Lazarus is more than just an account of a miracle. The raising and unbinding of Lazarus sheds light on how God wants to heal the dead areas of our lives and free us from whatever sins, burdens, or wounds prevent us from living life to the fullest.

When Jesus arrives at the tomb, he has the stone rolled away and calls Lazarus to come out. Lazarus emerges, although he is still bound in the burial cloths. We are often like Lazarus. We have areas in our lives that are dead and need to be enlivened again by Christ. But we also may be bound either by our own sins or by the hurts others have inflicted on us. We may carry great burdens or worries or dysfunctional patterns of relating to others that bind us down and keep us from peace and happiness. Jesus wants to free us from those wounds; he wants us, like Lazarus, to be unbound.

This week's Gospel shows us Jesus wants us to let him into all those places that have been rendered dead by sin. He wants to weep with us in his humanity, but also to reveal his divinity and bring about a total healing. He wants our better selves to step forward as he says to each of us, "Come out." Even if our situation seems hopeless—and certainly Lazarus' death seemed hopeless for his many mourners—nothing is impossible for God. All we need to do is surrender our lives

to him and trust in him, for him to be able to bring us to new life.

Unpack the First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

This passage follows Ezekiel's famous vision of the dry bones in the first half of chapter 37. The prophet is shown a dry valley full of bones and is commanded to prophesy.



When he does, the bones come together and are covered with flesh. Again he prophesies, and the breath of life comes into the bodies. Ezekiel, whom the Spirit of the Lord addresses as "son of man," is told that this scene represents the resurrection of Israel, which is now in exile in Babylon. The "son of man" who speaks and causes Israel to rise from exile points liturgically to the "Son of Man" who will speak and cause Lazarus to rise. Ezekiel paves the way for the extension of the Covenant to the Gentiles by expanding the Jewish conception of God's providence to extend it in to all nations.

Unpack the Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

It's easy to assume that the term "flesh" denotes something essentially evil in this short passage. However, flesh is good in that it has its origin in God, and is still further ennobled when our flesh is assumed by Christ. Adam exclaims that Eve is flesh of his flesh when shown her by God, in an expression that suggests the deepest communion of love. In the Hebrew conception, body and soul are united in a personal being. Paul uses the term in the Hebrew way; he's not making a distinction between body and soul in which the body is evil and the soul is good. Rather, he's making a distinction between life with Christ versus life without Christ.

In essence, Paul is saying that if we remain merely earthly creatures—in the flesh—we remain outside the dying/rising salvational scheme that Christ gave us. This scheme is effected in us by the grace of Baptism, in which we're anointed and made Christians. When we cooperate with that grace, we "are not in the flesh."

Unpack the Gospel John 11:1-45

We might find it shocking that the greatest miracle that Jesus performed to define his saving mission as one to free mankind from death is the catalyst that causes the Jewish authorities to plot his death. The very act of life

-giving ends in death-dealing. By definitively showing that he is “the resurrection and the life,” Jesus precipitates his own death. The same act that causes Mary, Martha, and many of the Jews who had come to visit them to have faith in Jesus causes the opposite reaction in the Jewish authorities.

There’s no halfway in John’s Gospel. One can walk in darkness or light, one is blind or sighted, one is alive or dead; no middle ground exists.

Lazarus will die again, of course. But by that time there will be no death at all for those who believe. And it seems unlikely that Lazarus would ever be able to doubt Christ after this episode. Those who believe will have their faith confirmed by this event, and those who won’t will find their resistance hardened by it. In no other episode in the Gospel story is Jesus shown so clearly for what he is: the resurrection and the life.

Reflection & Discussion

This week’s *Opening the Word* video presenter helps us see how the story of the raising of Lazarus is relevant to our own lives today. Watch this short video free at StMichael.FORMED.org with family and friends. Then discuss these questions together:

How does the story of the raising of Lazarus show both Jesus’ human and divine natures?

How do sins that others have committed bind us? How can Jesus free us from them?

Digging Deeper: Jewish Burial Customs

In New Testament times, burial was often on the day of death. Unlike some of their pagan neighbors, Jews never practiced cremation. Bodies were usually placed in a tomb carved out of rock or a natural cave, which frequently contained the bodies of several family members. The entrance to the tomb was closed by a large stone.

After desiccation (about a year), the bones were permanently placed in an ossuary.

Prayer

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works you inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit. Without you I can do nothing. By your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by your commandment of love. God of love, bring me back to you. Send your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me your forgiveness, open my heart to your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus. Amen.

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

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Convinced

Why Would Anyone Become Catholic?

Why would intelligent, successful people give up careers, alienate friends, and cause havoc in their families...to become Catholic? As he was considering his own move into the Church, Donald Johnson traveled around the country to get answers from some of today’s most prolific Catholic converts.



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—Alison M.
Our Lady of the Mount, NJ

Pray Throughout the Week



Mass Intentions

Saturday 4/6

8:30am Nicole McCaffrey &
Jonathan Wilkerson
5:00pm Jayson Garcia
7:00pm Uriel Cruz †
Benjamin Morales

Sunday 4/7

6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am Mass for Our Parish
9:30am Lynn & Leo Murry
11:00am Aiden Jario David
John J. Vericella †
John Sarboraria †
Margaret Bunschus †
Merceditas & Rosemary Cabug †
12:30pm Father Augustine
6:00pm Gerardo Caceres Mantilla

Monday 4/8

7:00am John J. Vericella †
8:30am Barbara & Ross Hoblitzell

Tuesday 4/9

7:00am Loretta Ramos
8:30am John Sarboraria †

Wednesday 4/10

7:00am Tom Ramos
8:30am Robert T. Boyle, Jr.

Thursday 4/11

7:00am Alex De Silva
8:30am Norman, Lilian & Richard
Manha †

Friday 4/12

7:00am Emma & Giorgio Piazza
8:30am Mary Ann O' Reilly †

Lectio Divina Prayer & Resolution

Think back over your life and choose a moment where, through your sin or the sin of another, you might have become spiritually dead and entombed like Lazarus. Feel the way the sin binds you, entrapping you in ways that prevent you from being the whole and holy person God created you to be. Take a few moments to consider that sin and all the ways it has hindered your life. Ask God to forgive you if it is a sin you committed. If the sin has been committed against you, ask God to forgive that person and to help you let it go. Imagine Jesus calling your name and saying to you what he said to Lazarus: "Come out!" Hear him say that you are now untied and free.

Resolution

This week, ask Jesus to release you from any sin or hurt that might still be binding you. Consider receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for forgiveness and for the grace to be unbound.

Download your free weekly prayer journal under the Opening the Word video found at StMichael.FORMED.org

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



Almsgiving: A Way of Life

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us that during Lent, Catholics are "...asked to focus more intently on 'almsgiving,' which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity." (www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship).

The best almsgiving is the example of poor widow presented in the Synoptic Gospels (Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4). She gave all she had, and gave from the heart. She gave with an attitude of joy and trust. The Lenten practice of almsgiving helps us discipline our spending habits, refocusing our resources for the service of others.

Here are some practical examples:

1. Consider simple vacations or "stay cations". Save the money you would have spent and give it to a good and noble cause that will help the less fortunate.
2. Limit restaurant meals. Save that money and increase your gift for St. Vincent de Paul or any works of charity.
3. If you like to hang-out at coffee shops like Starbucks or Peet's Coffee or bars for a drink, avoid these places during Lent and save your money for your parish needs and projects.
4. Avoid buying unnecessary clothes, shoes and other things you don't really need. Remember outlets, mall and shopping places were establish primarily not to sell

things that you need rather on things you like.

5. For children, save a quarter or a dollar every day from your daily allowance and after Lent donate this for the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl which benefits the poor children around the world.

The objective of almsgiving or works of charity during Lent is primarily to remind us that a Christian must live a life of generosity and not of selfishness. All that we have - whether less or more - came from God's Providence. His gifts are meant to be shared, especially with those in dire need.

This month we are launching our 2020 Bishop's Appeal. This year's theme is "Rebuild my Church". Our Bishop, Michael Barber, SJ encourages us first to pray for the rebuilding of our Church from many of her challenges and failures and second, to support our special ministries and programs that benefit our entire diocese particularly our support for our retired clergy, for the education of our seminarians, for our poor schools and our Catholic Charities of the East Bay's projects and programs.

Please respond generously to the invitation of our Bishop. A letter and a brochure will be sent to your homes and residences. As I support our Bishop's Appeal, I pray that you too will support it from the generosity of your hearts.

Priest, Prophet, King: Lesson 5
Welcome to our fifth lesson in our

parish wide Lent study by Bishop Robert Barron: Priest, Prophet, King.

David, the greatest Old Testament king who foreshadowed Christ and was also his ancestor, ruled the Israelite kingdom according to God's purposes. He was chosen by God and sought to bring glory to God by leading his people justly and according to God's will. David understood that a true king was first and foremost a servant of God, sacrificing his desires and aspirations for the good of the people and the kingdom.

I encourage you to watch the video for Lesson Five that you received via text or email. If you have fallen behind, don't worry! It's easy to catch up. Get together with a friend or a group and make it part of your regular weekly schedule to watch and reflect. Here are this week's questions to discuss:

What are the three key characteristics of a good king and good kingship?

How did God view the people's desire for an earthly king?

How might contemplating God as king provide hope, solace or comfort?

I pray that by pondering these questions, you may deepen in your understanding and love of God. Next week, in our last lesson, we will learn about the King of Kings.

God bless you and your families.
Fr Carl

Events Happening This Week



Monday, April 8

Abuse Scandal Listening Session & Prayer Service at 6:30 pm in the Church. This is a time to voice your concerns, be heard and pray for the victims and the Church.

Tuesday, April 9

CounterPoint is a support group for people with family members suffering with addiction and alcoholism. Meetings are on Tuesdays at 7 pm in Room 24 in St. Michael Education Center. For more information, contact Rachael at 510-501-1411.

Wednesday, April 10

Confession at 2:30 pm in the Convent Chapel

Last Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 7 pm in the Church.

Friday, April 12

Fish Taco Friday at St Michael's from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Hall.

Last Stations of the Cross in English at 9:15 am and 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 13

Last chance for CONFESSION before Easter at 9:15 am, 3:45 pm and 6:15 pm. Confession is not available during Holy Week.

Palm Vigil begins in the Courtyard with the Gospel, Blessing of Palms and procession into the Church. This is the only Liturgy of the year where we hear two gospels! Mass is at 5:00 pm in English and 7:00 pm in Spanish. Please arrive early, as this Mass is usually quite full.

After Mass...

Little white books, your daily Easter Devotional, will be available this weekend and next weekend after Mass for \$1.00 donation.



Holy Week & Easter Reminders



1. Fr Carl *strongly encourages* us to slow down during Holy Week. No ministry groups will convene and no facility keys will be available.
2. Parish offices will close at noon on Wednesday, April 17 and reopen on Tuesday, April 23 at 9:00 am.
3. The Church will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm from Holy Monday, April 15—Good Friday, April 19 for quiet prayer and devotion.
4. Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday. Pick up a prayer brochure in the Church or sign up online at praymorenovenas.com/divine-mercy-novena
5. Please see the Adoration Chapel schedule for Holy Week and Easter on the next page.
6. It is our tradition to bring bells to ring on Holy Thursday and on Easter Vigil. Your whole family is invited to make a joyful noise!
7. If you're coming to Easter Vigil, please bring a candle. It will be blessed at the Easter Fire, so you can process into the church with it, and then use it for your home prayer and devotions throughout the year.
8. Additional parking on Easter Sunday will be available in the St Michael School parking lot.

Holy Week & Easter



ADORATION HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY

Adoration closes at 5:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Adoration closed

HOLY SATURDAY

Adoration closed

EASTER SUNDAY

Adoration closed

EASTER MONDAY

Adoration reopens
after the 8:30 am Mass



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.

April 28: *Pancake Breakfast*, 7:30-11:30 am in the Hall to raise funds for an ultrasound machine for a pregnancy center.

May 1- 31: *Rosary for Family, Peace and Life* nightly at 7pm 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 on Thursdays in the Convent at 6:30 pm.

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.

Our Community



What is the Bishop's Appeal?

The total budget for the Diocese of Oakland in 2019 is approximately \$17.5 million, and of that, the budget for diocesan-wide ministries and services is roughly \$7.5 million. While income is generated to support the budget through parish assessments, rent collection on property, service fees and interest on the diocesan investments, the income does not fully

meet the budgetary needs for providing all diocesan level ministries, programs and services. The Bishop's Appeal is an annual Appeal to generate funds needed to cover the costs of these ministries, programs and services.

At St Michael's in 2018 the total raised was \$62,305.00 (80.39% of goal)

In 2019 our goal is the same: \$77,500.00.

For more information and to give online today, please visit: www.oakdiocese.org/giving/bishops-appeal or look for the offertory envelopes in the Church.

Keep Bringing Your Kids to Mass!

Many of us with young children struggle to get our family to Mass and when we do we often wonder if it is worth it when our children are noisy and disruptive. It is! Bringing our children to Mass, the summit of our worship and faith, is so important even if we end up spending Mass trying to calm a crying infant or chasing an energetic toddler.

Here is an article of encouragement for all parents: [Bit.ly/KidsAtMass](https://bit.ly/KidsAtMass) For more ideas and support, reach out via email at Families @StMichaelLivermore.com



Did you know that Livermore Knights are buying a \$40,000 ultrasound machine for a pro life pregnancy clinic in Oakland? This will save hundreds of unborn children whose mothers are considering abortion.

Please consider joining the Knights! Stop by membership drive on Sunday, May 12.

Contact Tom at 925-321-4604 or captaintmcc@gmail.com. You can join at any time. Check us out at www.livermoreknights.org

3/31/19 Collection	\$15,969.45
Month-to-Date	\$104,685.36
Month Goal	\$108,823.53
Percentage Reached	96%
Faith Direct	\$12,674.75
Maintenance (April)	\$9,585.79
Ash Wednesday	\$8,689.79
Rice Bowl	\$1,041.13
Catholic Relief Services	\$2,271.13
St. Vincent De Paul	\$6,217.43

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Parde Carl's Mensaje de la Semana



Almsgiving: un modo de vida

La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos nos recuerda que durante la Cuaresma, a los católicos "se les pide que se centren más en la" entrega de limosnas", lo que significa donar dinero o bienes a los pobres y realizar otros actos de caridad". (www.usccb.org/oración y adoración).

La mejor limosna es el ejemplo de la pobre viuda presentada en los Evangelios sinópticos (Marcos 12: 41-44, Lucas 21: 1-4). Ella dio todo lo que tenía y lo dio con el corazón. Ella dio con una actitud de alegría y confianza. La práctica de la limosna durante Cuaresma nos ayuda a disciplinar nuestros hábitos de gasto, reenfocando nuestros recursos para el servicio de los demás.

Aquí hay algunos ejemplos prácticos:

1. Considere vacaciones simples o "vacaciones en su casa". Ahorre el dinero que habría gastado y entréguelo a una buena y noble causa que ayudará a los menos afortunados.

2. Limite las comidas del restaurante. Ahorre ese dinero y aumente su regalo para San Vicente de Paúl o cualquier obra de caridad.

3. Si le gusta pasar el rato en cafeterías como Starbucks o Peet's Coffee o bares para tomar una bebida, evite estos lugares durante la Cuaresma y ahorre dinero para las necesidades y proyectos de su parroquia.

4. Evite comprar ropa, zapatos y otras cosas innecesarias que realmente no necesita. Recuerde que los puntos de venta, centros comerciales y tiendas se establecieron principalmente para no vender las cosas que necesita, en lugar de las

que le gustan.

5. Para los niños, ahorre un cuarto o un dólar todos los días de su asignación diaria y, después de la Cuaresma, haga una donación para el Rice Bowl de Catholic Relief Services que beneficia a los niños pobres de todo el mundo.

El objetivo de la limosna o las obras de caridad durante la Cuaresma es, principalmente, para recordarnos que un cristiano debe vivir una vida de generosidad y no de egoísmo. Todo lo que tenemos, ya sea menos o más, vino de la Providencia de Dios. Sus dones están destinados a ser compartidos, especialmente con los necesitados.

Este mes estamos lanzando nuestra Apelación del Obispo 2020. El tema de este año es "Reconstruir mi Iglesia". Nuestro Obispo, Michael Barber, SJ nos alienta a orar para la reconstrucción de nuestra Iglesia a partir de muchos de sus desafíos y fracasos y, segundo, a apoyar nuestros ministerios y programas especiales que benefician a toda nuestra diócesis, en particular nuestro apoyo al clero retirado, a la educación de nuestros seminaristas, a nuestras escuelas pobres y nuestros proyectos y programas de Caridades Católicas del Este de la Bahía.

Por favor, responda generosamente a la invitación de nuestro Obispo. Se le enviará una carta y un folleto a sus hogares y residencias. Así como apoyo la Campaña del Obispo, oro para que ustedes también la apoyen con la generosidad de sus corazones.

Sacerdote, Profeta, Rey: Lección 5
Bienvenido a nuestra quinta lección en nuestro estudio parroquial de Cuaresma por el Obispo Robert Bar-

ron: Sacerdote, Profeta, Rey.

David, el rey más grande del Antiguo Testamento que prefiguró a Cristo y también fue su antepasado, gobernó el reino de Israel según los propósitos de Dios. Fue elegido por Dios y trató de traer gloria a Dios al guiar a su pueblo con justicia y de acuerdo con la voluntad de Dios. David comprendió que un verdadero rey era ante todo un siervo de Dios, sacrificando sus deseos y aspiraciones por el bien del pueblo y del reino.

Le animo a que vea el video de la Lección Cinco que recibió por mensaje de texto o correo electrónico. ¡Si se ha quedado atrás, no se preocupe! Es fácil ponerse al día. Reúnase con un amigo o grupo y conviértalo en parte de su horario semanal regular para ver y reflexionar. Aquí están las preguntas de esta semana para discutir:

¿Cuáles son las tres características claves de un buen rey y de una buen reinado?

¿Cómo vio Dios el deseo del pueblo de un rey terrenal?

¿Cómo contemplando a Dios como rey, puede proporcionar esperanza, o consuelo?

Rezo para que al reflexionar sobre estas preguntas, pueda profundizar su comprensión y amor de Dios. La próxima semana, en nuestra última lección, aprenderemos sobre el Rey de Reyes.

Dios lo bendiga a usted y a su familia.

Padre Carl

ST. MICHAEL

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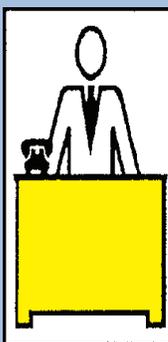
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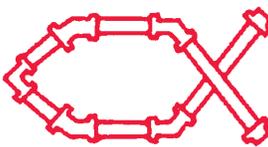
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Mass | Misa

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-

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access code, call 775-772-6369 |

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(Closed 12:00 pm—2:00 pm)

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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

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PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

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