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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 12, 2019

THE LAMB WHO IS IN THE CENTER OF THE THRONE
WILL SHEPHERD THEM
AND LEAD THEM TO SPRINGS OF LIFE-GIVING WATER.

REVELATION 7:17

IN THIS ISSUE

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Unpack Today's Mass Readings



Have you ever watched a herd of animals as they journey toward a destination? It's remarkable that their every move seems to be in sync with the entire group. Whether it's a herd of cows, sheep, or even a flock of geese, the group seems to move as one body. Yet the key aspect that holds these groups together is their willingness to struggle—even suffer—to remain united as one body.

Imagine if Christians were united in this way! Our actions, beliefs, and movements would appear as one body, united in a deeper purpose. By uniting in this way, we would demonstrate our willingness to suffer for each other for the sake of deepening our unity as a body of Christ.

This has always been the call for followers of Christ. Jesus redeemed all of humanity in himself and even commanded his disciples to “be one, as you, Father, are in me and I you” (John 17:21). And yet theological, cultural, and liturgical disputes have often split the Body of Christ from its intended unity.

So how can we achieve a united front? We must not only turn to our eternal good shepherd for guidance, but we must be willing to suffer for our fellow Christians in the hopes of uniting more deeply in Christ's love. This unity will not only draw us closer to each other, but in remaining united we can endure whatever sufferings may come our way, in the hopes that all Christians will

be reunited one day with our great king and eternal shepherd.

Unpack the First Reading **Acts 13:14, 43-52**

In this reading, we see a dispute developing between Paul and the Jews over the offer of the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism at first accept what Paul and Barnabas have to say, but some of them seem to turn away when the



**My sheep hear my voice;
I know them, and they follow me.**

broader Gentile populace of Pisidian Antioch begins to show interest in embracing the Gospel. Paul reminds those among the Jewish community that God had instructed the Jewish people through the prophet Isaiah that Israel had a destiny to fulfill in spreading the worship of the one, true God to all nations.

Paul reminds his Jewish hearers that the interest of the Gentiles in this Gospel is a sign of the fulfillment of this prophecy. If Israel is to complete its task as the “servant of the Lord” mentioned in Isaiah, then they must extend themselves to the Gentiles. God has chosen them for a mission of evangelization of the nations. To what extent have we been faithful to that evangelistic commis-

sion, which has now been transferred to the Church? As Catholics, have we strived to be “a light to the Gentiles...an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth”?

Unpack the Second Reading **Revelation 7:9, 14b-17**

In speaking about this passage, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1138*) refers to the immense crowd seen by John in his vision as “‘Recapitulated in Christ,’ these are the ones who take part in the service of the praise of God and the fulfillment of his plan.” Other figures are included, and all participate in the “recapitulation” or fulfillment of all things in Christ. This fulfillment culminates in a gigantic, cosmic worship service.

In the description of the significance of the scene to John we have the ironic phrase “For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them.” The Lamb is the Shepherd. In that simple phrase is contained the miracle of the Incarnation. Christ's role as mediator, standing in the gap between God and man as God/Man, is expressed in his dual designation as Lamb and Shepherd.

In the cultures of the ancient Near East, the shepherd was just such a symbol of gentleness, authority, solicitude, and power. The shepherd was guide, protector, companion, and caretaker of his flock. For this reason, the

shepherd was a preferred image for kings. In Jesus, we see combined God and man, shepherd and lamb, ruler and companion. He is Lamb, Shepherd, and King.

Unpack the Gospel John 10:27-30

As consoling as the image of the good shepherd is to us, those who heard Jesus utter these words picked up rocks with which to stone him. They questioned his status as “Christ” or Messiah, asking for an outright declaration. Jesus protests that he has made his claim clearly, but then extends the image of himself as shepherd to identify himself with the Father.

The minds of Jesus’ listeners would have been attuned to the association that he was making between himself and God, who had promised to shepherd his people in Ezekiel 34:11. When listeners ask Jesus for a clear declaration that he’s the promised Messiah, He responds, “But you do not believe because you are not among my sheep” (John 10:26).

In keeping with the division of the

sheep that was prophesied in Ezekiel 34, we’re told twice in John’s Gospel that “there was a division” among the Jews over Jesus (John 9:16; 10:19, RSV). Jesus explains clearly that the determining factor that decides whether or not anyone belongs to the Father is whether or not one “hears” in the words of Jesus the voice of the shepherd prophesied in Ezekiel 34. By following Jesus’ voice, we receive eternal life and remain safely in the hands of the Father.

For Reflection & Discussion

Watch the short Opening the Word video presentation at StMichael.FORMED.org.

The presenter, Jules Miles, says that this week’s Gospel is all about “who are the real followers of Jesus?” According to the presentation, who are the Christians? And who are the shepherds of the flock today?

The Gospel reading indicates that the sheep follow in the example of their shepherd, Jesus. Elsewhere in the Gospels, specifically in John 10:11, Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” How can we lay down

our lives for our fellow Christians each day? How will these sacrifices help us to grow in Christian unity?

Digging Deeper: That They Might Be One

“‘Christ bestowed unity on his Church from the beginning. This unity, we believe, subsists in the Catholic Church as something she can never lose, and we hope that it will continue to increase until the end of time.’ Christ always gives his Church the gift of unity, but the Church must always pray and work to maintain, reinforce, and perfect the unity that Christ wills for her. This is why Jesus himself prayed at the hour of his Passion, and does not cease praying to his Father, for the unity of his disciples: ‘That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be one in us, . . . so that the world may know that you have sent me.’ The desire to recover the unity of all Christians is a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit.”

—CCC 820

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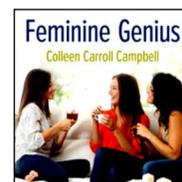
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—Marie, New York, NY

Pray Throughout the Week



Mass Intentions

Saturday 5/11

8:30am Richard Stone †
5:00pm John Sarboraria †
7:00pm Fr. Giorgio Marenco †

Sunday 5/12

6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am Francisco Lee Llacer †
9:30am Joan St Clair
11:00am Nettie Hollars †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Alan Sheng

Monday 5/13

8:30am Mary Ann O'Reilly †

Tuesday 5/14

8:30am Conching Lee Espejan

Wednesday 5/15

8:30am Marvel Valent †
7:00pm Amy Lynne Dunlap †

Thursday 5/16

8:30am Luke Ty

Friday 5/17

8:30am Jeff & Sheila Moller

To request a Mass Intention, please visit the church office.

The customary donation of \$10 goes to the priest celebrating the Mass.



Prayer Meditation:

Let us begin our time of prayer by placing ourselves in this scene in Jerusalem with Jesus teaching his disciples about following him as the good shepherd. Imagine that Jesus has just said that no one can take his flock out of his hand. How does his willingness to lay down his life for his sheep make him a trustworthy shepherd who will never lose his sheep? Just as Jesus laid down his life for his flock, you now recognize this call extends to you as well. Ask Jesus to show you how you can lay down your life for others, seeking to deepen Christian unity.

Resolution:

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, choose one or two ways you can sacrificially give of yourself for others this week to deepen the unity of Christ's flock, whether that be in your family, your workplace, your parish, or another community setting. When you do so, offer up your sacrifices (and possibly sufferings) for the unity of all Christians.

Special Intentions

With joy and thanksgiving for all those who have received Sacraments this Easter season.

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

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors

Dear St Michael Family,

What does it mean to be a Godparent or a Confirmation sponsor? Is it a title of honor, much like being a Best Man or a Maid of Honor in a wedding? Let's look at the history of Godparents:

During the first four centuries, the Catholic Church was under intense persecution by the Roman Empire. To avoid persecution and the infiltration of pagans into the Church, every person who was received into the Church was required to have a sponsor. This sponsor protected the Church by authenticating the sincerity of the convert and acted as a teacher of the faith. Canon Law paragraph 872 states "Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism."

Requirements for Godparents

A Godparent helps the newly Baptized person lead a Christian life and to faithfully fulfill the obligations inherent in it. There is to be only one male Godparent or one female Godparent or one of each. To be permitted to take on the function of Godparent, a person must:

1. be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function.
2. have completed the sixteenth

year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;

3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;

4. not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

5. not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic Godparent and then only as a witness of the Baptism.

A person who administers Baptism is to take care that, unless a sponsor is present, there is at least a witness who can attest to the conferral of the baptism.

(See Canon Law 873-875)

Requirements for Confirmation Sponsors

Do you have to be a practicing Catholic—meaning, attending Mass on a regular basis and receiving Holy Communion—to be a sponsor to a child receiving the sacrament of Confirmation? People are often unclear about the requirements for sponsorship in general, so let's take a moment to look over them.

The Code of Canon Law states that the requirements for being a sponsor at confirmation is the same as those of being a Godparent at baptism. The Code also notes, "It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be sponsor for confirmation" (See Canon Law 893).

In conclusion, one cannot just be a Godparent or sponsor because of social status: a close friend or a favorite uncle or auntie. The role and responsibility of a Godparent or sponsor is more than that. One must be a good coach and mentor of the Catholic Faith. How can one be a sponsor if one is not living the faith by going to Holy Mass on Sunday or abiding by the simplest precept of the church on marriage?

Baptism or confirmation is not just a tradition that we should do "just because". Your children should receive Sacraments to embark on relationship with Christ for their salvation. They should come to know Him, to embrace the promise of eternal life and live a life as an intentional disciple.

This year we shall have a new procedure in accepting and registering candidates for youth confirmation. Requirements will be announced by our Director of Religious Education soon.

God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

Events Happening This Week



EVERY WEEK

Mon & Fri: 7:00 am
Wed: 2:30 pm (Convent)
Sat: 9:15 am, 3:45 pm, 6:15 pm

Mass of Remembrance

Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm

Remember your departed loved ones at a bilingual Mass of Remembrance in the Church sponsored by Grief Support.

Bible Study

Thursdays, 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!

Knights FREE Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 19

Free pancakes next Sunday from 7:30 am until 11:30 am. Donations will go toward purchasing an Ultrasound machine for a pregnancy center. Come hungry, give generously!

Knights Baby Bottle Campaign

May 19-June 1

Get your baby bottles at Mass on May 18th-19th, fill them with change and donations and return them on June 1st-2nd. Every coin, dollar and check will go toward the purchase of the ultrasound machine to help women safely deliver their babies.

Memorial Day Ceremony & Mass

Monday, May 27

Join us at St Michael Cemetery on East Avenue for our annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Mass. 11:00 am: flag presentation, guest speaker Mayer John Marchand, presentation of floral wreaths, gun salute and taps. 12:00 pm: Mass, followed by refreshments.

Church offices closed for Memorial Day.



EVENING ROSARY

Every night in May at 7:00 pm in the Courtyard

Save These Dates!



Open Heart Kitchen

Wednesday, May 29

St. Michael's Parish provides volunteers every 5th Wednesday at Open Heart Kitchen, Tri Valley's free hot meal service for those in need. Volunteers prepare the food on site as directed by the Open Heart Kitchen staff, set tables, serve the food, organize donated items and clean up afterwards. There are two shifts: 12:30 pm-2:00 pm and 2:00 pm-3:30 pm. To volunteer, contact Diane Schord at dhschord@sbcglobal.net or 925-447-4344

Feast of the Visitation

Friday, May 31

Begin the celebration in the Church with praying the Rosary in multiple languages at 6:15 pm, followed by Mass at 7:00 pm, then a procession with the Coronation of Mary.

Italian Catholic Federation Bingo Bash

Saturday, June 1

Italian Catholic Federation Bingo Bash at 6 pm at St Augustine. Proceeds benefit Children's Hospital treatment of Cooley's Anemia, plus other ICF Charities. RSVP: Patty 925-462-2191.

Portuguese Holy Ghost Festa

Sunday, June 9

10:30 am parade begins processing from St Michael School to St Michael Church to celebrate Mass at 11 am. After Mass, parade to hall for the dove ceremony. Stay for the talent show presented by our Portuguese language school, followed by seating for sopas meal - free fraternal meal of meat, bread and cabbage—and performance by Portuguese folklore group Tempos d'Outroira.

Vacation Bible Camp

June 24-June 28

Vacation Bible Camp from 9:15 am - 12:45 pm for TK-6th grades at St Michael Church & School. For questions, registration VBC@StMichaelLivermore.com

33 Days to Morning Glory

Saturdays, July 6-August 10

Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, offers an extraordinary 33-day journey to Marian consecration. Featuring the teachings of four giants of Marian spirituality—St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and Pope St. John Paul II—Fr. Gaitley shows how simple it is to put Marian devotion into practice.

Meet on Saturdays in the Hall from 9:30-11:00 am for a video presentation and discussion. Consecration on August 15.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

St Michael Church & School

Pre K - 6th Grade

June 24 - June 28

Questions | Registration | Volunteer: vbc@stmichaellivermore.com

StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation

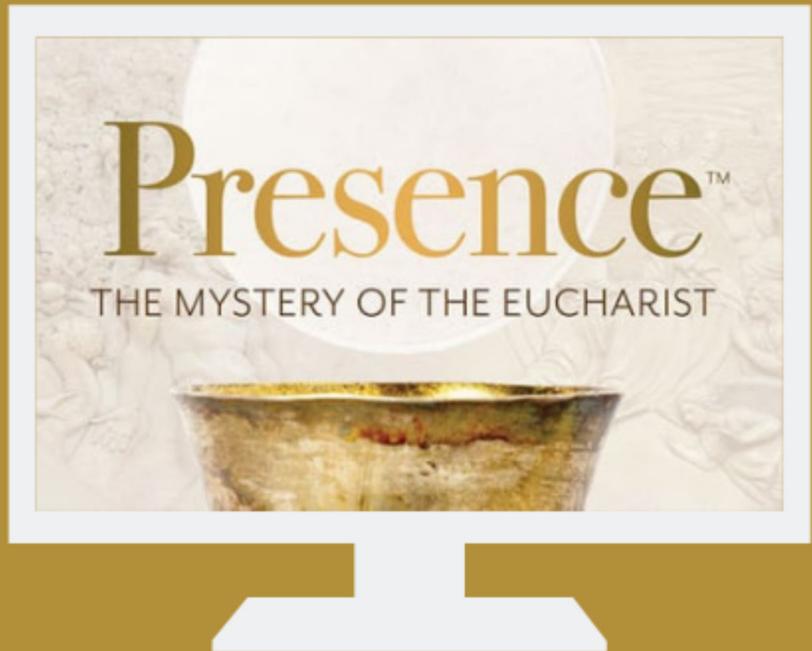


PREPARE FOR
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PRESENCE
SESSIONS 1-3

WATCH BEFORE
JUNE 23

StMichael.FORMED.org

A background image of several hands of various colors (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) reaching upwards, symbolizing community and support.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL
ministry update



Thanks to the parishioners of St Michael for their generous contribution of \$6,243 offered at the 5th Sunday collection. Because of your financial support this quarter, we distributed 317 food bags, helping feed 820 people. We spent \$4,393 to help numerous families with utility bills, \$1,578 in rental assistance and \$1,319 for emergency shelter and motels.

“Joe” stopped by our help desk in early March right after a very heavy rain. He had been living in a homeless camp near the 580 freeway and had lost all of his clothes and personal effects when the camp flooded. We were able to help him and his friends with clothes from the SVdP store. We couldn’t have helped these people without your support. Thank you.

Is God calling you to be a Vincentian? Would you like to serve the Lord by serving the poor? For more information on the Society and what we do please contact Janet Graham (janet.graham@comcast.net) or Paul Kuzmenko (kuzmenko@att.net). Thank you for helping us help others.

Thank you for your generous offerings! You are our parish’s only source of financial support.

If St Michael’s is your parish home, and you have not yet set up regular weekly or monthly offerings, please visit the Church office to request envelopes or to give online via Faith Direct.

5/5/19 Collection	\$17,640.95
Month-to-Date	\$17,640.95
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
Percentage Reached	20%
Faith Direct	0
Maintenance (for May)	\$5,684.75

Parde Carl's Mensaje de la Semana



Requisitos para los padrinos

Querida familia de San Miguel,

¿Qué significa ser padrino o patrocinador de confirmación? ¿Es un título de honor, como ser el mejor hombre o la dama de honor en una boda? Veamos la historia de los padrinos:

Durante los primeros cuatro siglos, la Iglesia Católica estuvo bajo una intensa persecución por parte del Imperio Romano. Para evitar la persecución y la infiltración de paganos en la Iglesia, cada persona recibida en la Iglesia debía tener un patrocinador. Este patrocinador protegió a la Iglesia al autenticar la sinceridad del converso y actuó como un maestro de la fe. El párrafo 872 de la Ley Canónica dice: "En la medida de lo posible, una persona que se va a bautizar debe recibir un patrocinador que ayude a un adulto en la iniciación cristiana o junto con los padres presente a un niño para el bautismo".

Requisitos para los padrinos

Un padrino ayuda a la persona recién bautizada a llevar una vida cristiana y a cumplir fielmente las obligaciones inherentes a ella. Sólo debe haber un padrino masculino o una madrina o uno de cada uno. Para que se le permita asumir la función de padrino, una persona debe:

1. ser designado por el que se va a bautizar, por los padres o la persona que toma su lugar, o en su ausencia por el pastor o ministro y tener la aptitud y la intención de cumplir con esta función.

2. haber completado el decimosex-

to año de edad, a menos que el obispo diocesano haya establecido otra edad, o el pastor o ministro haya otorgado una excepción por una causa justa;

3. ser un católico que haya sido confirmado y que ya haya recibido el sacramento más sagrado de la Eucaristía y que lleve una vida de fe de acuerdo con la función que debe asumir;

4. No estar sujeto a ninguna sanción canónica legalmente impuesta o declarada;

5. No ser el padre o la madre de quien va a ser bautizado.

Una persona bautizada que pertenece a una comunidad eclesial no católica no debe participar excepto junto con un padrino católico y luego solo como testigo del bautismo.

Una persona que administra el Bautismo debe tener cuidado de que, a menos que haya un patrocinador presente, haya al menos un testigo que pueda atestiguar la concesión del bautismo. (Ver Ley Canónica 873-875)

Requisitos para los patrocinadores de confirmación

Tiene que ser un católico practicante, es decir, asistir a la misa regularmente y recibir la Sagrada Comunión para ser un patrocinador de un niño que recibe el sacramento de la Confirmación. La gente a menudo no está clara acerca de los requisitos para el patrocinio en general, así que tomemos un momento para revisarlos.

El Código de Derecho Canónico establece que los requisitos para ser un patrocinador en la confirmación son los mismos que para ser un Padrino en el bautismo. El Código también señala: "Es deseable que el que asumió el papel de patrocinador en el bautismo sea un patrocinador para su confirmación" (Ver Ley Canónica 893).

En conclusión, uno no puede ser simplemente un padrino debido al estatus social: un amigo cercano o un tío o tía favorito. El papel y la responsabilidad de un padrino o patrocinador es más que eso. Uno debe ser un buen entrenador y mentor de la fe católica. ¿Cómo puede uno ser patrocinador si uno no está viviendo la fe concurrendo a la Santa Misa el domingo o respetando el precepto más simple de la iglesia sobre el matrimonio?

El bautismo o la confirmación no es solo una tradición que debemos hacer "solo porque". Sus hijos deben recibir Sacramentos para embarcarse en una relación con Cristo para su salvación. Deben venir a conocerlo, a abrazar la promesa de la vida eterna y vivir una vida como discípulo intencional.

Este año tendremos un nuevo procedimiento para aceptar y registrar candidatos para la confirmación de los jóvenes. Los requisitos serán anunciados por nuestro Director de Educación Religiosa pronto.

Dios le bendiga a usted y a su familia.

Padre Carl

ST. MICHAEL

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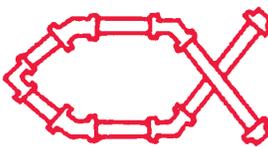
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Information | Información

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

Traditional Latin Mass

2nd Sun, 8:00 am

Tagolg

3rd Sun, 3:30 pm

Vietnamese | Vietnamita

4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

First Friday

12:00 pm in the Chapel

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

Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel

2:30 pm

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

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

Dubsky.

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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